

Press Release: Eric Wiegardt, AWS-DF NWS—January 31st, 2013

## Eric Wiegardt AWS-DF, NWS Exhibits in Nanjing, China

Eric Wiegardt, AWS-DF, NWS has been very busy since receiving the *Gold Medal of Honor* from *American Watercolor Society* in April of 2012.

Eric was invited to exhibit his work at the *Third Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary International Watermedia Masters* in Nanjing, China October 20<sup>th</sup> through 26, 2012. Only 300 watercolor artists are invited worldwide. It was truly an honor. Eric chose *Repair at Funchal* for the exhibition.



Along with the honor of exhibiting, he received the *Jiangsu Watercolor Research Institute Certificate of Honor* by President Chang Houxing, JWRI. These exclusive groups of artist were published in the *Jiangsu Watercolor Research Institute's beautiful hardcover book*.



*About Jiangsu Watercolor Research Institute and the establishment of the Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary International Watermedia Masters;* (Reference: Introduction section of *Jiangsu Watercolor Research Institute* book.) “In 1990, the *Jiangsu*

*Watercolor Research Institute* officially registered with and approved by the Jiangsu Province Government. Professor Li Jianchen was designated as the legal representative of the organization. In 2002, the government honored the Institute as the *Jiangsu Province Progressive Organization*.”

“Professor Li Jianchen was acclaimed as the *Father of Chinese Watercolor*.” He was highly regarded and in his later years, he donated his entire personal collection of art treasures and his own best paintings to the state...In February 2002, Professor Li Jianchen passed away at age 103.

In 1995, now President Chang Houxing, JWRI visited Professor Cheng-Khee Chee (Xu Jingyi) at the University of Minnesota and Duluth Art Institute. Out of the meeting the *Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Watermedia Masters* was born. In 2007, the *First Invitational Exhibit of Contemporary Watermedia Masters* was held in Nanjing, China. The exhibition had 69 artists from 19 countries in United States, Europe and Asia. In 2010 the exhibition grew to 96 artists in 20 countries and 5 continents.

Eric has also been selected as 1 of 34 watercolor masters by *Watercolor Artist Magazine*. The article, *Best of the Best of 2012*, features his *Gold Medal of Honor* painting, *The Duck Hunter* and tells a little about the motivating factor for this painting. “This scene represents an intimate moment for me: It’s of my father carrying a decoy sack to our duck blind. Painting the combination of my father, marine subject matter and

duck hunting—one of my favorite pastimes—was pure joy.”

About Eric:

Eric Wiegardt, a native of Washington State, grew up near the small town of Oysterville, as did his father before him. His great grandfather was one of the original oystermen so his roots run deep on the Long Beach Peninsula.

Following a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, he graduated from the famed American Academy of Art in Chicago where he studied under his mentor, Irving Shapiro. He returned to his hometown in 1985 to open Wiegardt Studio Gallery in the Victorian home built by his great grandfather.

You can find Eric Wiegardt's watercolor paintings on [www.ericwiegardt.com](http://www.ericwiegardt.com).