

TARA SWEENEY

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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

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 *MN Watercolor Society Juried Show; Transparent Watercolor Society of America*
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*

Awards

- 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: *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 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

Invited Workshops

- 2024 American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN: *Interiors, Play with Hearts, Spring Watercolor, Story Beast, Garden Motifs, Advanced Watercolor Figures*; Dillman's Art Retreats, WI, *Portraits that Glow*
- 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