

# LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



September 2023

## President's Message

Welcome back!

I hope you all had an enjoyable and creative summer. As we begin a new year of LAG programs and activities, I am delighted to welcome many new Board members as well our continuing Board members. Their help and commitment are what keeps this organization going.

This past summer, LAG successfully completed its election of officers for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Election results are reported below and the last page of the newsletter lists all who have taken on leadership positions this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at [president@laurelartguild.org](mailto:president@laurelartguild.org)

Summer activities also included several well-attended plein air paint-outs. I am looking forward to seeing some of those paintings as the year progresses. And, if you haven't already been to Brookside Gardens to see LAG's latest exhibit, it runs through September 17. In addition to our exhibit, the Gardens have many paths to stroll with beautiful plants and lovely scenes to just enjoy or possibly paint.

Our first meeting of the year is Monday, September 11, 2023. See you all then.

## September Program

On **Monday, September 11, 2023**, Artist **Lindsay McCulloch** will give a PowerPoint presentation about her artistic process. Our meeting will be at 7:00 pm at the Montpelier Art Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708.

Lindsay McCulloch holds an MFA in Painting from Boston University and she received her MA and BA from the University of Virginia. Her work has been featured in museums and galleries in the United States and abroad, including the Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art at the

University of Richmond Museums in Richmond, VA; the Danforth Museum of Art in Framingham, MA; the American Poetry Museum in Washington, D.C.; Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, TX; Bowery Gallery in New York City, NY; Linda Matney Gallery in Williamsburg, VA; R02 Art in Dallas, TX; Fraser Gallery in Bethesda, MD; the John Rylands Library in Manchester, UK; and Casa del Lector in Madrid, Spain; among others.

McCulloch holds various awards, including a Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship, a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship for Painting, and a Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award. She is a two-time recipient of an Individual Artist Grant from the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County. She currently resides in Maryland. You can find McCulloch on Instagram under the handle @lindsaymccullochart

## Vice President's Message

Hello Laurel Art Guild,

I am Vice President-Elect, Anita Henley Carrington. I certainly look forward to supporting our illustrious president Mary Ellen Simon and assisting the board with membership growth as well as planning for a successful 55th LAG juried competition. I expect there will be challenges and celebrations this coming year. I would like to mention that immediate past Vice President Teresa Ficaretta has graciously promised to support me as I settle into my new position. I am grateful for her assistance.

We are currently in search of a juror for the upcoming competition. I have two possible candidates. If you have someone you would like to recommend, please submit their name for consideration. The competition will be here soon. Therefore, I would like to secure the judge as soon as possible.

Taking the opportunity to act in this capacity encourages me to serve others, while forming new relationships. If you have an idea as to how current members can become more active in leadership or support roles, I'm open to suggestions.

If you would like to contact me, my preferred method is either via telephone (I'm old) or text. My number is 301-395-4234. If you correspond via e-mail, please text me to let me know. Sometimes things are either overlooked or sent to my spam folder.

In closing, thank you all for allowing me to serve, may our upcoming year be a safe, positive, and artful experience. Art is Life!

## Election Results

President – Mary Ellen Simon  
Vice President – Anita Carrington  
Treasurer – Amy Brown  
Secretary – Jill Bartos

## Exhibits

**August 14 – September 18 –Brookside Gardens in Wheaton.** We have hung a beautiful exhibit in the main gallery and hallway with 50 pieces of artwork on display. There is also bin work near the Gift Shop. If you haven't seen it yet, it is worth the trip. Lots of variety and color. Congratulations to John Cholod, Carol Leo, and Diane Shipley whose pieces are shown on their flyer about LAG.



A new show will be going up on **September 16 in the Montpelier Arts Center** lobby, the Small Works Show, which is changed every three months. Pauline Clatterbuck sold one of her paintings in the previous show. Congratulations!

## New Members

LAG is happy to welcome new members Melba Brown, Linda Botts Butler, Diana Doyle, Mary Gathercole, Wanda Nero, Marcus Sylvester, Fiori Tesfamariam, and Corrine Woods.

### Mary Gathercole

Thank you for allowing me to join the Laurel Art Guild.

Since retiring in 2020, I have been pursuing my life-long passion for art. I enjoy urban sketching, graphite, and watercolor. I also attend weekly live model art sessions. Below is a watercolor of my daughter's cat.



### Corinne Woods

I am a hobby artist who enjoys exploring new techniques and styles. I primarily work with acrylic paints and utilize bright colors.





## Member News

### Pam Bozzi

Pam's painting of a Western Maryland Steam Engine was accepted into the juried Labor Day Arts Show at Glen Echo Park and she successfully painted a portrait of a friend's daughter on her 9th birthday. Both are watercolor paintings. She sold two landscape paintings this summer after being asked to donate paintings for the fundraising auction held at the Comhaltas North America 2023 convention: one sold for \$400 and the other for \$100. Comhaltas keeps alive Irish cultural traditions in North America.



### Teresa Ficaretta

Teresa Ficaretta had two paintings juried into "The Artist Eye," an exhibit at the Benfield Gallery in Severna Park, Maryland. Both her pieces, "Five Wind Players" and "All Sizes," were purchased by Anne Arundel Community College for display in the Florestano Building on the Arnold, Maryland campus.



## **Benfield Gallery Exhibition continued**

Anita Henley Carrington, Sally Davies, and Rebecca Rothey were also selected for inclusion in the Benfield Gallery exhibit.

### **Carol Leo**

Carol will have artwork on display as well as cards and bin work at the annual MAA Paint-the-Town Labor Day Show and Sale from Saturday September 2 – Monday September 4. She will also participate in the plein air event held on Saturday September 3 as part of the Paint-the-Town show. [Further information is at this link. https://www.montgomeryartorg/laborday](https://www.montgomeryartorg/laborday)

### **Diane Shipley**

Diane Shipley sold her painting at the Montgomery Art Association's exhibit at Brookside Gardens during May-June plus another original and one print from the bin. Diane has a solo show at Watkin's Nature Center in Upper Marlboro through September 22, 2023. There are 21 pieces on display. Two paintings were sold during her reception.

### **Rebecca Rothey**

My husband and I were fortunate enough to travel to Florence, Italy in August. Here are a few reflections and highlights:

Favorite quote: "Making art is one of the expressions of man's intelligence; it is difficult to establish its limits, reasons, necessities." Lucio Fontana, 1953

The birth of Renaissance Art: At the Cappella Brancacci one can see the Masaccio frescoes, currently, while they're being cleaned, from well lighted scaffolding just a few feet away. Following Giotto, Masaccio is the first painter to use perspective and realism to display profound human emotion. He was studied by all the Florentine painters who came after him.  
[http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Brancacci\\_chapel.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Brancacci_chapel.html)

Hard edges vs. soft edges: It was fascinating to observe how Renaissance painters chose one or the other and often had conflicts with each other about it. Hard edges: Botticelli (though the Primavera is a must-see highlight of any visit), Perugino, and later Bronzino. Soft: DaVinci (the pioneer), Rafael, and later the Mannerists.

Sculpture: Michelangelo's *David* (left below) and the extraordinary Mannerist sculpture the *Abduction of a Sabine* (right below) by Giambologna are examples of how sculpture, like painting, is about creating beautiful or interesting shapes in 3D versus 2D in paintings. Michelangelo designed the *David* to be observed from 40 different viewpoints and Giambologna intentionally created a spiral shape through the figures.  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giambologna>.

From craftsman to artist: Ghiberti included a self-portrait looking out at the viewer in his extraordinary *Doors of Paradise* on the Baptistry. This was the first time an artist proclaimed himself as such. <https://www.worldhistory.org/.../portrait-of-lorenzo.../>

Contemporary Art: A show of Yan Pei-Ming's large-scale paintings *Creating Histories* at the Palazzo Strozzi included a watercolor of a scan of his own skull painted multiple times all in red. It was a powerful way to convey his feelings about the war in Ukraine. Art can express our deepest emotions, often better than words, not just about what we love and find beautiful, but what we abhor or fear or ... <https://www.palazzostrozzi.org/archivio/mostre/yan-pei-ming/>

Some things never change: I got a chuckle out of how many donors and powerful patrons are recognized by being included in works of Renaissance art. Who said donor walls need to be boring brass leaves or stolid plaques?

That's what I did on my summer vacation. I look forward to making art with you this year.







## Aquatic Gardens Plein Air Excursion

In July, the LAG plein air artists met at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens to capture images of the beautiful water flowers while they were at their peak. The annual festival was happening, so there were a lot of visitors. The heat was also intense, but that did not stop Linda, Rebecca, Margaret, Ellen and Carol from fulfilling their mission to portray in watercolor, oil, or photograph the lovely blossoms before them.



## Oxon Cove Park, Plein Air Session



August saw a different direction and venue for the LAG plein air team. This time the subject matter was animals not plants with a backdrop of rustic scenery including historic farm buildings and green fields and trees. The Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hills Children's Farm proved to be an idyllic spot and the warm-but-not-too-hot summer day created the perfect plein air

setup. LAG artists Pam, Margaret, Linda, Jill, Carol and two guests, Mary (Pam's friend) and Doug (Jill's husband) all enjoyed and contributed to this great plein air outing.



NOTE:  
More  
examples  
of  
artwork  
from this  
session  
will be on  
the LAG  
website.





## **2023-24 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Elected Officers**

**President:** Mary Ellen Simon  
[president@laurelartguild.org](mailto:president@laurelartguild.org)

**Vice President:** Anita Carrington  
[lagopen@laurelartguild.org](mailto:lagopen@laurelartguild.org)

**Secretary:** Jill Bartos  
[secretary@laurelartguild.org](mailto:secretary@laurelartguild.org)

**Treasurer:** Amy Brown  
[treasurer@laurelartguild.org](mailto:treasurer@laurelartguild.org)

**Immediate Past President:**  
Carol Leo  
[IPP@laurelartguild.org](mailto:IPP@laurelartguild.org)

### **Appointed Officers**

**Membership Chair:** Eva Zang Tkatch  
[membership@laurelartguild.org](mailto:membership@laurelartguild.org)

**Exhibits Chair:** Diane Shipley  
**Co-Chair:** Linda Botts Butler  
[exhibits@laurelartguild.org](mailto:exhibits@laurelartguild.org)

**Webmaster:** John Cholod  
[webmaster@laurelartguild.org](mailto:webmaster@laurelartguild.org)

**Plein Air Chair:** Carol Leo  
[paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org](mailto:paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org)

**Program Chair:** Marcus Sylvester  
[programs@laurelartguild.org](mailto:programs@laurelartguild.org)

**LAG Open Chair:** Anita Carrington  
**Assistant Chair:**  
[lagopen@laurelartguild.org](mailto:lagopen@laurelartguild.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Rebecca Rothey  
[newsletter@laurelartguild.org](mailto:newsletter@laurelartguild.org)

**Laurel Arts Council Liaison:** Angela O'Neal  
[ArtsCouncilLiaison@laurelartguild.org](mailto:ArtsCouncilLiaison@laurelartguild.org)

**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 on  
the 15th of the Month**