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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**National Watercolor Society
87th Annual Exhibition Traveling Show
October 31 through December 14**

The National Watercolor Society was founded in 1920 and the group remains vehemently dedicated to the study and practice of the watercolor medium. As the country grew, painters found inspiration in the expansive western lands and were, in their way, pioneers of a new spirit. During the period between 1929 and 1948, the activities of the members of the California Water Color Society, both in their group showings, and as individuals, brought considerable favorable critical attention. The movement propelled the society into the national spotlight, and it became one of the two great watercolor groups in the United States, the other being the New York based American Watercolor Society. Since their early days, the NWS has exhibited their work in such institutes as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Pasadena Art Museum, Laguna Beach Museum of Art, Brea Civic Cultural Center, Otis Art Institute, the Muckenthaler Cultural Center and many more. The NWS does not only exhibit their work, but they also educate and give lectures about their craft. In conjunction with the annual exhibitions, lectures and orientation programs are made available to docents of the host museums. Its travel shows visit collegiate and public galleries and museums throughout the United States and Canada. The National Watercolor Society (NWS) brings before the public the best of water media painting, representing a wide range of directions and technique, from experimental to traditional.

The selection jury for the 87th Annual consisted of George James, Jean Grastorf and Betsy Dillard Stroud. Over \$25,000 in awards, cash and merchandise were donated to the 2007 exhibition (the 2008 exhibition will not travel until 2009). The last time the show traveled to West Valley Art Museum was in 1998. Two Arizona artists are represented in the Traveling Show: Grace Haverty and Carol Ann Schrader (both Scottsdale).

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With nine exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Café On The Avenue*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is an admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



Patricia A. Allen, California "Tuolumne Autumn"



Dan Burt, Texas, "The Mexican Balloonists"



Nicholas Simmons, Maryland "Fresh Sushi"
NWS Purchase Award



Scott Zupanc, Wisconsin "Summer Holiday"
Past Presidents of NWS Award

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