

Watercolor painter honored with two awards

Wiegardt is a famed artist on the Long Beach Peninsula

BY ALYSSA EVANS

Two arts organizations recently recognized Ocean Park, Washington-based artist Eric Wiegardt for his work. The 52nd Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition awarded him the southern California art organizations award for his painting “Calella, Spain.” Watercolor West also honored him as a master signature member.

Wiegardt created the “Calella, Spain” paint-

ing while teaching a workshop on Zoom. The painting depicts the real-life small town — a place where Wiegardt taught painting workshops in fall 2019.

“We spent two weeks, taught students and painted,” Wiegardt said. “It’s a beautiful small town. It wasn’t overbuilt. It’s right on the Mediterranean ... From an artist’s standpoint, we’re always looking for interesting visual patterns — how light can create an interesting image for viewers. What I paint is what I’ve seen.”



Wiegardt’s ‘Calella, Spain’ painting.



Wiegardt’s ‘Tideland.’

Wiegardt started teaching workshops on Zoom in the spring as a response to coronavirus restrictions. Before going virtual, he taught classes locally, across the country and in Europe. Now, his virtual classes include students from around the world.

“I have students from the North Pole, Alaska, from Morocco ... I’m really enjoying that,” Wiegardt said.

One of Wiegardt’s Zoom students is involved with Watercolor West. The student was present the day Wiegardt made the painting.

“Just for fun, I sent (the painting) down to Watercolor West. My student actually saw me paint it. I wanted to surprise him with one of my demos,” Wiegardt said.

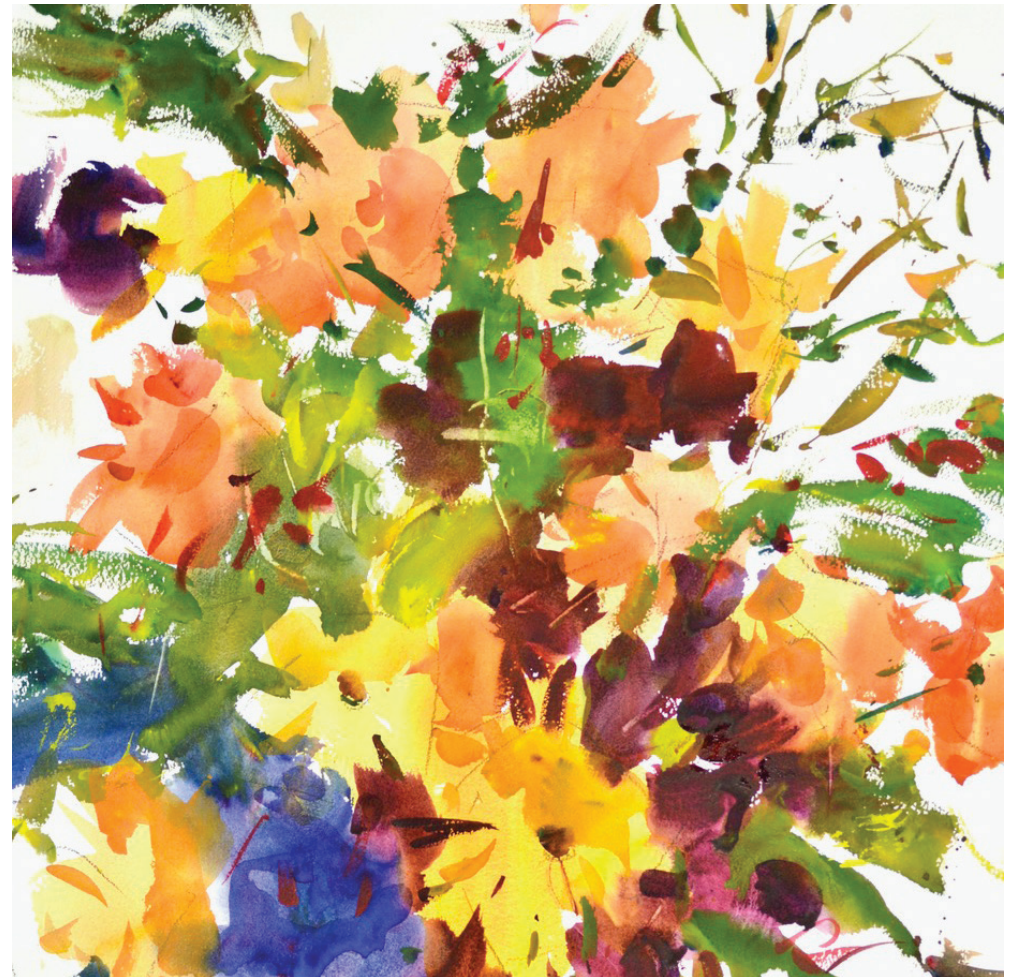
After Wiegardt learned his painting was selected for the show, he waited with anticipation to talk with his student about the acceptance.

“It’s not easy to get a painting into a show like this one because I’m going against a lot of refined paintings,” Wiegardt said.



Christopher Spence

See Page 5 **Eric Wiegardt inside his gallery.**



‘Bouquet’ by Wiegardt.