

LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



September 2022

President's Message

As we begin our new Program Year, I thought it would be a good idea to introduce LAG's new officers and committee chairs, especially since they are all relatively new members.

LAG's new Vice President is **Teresa Ficaretta** who retired from the Department of Justice in 2012 after 30 years of federal service. Teresa is a lawyer by training and she went into private practice after leaving the government, closing her practice in 2021. She also has a Master's degree in music and played professionally before she went to law school. Music will always be one of her passions, and it often makes its way into her art. She works in pastel, collage, and acrylic, occasionally oil. She enjoys all the programs LAG has to offer and is excited to have more time to devote to LAG and her art. Teresa will be managing this year's LAG Open Juried Exhibition.

LAG's new Treasurer is **Amy Brown**. Amy, who is a Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army, is currently stationed at Fort Meade. She is an Army illustrator who has previously served as the Army's Artist-in-Residence. Before her Army Career, Amy was a high school art teacher. She creates art in many mediums, most recently oil paintings and multi-media sculptures.

LAG's new Secretary is **Melodye Mitchell**. Melodye's passion for artistic expression surfaced late in life after retiring from civil service in the state and federal governments for nearly 50 years. Painting began as a curiosity and blossomed into a full blown passion. She is currently a student at Anne Arundel Community College in the visual arts program. In 2020 she opened Melodye Mitchell Studio which enables her to infuse art with her former career as a Teacher and Program Manager. She is dedicated to teaching and inspiring others to find their inner selves through artistic expression. Her artistic style canvases a wide range of areas from portraiture, to still life, to

abstraction, with a preference for landscapes.

Our new Newsletter Editor is **Rebecca Rothey**. Rebecca has been an avid photo hobbyist for 15 years and has recently taken up drawing and watercolor painting. Her photographs have won multiple awards, included in juried exhibitions and have been published. She lives in Laurel and is excited to be joining a community of fellow artists.

I am both grateful and excited to have such competent and accomplished leaders as part of LAG's management team. I know they'll work well with our continuing chairpersons and I hope you, too, will give them your cooperation as we move through the coming year.

September Program

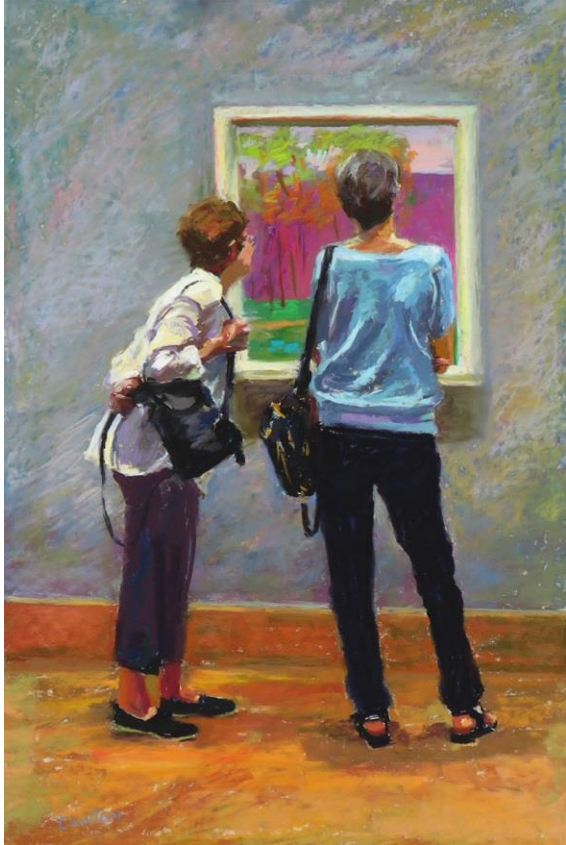
On **September 12, 2022, from 7- 9pm, David Lawton** will conduct a critique of members' artwork. Each member in good standing is invited to bring no more than 2 pieces of art for David's comments and suggestions for improvement. We hope to be meeting in person, back at the Montpelier Art Center, but watch your email for possible last minute updates.

Mr. Lawton has been painting for over thirty years. At the age of sixteen he was invited to a summer workshop in Scotland to study with George Devlin, a well-known Scottish artist. Since then David has studied with several of today's most renowned artists and at the Art Students League in New York City. Believing that continuous study is essential to perfecting technique, David still attends workshops with outstanding artists such as Albert Handell, a master pastelist, who has had significant influence on David's art.

David currently focuses on oils and soft pastels particularly enjoying the immediate gratification of pastels and the richness that can be achieved with oils. David believes that portraits, still life, and plein air painting each offer a unique challenge which enhances his growth as an artist.

His work has been featured in several magazines such as the American Artist, The Pastel Journal and The Artist Magazine. He is currently president of the Maryland Society of Portrait Painters and past president of the Maryland Pastel Society. He is a member of several organizations such as the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association and The Pastel Society of America. He continues to exhibit his work in national competitions where he has received numerous awards.

David currently teaches both privately and for Anne Arundel Community College. His work is represented by the McBride Gallery in Annapolis, Maryland.



"Like His Color"



"Morning Light"

More of David's work can be seen at davidlawtonfineart.com

Exhibits

Our exhibit at Watkin's Nature Center in Upper Marlboro which took place during April, May, and June was a huge success. The staff told me they hated to see it come down and it had been their favorite show. I hope you had a chance to see it. Congrats to all who participated.

We were thrilled when **two venues** asked us to have ongoing exhibits:

1. We have an ongoing exhibit at **Morningside House of Laurel**, 7700 Cherry Lane. The new show was hung on August 6 and will be hanging through October 1. Ongoing exhibits will be changed every 2 months.
2. We also have an ongoing exhibit at **Montpelier Arts Center** which is called "Small Works." Each exhibit is approximately 2 months long. You can see it in the hallway by the main entrance. A new show will be starting on September 10.

Upcoming Exhibits this year:

Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center, Laurel – Our exhibit will be on display from **August 22 – September 16**.

Brookside Gardens, Wheaton - **October 24 – December 5**. This is a very large show and we will need approximately 50 paintings of floral or nature scenes. Bins will also be available for unframed work. Please start planning for this show. I will also need lots of help hanging!!

We already have a busy year ahead of us in 2023 so start thinking about what you want to paint in the new year.

April – Patuxent Wildlife Refuge.

May – Ranazul Restaurant, Maple Lawn.

August 14 – September 18 - another show at Brookside Gardens.

Membership

Our membership chair, **Eva Zang Tkatch**, wants to remind you all that it is membership renewal time. Everyone should have received an email in August with the PayPal link. If you need that information or want to mail in your dues, please email Eva at zdesignsfineart@gmail.com.

Please note to any new members who have joined after March 1, 2022, your membership already includes the coming year.

Member News

Diane Shipley will be part of the MAA Labor Day Show from September 3-5 at the Kensington Armory, 3710 Mitchell Street. She is currently working hard on miniature paintings for exhibits at the Strathmore and in Pennsylvania.

Eva Zang participated in the Columbia Festival of the Arts, Lakefest Invitational, in June. She sold 30 original paintings, several prints and more than 100 note cards. It was a record-breaker!

One of Eva's original paintings, "Sunset at the Outerbanks", is on display at the Victoria Falls Resort Club with several other pieces from residents of our community in Laurel. Two more of her paintings are on exhibit in the "Small Works Show" in the lobby of the Montpelier Arts Center, along with paintings from several other LAG members

Keri Anne Fuller recently juried her online community (The Mind's Eye) with a submission of over 500 creations for the month of August. 30 images were selected and 4 new members joined. Here is the YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/py1ETdwbss8> and a couple of images from the show.

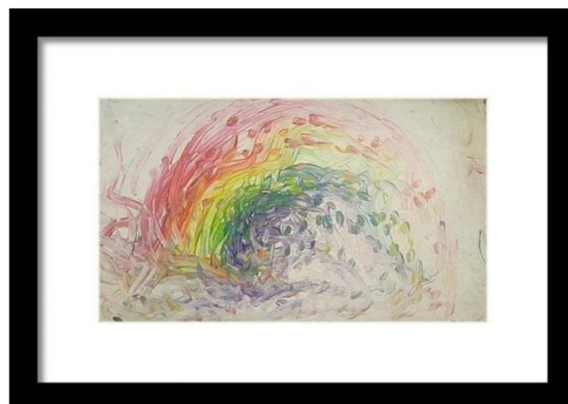


Completed Art Spotlight video of
Laurel Artist: Anjali Wells

<https://youtu.be/XZc0loA3Zz4>

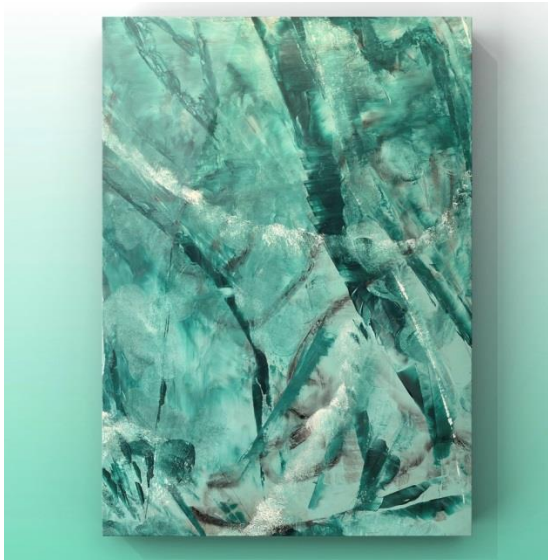
Keri Anne is open to artists who are interested in participating in a video of their work and their journey. She posts the videos on the city page, her gallery page, and makes them available for Laurel TV.

She is donating one framed work for the Laurel Pride Festival. The piece is called "When I Feel Better" and was inspired by the natural event of when a rainbow appears after a storm.



The fundraiser was held on August 16th at Olive on Main. Diane Shipley, Angie O'Neal and Eva Zang also donated art for the event. The Pride Festival is October 8th.

Melodye Mitchell sold two paintings online this month:



"Under the Sea" oil on birch panel, 16 x 20



"The Sandpiper" oil on canvas, 9 x 12

She also received commissions for two additional paintings and Artskeeper.com created two videos of her paintings that will be used to promote her work on their new website. It's been a busy month.

Nar Steel sold her oil painting "Peaceful Farmhouse" at the Rehoboth Art League in July.



Pam Bozzi sold one portrait (7 x 10 in) and received and completed one commission of magnolias (9 x 12), both watercolor.



"My Friend Lee"



"Magnolia for Cora"

Stacy Cantrell is currently in Iceland doing an artist residency at the Icelandic Textile Center. She'll be there until the end of the month. She is creating a crochet sculpture of Medusa! She has been posting daily in a blog. Her process is unique and fellow artists may find it fun and interesting. She has images of her work in process mixed with images of Iceland as well.

Plein Air

Carol Leo reports:



LAG Plein Air Event, July 2022



On Thursday, July 21, three LAG artists met at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in NE Washington, D.C. for an enjoyable morning of painting the large lotus blooms and aquatic scenery in this historic park. Pam remarked that the gargantuan flowers reminded her of Alice in Wonderland. Although the heat was a factor, the artists managed to stay shaded and were able to capture the scenes set before them.

Per Pam, "Thanks for setting this up, Carol. Another beautiful place heretofore unknown to me."

Ellen was able to return the next day with a fourth LAG member, Margaret. Margaret had this to say,, "Ellen and I went on Friday and had a wonderful time painting outside. The blossoms were still wonderful. Thanks for letting us know. Since she was there on Thursday, she knew right where to take me. It was fun!!"



Please stay tuned for our next plein air outing which will take place in September! Hope to see you there.

2022 – 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Programs: Open

Workshops: Open

Historian: Open

Publicity: Open

Festival Activities: Open

**Please consider volunteering for
OPEN POSITIONS!**

**Laurel Art Guild Newsletter
Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Rd.
Laurel, MD 20708**

**Newsletter Input Due
the 15th of the Month**