

TARA SWEENEY

tarasweeneyart@gmail.com, tarasweeneyart.com

EDUCATION

Minneapolis College of Art and Design, MFA, 1997

University of Wisconsin, BS Design, 1978; BS Studio Art, 1978

EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Artist, Illustrator, Author, 1979 to present

Watercolor Workshop Instructor, 2015-present

Juror, 2015-present

Professor, Augsburg University department of art and design, 1991 to 2017

Owner, Principal Designer, Fruitful Results Publication Design, St. Paul, MN, 1988-2001

Art Director, Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine, Minneapolis, MN, 1984-88

Publications Designer, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, 1980-84

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS, AWARDS, INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Signature Member

National Watercolor Society

Transparent Watercolor Society of America

Red River Watercolor Society

Minnesota Watercolor Society

North Star Water Media Society

Awards

2026 First Honors, *Celebration of Community*, Saint Paul, MN; Honorable Mention, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*

2025 Gold Medal Award, *Red River Watercolor Society National*; Honorable Mention, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*; Second Honors, *MN Watercolor Society Open*; Best of Show, *North Star Water Media*; First Honors, *Celebration of Community*, Saint Paul, MN.

2024 Pat Fortunato Memorial Award, *Transparent Watercolor Society of America*; Third Honors, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*; Honorable Mention, *5th Annual Juried Women in Watercolor International*; Founder's Award, *MN Watercolor Society Open*

2023 Founder's Award, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*

2022 Best of Show, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*

2021 Best of Show, *North Star Water Media National*; Best of Show, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*; Best of Show, *MN Watercolor Society Open*

2020 MN Book Award Finalist, *Picture Books*

2019 Founder's Award, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*; Sister City Sketch Artist, Tours, France

2018 Honorable Mention, *North Star Water Media National*; Hagfors Commission, Augsburg University

2017 Merchandise Award, Signature Status, *National Watercolor Society*; Artist Initiative Grant Recipient, *MN State Arts Board*, St. Paul, MN; 6-month Artist Residency, *American Swedish Institute*, Minneapolis

2016 Purchase Award, *North Star Water Media National*; Merit Award, *MN Watercolor Society*;

2015 Merit Award, *Fall Exhibition*, *MN Watercolor Society*; 2015 Cover Design Award, *AIGA 50 Books/50Covers national juried competition*

2014 Fourth Place Award: *MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; Merit Award: *20th Annual International*, *Red River Watercolor Society*, Fargo, ND

2013 Publication: *Revelations*, *L'Art de l'Aquarelle*, issue #12, Diverti Editions, Paris

- 2012 Purchase Award: *19th Annual International*, Red River Watercolor Society, Fargo, ND; Grangaard Summer Research Grant: Augsburg College
- 2011 Second Honors: *Fall Exhibition*, Minnesota Watercolor Society, Edina, MN; Honorable Mention: *Spring Exhibition*, Minnesota Watercolor Society
- 2009 Work Culture Grant, Center for Teaching and Learning, Augsburg College; Lilly Vocation Grant, International Programs, Augsburg College; Merit Award: *Savoring Summer, A-Z Gallery Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; Merit Award: *Spring Exhibition*, Minnesota Watercolor Society, Minnetonka, MN; Artist Initiative Grant: Minnesota State Arts Board
- 2008 Summer Research Grant: Center for Teaching and Learning, Augsburg College; National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, alternate, Italy; Lifetime Signature Status: Minnesota Watercolor Society
- 2007 Merit Award: *Fall Exhibition*, Minnesota Watercolor Society, Bloomington, MN
- 2006 Honorable Mention: *Fall Open Show*, Minnesota Watercolor Society, Blaine, MN; Honorable Mention: *Members Juried Exhibition*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN; Artist Initiative Grant Recipient, MN State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN

Invited Workshops and Demonstrations

- 2027 Art at the Castle: *Sketch Dordogne, France*.
- 2026 Paint Europe: *Sketch Marrakech, Morocco*; American Swedish Institute: *Watercolor Figures: Play with Hearts; Castle Sketching; Buds & Blooms; Watercolor Portraits; Heirloom Recipes*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Watercolor Figure Magic*; Wet Paint Art: *Plein Air Figure Sketching*.
- 2025 MN Watercolor Society: *Watercolor Figures*. Madison Watercolor Society: *Portraits*. American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN: *Advanced Figures; Play with Hearts; Buds & Blooms; Cafe Sketching; Garden Motifs II*. Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Watercolor Figure Magic*
- 2024 Minnesota Watercolor Society: *Portraits*; American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN: *Interiors, Play with Hearts, Spring Watercolor, Garden Motifs I, Advanced Watercolor Figure, Garden Motifs II*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Portraits*
- 2023 American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN: *Play with Hearts, Spring Watercolor, Buds and Blooms, ZigZag Sketchbook, Harvest*; Lyngblomsten Assisted Living Saint Paul MN, *Sunflowers*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Portraits that Glow*; Private Watercolor Retreat, WI, *Landscape*
- 2022 American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN: *Play with Hearts, Story Beast, Spring Watercolor, ZigZag Sketchbook, Figures on the Shore, Legacy Landscapes, Heirloom Recipes, Holiday Treasures*; Beaver Creek Park, WI, *Nature's Patterns*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Portraits that Glow*; Central MN Watercolor Society, *Portraits*; Private Watercolor Retreat, WI, *Figures*
- 2021 Online Classes for American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN, Wet Paint Art, St. Paul, MN Grand Marais Art Colony, MN: *Castle in the City; Intermediate Portfolio; Pattern Play; Fruit of the Month; Play with Hearts; Armchair Plein Air; Play with Watercolor; Figures and Faces*.
In-Person Classes: American Swedish Institute, *ZigZag Sketchbook, Wreaths and Garlands, Heirloom Recipes*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Portraits that Glow*; Eau Claire Painting Group, *Harvest*
- 2020 Online Classes for American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN, Wet Paint Art, St. Paul, MN Grand Marais Art Colony, MN: *Intermediate Watercolor; Sketching Habit; Greeting Cards; ZigZag Sketchbook; Castle in the City; Portraits; City Life; Harvest; Armchair Plein Air; Sketching Play; Heirloom Recipes; Wreaths and Garlands*
- 2019 Wet Paint Art, St. Paul MN: *Interiors, Play with Watercolor, Landscape, Buds and Blooms, Landscape, Interiors, Holiday Treasures*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Portraits that Glow*; Duluth Art Institute, MN, *Play with Watercolor*
- 2018 Wet Paint Art, St. Paul MN: *Beginning Watercolor, Play with Watercolor, Florals, Portable Watercolor, Portraits, Harvest, Landscape*; American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN, *ZigZag*

- Sketchbook, Play with Patterns*; Grand Marais Art Colony, MN: *Figure in the Landscape*, ZigZag Sketchbook
- 2017 Wet Paint Art, St. Paul MN: *Beginning Watercolor, Intermediate Watercolor, Color Theory, Portable Watercolor; Portraits, Watercolor Postcards, Favorite Objects*; Color Splashers Painting Group, *Interiors*; Grand Marais Art Colony, MN, *ZigZag Sketchbook*; Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN, *Portraits*
- 2016 American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN: *Favorite Objects*,
- 2015 AWE conference, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN: *Close to Home*; Foxglove Studio, Saint Paul, MN, *Local Blooms, Local Pods, Local Greens*; Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN: *Watercolor Journal, Portraits*
- 2014 MN Watercolor Society: *Urban Sketching; Visual Journal*
- 2012 Augsburg University, Minneapolis MN, *Sketching Lucca to Rome*; Women's Art Registry of MN, Minneapolis, MN *Plein Air Sketching*
- 2009 U of Michigan Urology Department, Prostate Cancer Research Division, *Intimate Art: Journey Beyond Cancer*; MN Watercolor Society, *Plein Air Sketching*; Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN, *Walking and Sketching*

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *National Watercolor Society International; MN Watercolor Society; North Star Water Media; ; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; Celebration of Community, St. Paul MN.*
- 2025 *Transparent Watercolor Society of America; Red River Watercolor Society National; MN Watercolor Society; North Star Water Media; Celebration of Community, St. Paul MN.*
- 2024 *Transparent Watercolor Society of America; Red River Watercolor Society National; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2023 *North Star Water Media National; MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2022 *North Star Water Media National; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2021 *Red River Watercolor Society National; North Star Water Media National; MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2020 *National Watercolor Society International; MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; Minneapolis College of Art and Design Alumni Exhibition*
- 2019 *Transparent Watercolor Society of America; Red River Watercolor Society National; MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2018 *Transparent Watercolor Society of America; Red River Watercolor Society National; North Star Water Media National I; MN Watercolor; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2017 *National Watercolor Society International; MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2016 *North Star Water Media National; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; Anderson Center Invitational; Exhibition; Minnetonka Center for the Arts; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2015 *MN Watercolor Society; North Star Water Media National; Minnetonka Center for the Arts; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2014 *MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; Red River Watercolor Society National; The Figure Show, Minnetonka Center for the Arts*
- 2013 *MN Watercolor Society; National Watercolor Society Member Exhibition; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2012 *National Watercolor Society Member Exhibition; MN Watercolor Society; Red River Watercolor Society National*
- 2011 *MN Watercolor Society; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; National Watercolor Society All Member Exhibition; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2010 *The Nude in the 21st Century, Astoria, OR; Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; MN Watercolor Society*
- 2009 *WARM Chronicles: A Journey Through Visual Landscapes, Minneapolis, MN; MN Watercolor Society; Waterborne: Selections from the Weisman Traveling Exhibition; Paradigm Shift, Minneapolis College of Art and Design*

- 2008 *Waterborne: Selections from the Weisman*, University of MN; *MN Watercolor*; *MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*; *WARM Juried Healing Arts*, Abbott NW Institute for Health and Healing, Minneapolis, MN; *MN Watercolor Society*; *Women's Art Registry of MN Juried Members Exhibit*; *Faculty Exhibition*, Augsburg University; *Celebration of Community*, St. Paul, MN
- 2007 *MN Watercolor Society*; *MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*; *The Open Road*, Gallery 360, Edina, MN; *Members Salon*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts; *MN Watercolor Society*
- 2006 *MN Watercolor*; *Soul Searching*, Concordia University; *Members Juried Exhibition*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts; *MN Watercolor Society*

Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 *Extra/Ordinary: A to Zääö*, American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN
- 2014 *Close to Home: A Minnesota Year in Sketches*, Gage Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2013 *Close to Home: A Visual Journal*, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson WI
- 2011 *Mediterranean Sketchbook Suite*, Hudson Hospitals, Hudson, WI
- 2010 *Drawing Lessons*, St. Martin's Table, Minneapolis MN
- 2009 *Along the Way*, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson WI
- 2008 *Pilgrimage*, Hudson Hospitals Healing Arts Series, Hudson WI
Drawing from Life, Augsburg House, Minneapolis, MN
- 2007 *Listen*, Christensen Gallery, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN
- 2007 *What Comes After Z?*, Augsburg House, Minneapolis, MN
- 2002 *Traveling Light*, Christensen Center Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
New Watercolors, Minneapolis Alliance Française, Minneapolis, MN
- 2001 *Watercolors from French Travels*, The Undercroft Gallery, St. Paul, MN
- 1998 *Turning the Page*, Gage Family Gallery Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN

Juror of Selection and Awards

- 2022 North Star Water Media National
- 2021 Great Plains Watercolor Society Exhibition
- 2020 Minnesota State Fair Juried Exhibition
- 2019 North Star Member Exhibition
- 2018 MN Artist Association Member Exhibition
- 2007-17 Augsburg University Professional Galleries, Committee of Selection

Service

- 2018-20 *Workshop Chair*, Minnesota Watercolor Society Board
- 2013-17 *Programming Chair*, Minnesota Watercolor Society Board
- 2010 *Artist Initiative Grant Review Panelist*, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN