

## TARA SWEENEY

[tarasweeneyart@gmail.com](mailto:tarasweeneyart@gmail.com), [tarasweeneyart.com](http://tarasweeneyart.com), [IG@tarasweeneyart](https://www.instagram.com/tarasweeneyart)

### EDUCATION

Minneapolis College of Art and Design, MFA, 1997  
University of Wisconsin, BS Design, 1978; BS Studio Art, 1978

### EMPLOYMENT

*Watercolor Workshop Presenter*, 2015-present  
*Juror*, 2015-present  
*Visual Artist, Author* 1979 to present  
*Undergraduate Teaching*, Augsburg College, 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 WORKSHOPS

#### Signature Status

*Transparent Watercolor Society of America*  
*National Watercolor Society*  
*Red River Watercolor Society*  
*Minnesota Watercolor Society*  
*Northstar Watermedia Society*

#### Awards

2024 Pat Fortunato Memorial Award, *Transparent Watercolor Society of America*; Third Honors, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*  
2023 Founder's Award, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*  
2022 Best of Show, *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*  
2021 Best of Show, *Northstar Watermedia 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, *Northstar Watermedia 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 Insititute, Minneapolis  
2016 Purchase Award, *Northstar Watermedia 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: *20<sup>th</sup> Annual International*, Red River Watercolor Society, Fargo, ND  
2013 Publication: Revelations, *L'Art de l'Aquarelle*, issue #12, Diverti Editions, Paris  
2012 Purchase Award: *19<sup>th</sup> 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 WorkCulture 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

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2020 *Extra/Ordinary: A to Zaa*, 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

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 2024 *Transparent Watercolor Society of America; Red River Watercolor Society; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*
- 2023 *Northstar Watermedia National; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2022 *Northstar Watermedia National; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*
- 2021 *Red River Watercolor Society International, Fargo, ND; Northstar Watermedia National; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2020 *National Watercolor Society International, San Pedro CA; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2019 *Transparent Watercolor Society International, Kenosha WI; Red River Watercolor Society International, Fargo, ND; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2018 *Transparent Watercolor Society International, Kenosha WI; Red River Watercolor Society International, Fargo, ND; Northstar Watermedia National; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2017 *National Watercolor Society International, San Pedro CA; MN Watercolor Society Open; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*
- 2016 *Northstar Watermedia National; MN State Fair Juried Exhibition; Exhibition*, Anderson Center, Redwing, MN; *Exhibition*, American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN; *Minnetonka Center for the Arts Faculty Show; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*
- 2015 *MN Watercolor Society Open Show; North Star National Exhibition*, Hopkins, MN; *Minnetonka Center for the Arts Faculty Show; MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*

- 2014 *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Burnsville, MN; *MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; *Red River Watercolor Society International Juried Water Media*, Fargo, ND; *The Figure Show*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Minnetonka MN
- 2013 *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Edina, MN; *National Watercolor Society All Member Juried Exhibition*, San Pedro CA; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, Minnetonka, MN
- 2012 *National Watercolor Society All Member Juried Exhibition*, San Pedro CA; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, Minnetonka, MN; *Red River Watercolor Society International Juried Water Media*, Fargo, ND.
- 2011 *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Edina, MN; *MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; *National Watercolor Society All Member Juried Exhibition*, San Pedro, CA; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, Minnetonka, MN
- 2010 *The Nude in the 21st Century*, Astoria, OR; *Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition*, Brea, CA; *MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Burnsville, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, St. Anthony, MN
- 2009 *Savoring Summer*, A-Z Gallery, St. Paul, MN; *WARM Chronicles: A Journey Through Visual Landscapes*, Minneapolis, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Bloomington, MN; *Waterborne: Selections from the Weisman Traveling Exhibition*, Winona State College, Winona, MN; *Paradigm Shift*, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 2008 *Waterborne: Selections from the Weisman*, U of M Katherine Nash Gallery, Minneapolis, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Fall Show*, Minneapolis, MN; *Annual MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; *WARM Juried Healing Arts*, Abbott NW Institute for Health and Healing, Minneapolis, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, Edina, MN; *Women's Art Registry of MN Juried Members Show*, Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, Fridley, MN; *Faculty Exhibition*, Gage Gallery, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN; *Celebration of Community*, St. Paul, MN
- 2007 *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Bloomington, MN  
*Annual MN State Fair Juried Exhibition*, St. Paul, MN; *The Open Road*, Gallery 360, Edina, MN; *Members Salon*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN
- 2006 *MN Watercolor Society Open Show*, Blaine, MN; *Soul Searching*, Concordia College, MN; *Members Juried Exhibition*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN; *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show*, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, MN

### **Invited Workshops**

- 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*

#### **Juror of Selection and Awards**

- 2022 *Juror*, Northstar National
- 2021 *Juror*, Great Plains Watercolor Society Exhibition
- 2020 *Juror*, MN State Fair Juried Exhibition
- 2019 *Juror*, Northstar Member Show
- 2018 *Juror*, MN Artist Association Member Show
- 2013-17 *Programming Chair*, Minnesota Watercolor Society Board
- 2018-20 *Workshop Chair*, Minnesota Watercolor Society Board
- 2010 *Artist Initiative Grant Review Panelist*, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN
- 2007-17 *Committee of Selection*, Augsburg University Gallery Exhibitions