

# LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



December 2023

## President's Message

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone – I hope yours was a good one.

December brings more holidays and, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, or Kwanza, I wish you a happy holiday season and only good things in the New Year.

January turns a calendar page into a new year and, hopefully, we will all have time to get back to making art. To get things off to a good start and to set you up for a successful entry to the LAG Open Juried Exhibit, we're planning a critique session on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

**LAG programs are free and open to everyone.**

## December Program

LAG's December meeting is traditionally a social event. This year we're planning a holiday luncheon at **Olive on Main, 504 Main Street** in Laurel on **Saturday December 9, 2024** at noon. Because the restaurant needs to know how many places to set, ***you must RSVP no later than 6 pm Wednesday, December 6*** to Stacy Andrews at [stacy.voccia@gmail.com](mailto:stacy.voccia@gmail.com).

There is a municipal parking lot on Main Street a few doors west of the restaurant which is free on weekends and there is also street parking. The food is good, Mediterranean and American, with some vegetarian options. You can preview the menu at [oliveonmainlaurel.com](http://oliveonmainlaurel.com).

I hope to see you there.

## Exhibits

Thank you to all who participated in LAG's exhibits this year. We had some great shows and a lot of sales. Who could ask for more!!! Linda and I are working on the calendar for 2024 and as of now, have the following shows scheduled.

### 2024

**January 15 – March 1** – Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center. Watch for Entry Forms to be sent around mid-December.

**May** – WSSC Visitor Center at Brighton Dam

**September** – Kensington Library

**Ongoing** - Small Works at MAC

## Plein Air Update

### November Plein-Air Activity



On November 18, three LAG members, Carol, Jill, and Doug met at the Principle Gallery in Alexandria to view and study the works of one of the best contemporary watercolorists and plein air artists in the world, Joseph Zbukvic. We were enthralled



with his work, and were able to learn from our observation and discussion what some of the factors were that contributed to the beauty of his paintings. Here are some comments from two other LAG artists who also visited his show, though not at the same time:



Rebecca—I was able to visit the exhibit later in the day on Saturday. He is truly an extraordinary watercolor painter. It is definitely worth the trip.

Pam—Just saw this showing this morning. I have been a fan of Joseph Zbukvic for several years and it was quite stunning to see actual paintings. At least half of them are sold. The main attraction is larger than a full imperial-size sheet of watercolor paper. The buyer will need movers to deliver this and hang it. Interesting thing I learned... he shipped the lot of these paintings bare, unframed and unmatted, to this gallery which is a framing studio and they did the framing. Apparently standard practice for them / him/ GO SEE IT!

**\*\*Our next paint-from-life session will most likely be indoors. Be watching your email for the details.\*\***

## Member News

**Pam Bozzi** sold a watercolor of a fellow musician in November. She is enjoying a monthly watercolor class, live online, from Hazel Soan based on her latest book “The Art of the Limited Palette”. Fellow member Mary Gathercole and Pam have joined up for a few local plein air sketch events during the last days of this beautiful weather.

Sold painting: “Banjo Meditation” 7.5 x 10.5 in watercolor



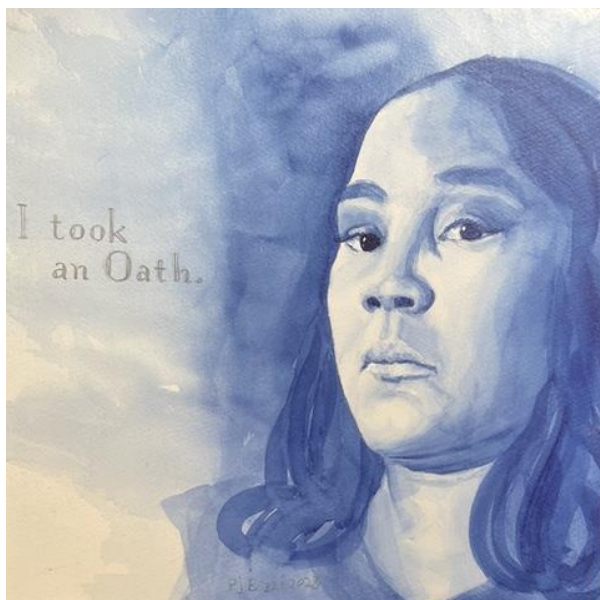
**A Tip from Pam:**

After watching the LAG program on mounting watercolors on boards, and watching several YouTube videos on this topic, I finally tried this on a few paintings that I donated to the Pyramid Arts Center 10x10 benefit show. The artwork had to be exactly 10 inches square in final size. I cut down some paintings, adhered them to 10” square wooden cradles, and completed them with a few coats of cold wax. I painted the cradle first on one of these because the image was just short of 10”. I similarly treated some other paintings that I had considered not quite right, but upon cropping them to 10”x10”, I was happy with them.

“Powerful Words” watercolor:



“I took an oath” watercolor and graphite:



**Carol Leo** has completed two holiday vendor shows, (Patuxent Wildlife and Gaithersburg Arts Barn). Her third and last holiday vendor show of the year is on Thursday evening, November 30 at the HCAC (Howard County Center for the Arts). Carol has had a banner year for the sale of small paintings, prints, and cards. She is also excited about the plein air art contingent that is growing in LAG.

**Diane Osburn** had two paintings juried into the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County's Winter Around the World exhibition at BWI Thurgood Marshall International Airport. This exhibition is in the Gateway Gallery pre-security between Concourse C and D in departures and is on display until March 18, 2024.

**Diane Shipley** had three miniature paintings juried into the Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, D.C.'s 90th annual exhibit to be held at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD. Exhibit dates are November 18 – January 13. Art can be viewed on-line at [mpsgs.org](http://mpsgs.org). She also had her miniature paintings juried into The Cider Painters of America show held in Kingston, Pennsylvania. Exhibit dates are November 12 – December 29.

## Member Article



### The Art of Gift-Giving: Art Makes an Unforgettable Present by Angie O'Neal

What a unique and thoughtful thing to do, purchasing art! It's a wonderful way to show someone how much you care. However, choosing the right piece can be overwhelming. With so many styles, sizes, and mediums available, it's essential to consider a few key factors to ensure the artwork will be appreciated and enjoyed. Gift giving can be a challenging task, but art has the unique ability to convey emotions, memories, and experiences that are not easily expressed with

traditional gifts. Artwork can make a lasting impression, and its value only increases over time.

Here are a few tips to help you navigate the process of purchasing art as a gift.

### **Understanding the recipient's art preferences:**

When choosing a piece of art as a gift, it's important to consider the recipient's taste and style. Are they drawn to contemporary, abstract pieces or do they prefer traditional, realistic works? Delve into their interests and tastes by checking their social media for hints, visiting their living or working spaces, or having conversations with them about their preferences. Understanding their style will make it easier for you to find a piece that they will cherish. You can also observe the colors and themes prevalent in their existing interior to ensure the artwork complements their space.

### **Once you have selected a painting, here is what you will need to present your gift:**

Using tape, scissors, trims, and even ribbons, you can create dizzying designs that look like they came from an experienced gift wrapper. Gift wrapping can be daunting, but it's quite simple with these easy steps how to wrap a canvas painting as a gift laid out for you. With the help of this article and your own creative spirit, you'll be sure to have an eye-catching presentation, no matter who it's for or what occasion you are celebrating.

### **Needed Tools and Materials:**

In order to get your canvas painting gift wrap project off the ground, you'll need a few tools and materials. You'll need:

- Scissors
- Tape of your choice
- Trims or ribbons
- Wrapping paper or cloth
- An old scarf or a pretty fabric

### **Will Wrapping Spoiling the Painting?**

The short answer is no. Wrapping a canvas painting as a gift won't damage the painting, but you do need to take special care when wrapping it up. As with any

delicate item, you want to be sure to use light pressure so as not to stretch or dent the canvas. Additionally, if your gift wrapper contains tape, be sure to use tape that won't leave residue behind on the canvas. Correct wrapping will protect the canvas and won't leave any ugly marks.

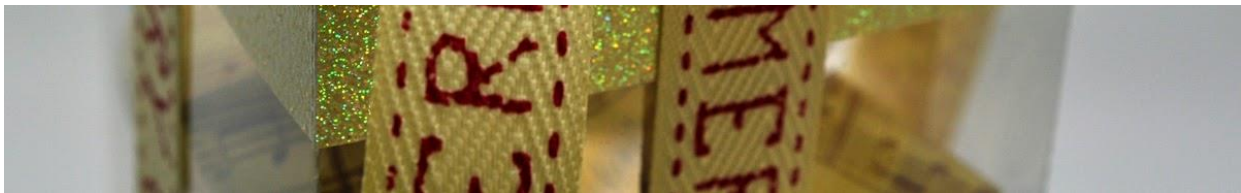
### **Things to Consider Before Starting:**

Before you get started wrapping your canvas painting gift, there are a few things to consider. How large is the painting? You'll want to use a material that's large enough or cut it down so that it fits perfectly around the edges of the canvas. If you need to cut it down, be sure to use scissors that won't fray or tear the edges. How much material would you like to use? How intricate do you want your gift wrap to be? These are all things you need to consider before starting the wrapping process.

### **Choosing the Right Wrapping Material**

Once you've decided how much material and what style of gift wrap you want, it's time to choose the right wrapping material for your canvas painting. For a simple but elegant look, try using tissue paper, waxed paper, or even plain brown craft paper. You can also use fabric such as burlap or felt if you're looking for a rustic feel. For a bit of sparkle, try wrapping with foil paper or using decorative trim and ribbons. Or you can always choose to purchase wrapping paper from the store that matches your canvas painting's theme.

Until we meet again: Tis the Season to be jolly, Yuletide Greetings, Happy Holidays, Seasons Greeting, Feliz Navidad!



**2023-24**

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Elected Officers**

**President:** Mary Ellen Simon  
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**Vice President:** Anita Carrington  
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**Treasurer:** Amy Brown  
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**Immediate Past President:**  
Carol Leo  
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### **Appointed Officers**

**Membership Chair:** Eva Zang Tkatch  
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[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**