

LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2023

President's Message

After the excitement of the holidays, February can be a quiet, serene time to pause, regroup and resume painting and getting ready for exhibitions. LAG has had a variety of demos to inspire us and our January critique helped us improve our work. I hope these activities will help you bring your best work to enter into LAG's 54th Open Juried Exhibit – there's still plenty of time to enter since the deadline is not until March 20. Teresa Ficaretta, our LAG Open chair, reports that many of the early entries have been incomplete. So, please read the entire prospectus before you start your entry and follow the instructions carefully.

We have some fun activities coming up, including our monthly meeting, a group painting experience this month and exhibit opportunities later this spring. Read on for the details.

February Program

On **February 11, 2023, from 1 – 3 pm Marta Lopez Teigeiro** will demonstrate how she takes a modern approach to water media. Ms. Teigeiro is a multimedia artist and creator who believes art is one of the most valuable communication tools available to humanity.

Born in Spain, Marta came to the U.S. as a teenager with the dream of becoming an artist. She settled in Maryland where she studied graphic design and education. After a career in advertising and education, she now works as a multimedia artist and teaches art to students of all ages. Her award-winning work has been accepted in juried shows and is held in many local and international art collections.

While Marta works in many media, she especially enjoys watercolor and loves acrylics' chameleon-like qualities. The transparency of the colors and the effects created when pigments float and dry on paper drew her to use transparent watercolor and fluid acrylic in her early work.

In the last few years, she has added mixed media collage and 3 – D approaches to her creative repertoire.

Ms. Teigeiro currently resides, works and teaches in Montgomery County, Maryland.



Untitled



Untitled

More of her work can be seen at martalopezteigeiro.org.

Paint-In, Saturday February 18, 2023

From Carol Leo

LAG artists are invited to gather for an indoor “live” painting/drawing/photography session on Saturday, February 18 from 12 noon until 3 PM. Our chosen subject matter will be Still-Life. Please bring your favorite objects to the MAC trailer classroom to be the centers of attention for our artwork. Fresh flowers, vases, dishes, bowls, fruit, books, other household items that would lend themselves to an interesting still-life arrangement are all welcome. Several different arrangements will be set up giving a variety of choices to the artists.

Please RSVP to paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org to let me know that you are planning to attend. Note that Painting Outdoors is transferred indoors during the winter months. Plein air will start up again in the spring.

Looking forward to seeing you at the event.

Exhibits

Month of April – Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Laurel

April 30 – May 28 – Ranazul Restaurant, Maple Lawn

August 14 – September 18 - another show at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton

LAG also has two ongoing exhibits at the Montpelier Arts Center lobby, the Small Works Show, and at The Morningside House of Laurel. Pauline Clatterbuck and Diane Shipley are the featured artists for January and February.



Pauline Clatterbuck's display



Diane Shipley's display

LAG Open

As mentioned above, now is the time to enter the LAG Open. Visit our website for more information and to apply: <https://laurelartguild.org/lag-open/>

Article of the Month

By Angie O'Neal

In search of a more perfect vision: How the union of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Sense and Perception can lead to enhanced Visual Artistry

According to *The Jetsons* (Zipkin, 2015), *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (Roddenberry, 1991), and *Lost in Space* (Allen, 1965), we should have had robots fully integrated into our lives a few decades ago. These shows depicted robotics/robotics mechanisms as efficient, purposeful, and reliable automatons that helped humanity. At the same time, there were other depictions of the sinister nature of these mechanical media. Good always managed to triumph over Evil.

There is a plethora of industries that utilize robots and robotic functionality. Automobile assembly lines, laboratory testing scenarios, and emergency response scenes in remote areas of the world have all reaped the benefits of these mechanical wonders. With any technology, one must weigh the cost-benefit matrices and company economic benchmarks.

Art made by artificial intelligence is complex and often controversial. While some artists celebrate the immense possibilities, others grapple with creative and ethical questions. Either way, there's no doubt it's here to stay.

In 2018, *Edmond de Belamy* created by Obvious became the first AI painting to be auctioned at Christie's, fetching \$432,000. Artificial Intelligence (AI) responds in written words — that allows computers to generate emotional responses to visual art and justify those emotions in language.

Artist's Intent: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Recognizes Emotions in Visual Art: A team of Artificial Intelligence researchers has trained its algorithms to see the emotional intent behind great works of art, possibly leading to computers that see much deeper than current technologies (Mar 22, 2021-Andrew Myers). Researchers have built an algorithm that can capture the emotions that an image evokes, working to teach computers to recognize not only what objects are in an image but also how those images make people feel. They are creating algorithms with emotional intelligence.

“This ability will be key to making artificial intelligence not just more intelligent, but more human, so to speak,” says Panos Achlioptas, a doctoral candidate in computer science at Stanford University who worked with collaborators in France and Saudi Arabia. To get to this goal, Achlioptas and his team collected a new dataset, called ArtEmis, which was recently published in an arXiv pre-print. The dataset is based on the 81,000 WikiArt paintings and consists of 440,000 written responses from over 6,500 humans indicating how a painting makes them feel, including explanations of why they chose a certain emotion.

Professor Leonidas Guibas, head of the Geometric Computation group in the Computer Science Department of Stanford University, says, “Classical computer vision capturing work has been

about literal content. There are three dogs in the image, or someone is drinking coffee from a cup. Instead, we needed descriptions that defined emotional content.”

Experts in artificial intelligence have gotten quite good at creating computers that can “see” the world around them — recognizing objects, animals, and activities within their purview. These have become the foundational technologies for autonomous cars, planes, and security systems of the future.

Now researchers are choosing to use art specifically, as an artist’s goal is to elicit emotion in the viewer, to create a new generation of AI tools. Most amazing, ArtEmis works regardless of the subject matter, from still life to human portraits to abstraction. Its algorithm categorizes the artist’s work into one of eight emotional categories — ranging from awe to amusement to fear to sadness — and then explains in written text what it is in the image that justifies the emotional read.

Keep being inspired, Keep creating, Keep being unique, Keep being an awesome inspiration.

Member News

LAG welcomes new members **Stacy Andrews, Jill Bartos, Linda Bernard, Robert Birkenes** and **Rebecca Myers**.

John Cholod

It’s not too late! One of our members, John Cholod (me) will be performing in an Agatha Christie play on stage at Laurel Mill Playhouse. The show is titled "Towards Zero" and runs for the next three weekends. The playhouse is at 508 Main Street in Historic Laurel. General admission seating is \$20, with a discount for children under 18, seniors over 65, active duty military, and students.

Information on the play and ticket purchase are at the following link:

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=lmp>

General information on Laurel Mill Playhouse can be found at this link:

<https://laurelmillplayhouse.org/>

Tickets will also be available at the door, provided the show doesn't sell out in advance. Main Street Laurel has several good casual dining restaurants including Olive on Main, which is right next door to the theatre.

Hope to see you there!

Sally Davies

Sally Davies was awarded a Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant to purchase a new iPad with drawing tool.

In November, her painting “Grieve Not” was awarded Honorable Mention in the Rockville Winter Juried Exhibit.

And in January, her watercolor “Romance” was selected for the “Heart’s Desire” juried exhibit at the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA.



Diane Shipley

Diane Shipley has eight paintings at The Meeting House Gallery’s 10th Anniversary Invitational in Columbia, MD. The end-date has been extended by one month. It will now close on February 25. She also had her painting called “Intertwined” juried into “Renewal” – The 2023 Prince George’s County Exhibition showing at the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis. The show is on display through April 10.

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**PLEASE CONSIDER
VOLUNTEERING FOR OPEN
POSITIONS!**

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