



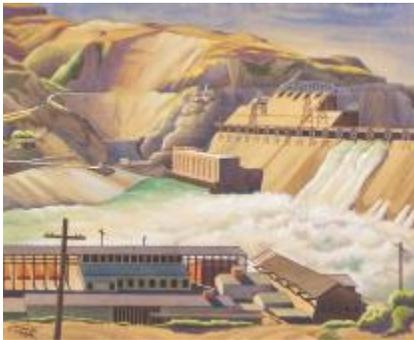
## HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM HOSTS NORTHWEST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY'S 77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL OPEN EXHIBITION

Exhibition Features 60 Artists



**Gig Harbor, WA** – The Northwest Watercolor Society ([NWS](http://www.nwws.org)) announced that paintings of 60 artists have been selected for the 77th Annual International Open Exhibition that will be on display from April 24 through June 2, 2017, at the Harbor History Museum. The selected entries represent six countries and 19 states from the over 400 entries received from 275 artists.

The public and media are invited to the artists' reception and awards ceremony, Saturday, April 29, 2017, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Harbor History Museum. Following the reception, artists are encouraged to sharpen their plein air painting skills in scenic Gig Harbor as part of the Paint-In-Paint-Out painting workshop. The resource room at the Harbor History Museum will be available for artists wishing to paint inside instead.

NWWS Co-chair Debbie Roskopf said, "Each year the growing popularity of watercolor worldwide is more apparent and is reflected in the strong diversity and originality of these strong, wonderful paintings. The NWWS exhibition showcases the skill of artists dedicated to watercolor, including many pieces from well-known, award-winning national and international artists. This exhibition will celebrate the versatility of the medium and inspire everyone who visits."

The exhibition's juror, Keiko Tanabe, had a very difficult job. "Watercolor is said to be an unforgiving medium as it does not hide what's beneath a brush mark. When I began the jurying process, it didn't take me a long time to realize that this would be a very daunting task to decide which paintings to be included in the show," said Tanabe. "Among all the images submitted, I recognized many paintings that were created with confident brush marks, a testament to the artists' dedication to this difficult medium and years of practice. A large number of submissions also captivated me with a variety of techniques that the artists demonstrated so creatively on paper, not to mention their chosen subject matter, concept, and styles. To make final selections I looked for a mastery of technical skills, a strong

composition, originality, and perhaps more importantly, how the artist communicated their emotion through their unique expression. I especially appreciated the work done by those who took risks rather than played it safe. My heartfelt congratulations to all the selected artists. It was a huge privilege and a big responsibility to be part of such an important exhibition as a juror.”

Tanabe was born in Kyoto, Japan and currently lives in San Diego, CA. She embarked on a professional art career as a watercolor painter in 2005 after working in international relations and marketing. Since then, her work has earned many awards and recognitions on a national and international level. Her work appears in private and corporate collections in many countries. Her work has been featured in numerous art publications. She is also a sought-after workshop instructor, teaching watercolor courses both in the U.S. and abroad. She is currently a member of the National Watercolor Society (signature member), American Watercolor Society, North American Watercolor Artists, and American Impressionist Society.

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**Image credits:**

***Coulee Dam Looking West* by Z. Vanessa Helder (1904-1968)**, Courtesy of David Martin.

**About Harbor History Museum** Harbor History Museum creates opportunities to experience the heritage of the greater Gig Harbor communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing the rich history of the area. Our vision is to be the cornerstone that provides a gathering place and a sense of identity for our community. The Museum re-opened to the public on September 18, 2010. The facility includes: a 1893 fully restored one-room school house; a 65 foot fishing vessel currently under restoration; 7,000 square feet of exhibition space; and a 900-square foot library, research and meeting room. The Museum provides a variety of public education programs. Our core educational program is the Pioneer School Experience (PSE), which serves over 1,500 students every year. Led by a trained “School Marm,” the children experience a pioneer school classroom complete with lessons, recitations, music, recess, and lunch. Our permanent exhibit features professionally designed exhibitions, larger than life experiences, and opportunities for hands on exploration of our region’s rich history and unique heritage. Artifacts, video kiosks, hands on exhibits, computer interactives, and a small theatre bring Peninsula history to life in our permanent galleries. In addition, the Museum provides 3-5 special exhibits throughout the year so there is always something new to see and experience for our members and visitors.

**HOURS** – Tuesdays–Sundays 10 am–5 pm, Sundays 12 pm–5 pm.

**ADMISSION** – Adult \$7, Student/Military/Senior (65+) \$6, Youth (6-17) \$5. Children 5 and under free. Members always free.

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