

LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2025

President's Message

New Expectations and Initiatives for 2025

As artists, let us strive to accomplish more by dedicating time to creating and exploring new materials for our artworks. Challenge yourself to develop fresh styles and focus on improving the quality of your creations. Whatever project you envision, approach it with confidence, knowing that you are contributing to a creative legacy that can inspire future generations of artists.

I sincerely wish you all the best in 2025 and pray that the Most High grants you the fulfillment of your dreams in this New Year. May it be a year of great achievements and artistic growth for all of us.

A Celebration: Laurel Art Guild Christmas Party 2024

On December 14, the Laurel Art Guild gathered for its annual Christmas Party, a delightful tradition that brought together members and friends to celebrate the season and the arts. Held at noon, the festive event was filled with cheer, creativity, and camaraderie.

Attendees showcased their culinary talents by contributing a variety of snacks and pastries, creating a feast as visually appealing as it was delicious. From savory bites to sweet treats, the shared dishes highlighted the diverse tastes and talents of our community.

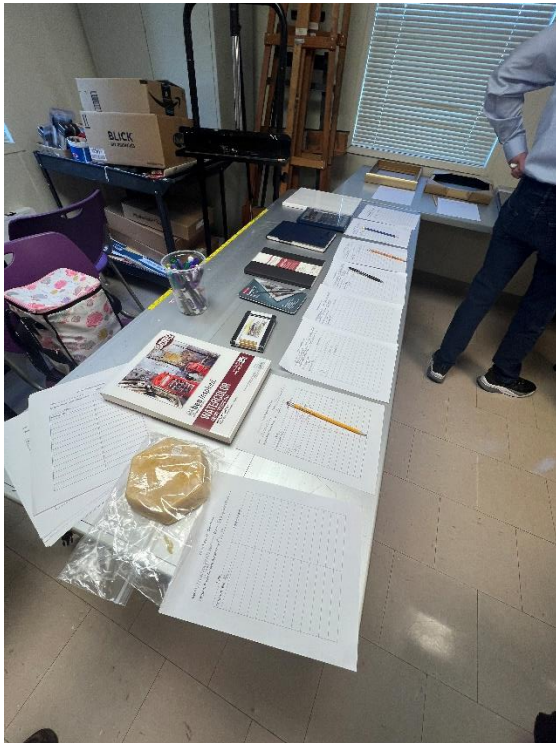
Adding to the festive spirit was a silent auction featuring art materials generously donated by members. The auction was not only an opportunity for members to snag great art supplies, it was also a successful fundraiser for the Guild. All proceeds will help support future projects and programs, ensuring the Laurel Art Guild continues to thrive.

The heart of the gathering, however, was the shared conversations. Members and guests enjoyed exchanging stories, ideas, and experiences about art, fostering connections, and sparking inspiration. It was a wonderful reminder of the strength and creativity within LAG.

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, and supported this year's party. Your participation made the event a success and a memorable way to end the year.

Here's to a vibrant and creative 2025 for the Laurel Art Guild!

Efrain Montanez
President



Exhibits

Ongoing – Small Works at MAC. We hung a new show on October 19, 2024 and it will run through January 17, 2025. Exhibits confirmed for 2025:

- Linda and I are thrilled to let you know that LAG has been accepted for an exhibit at The Meeting House Gallery in Columbia. Dates to be announced later.
- Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center – March 22 through April 25
- John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at Patuxent Wildlife Center – August
- Brookside Gardens – October 20 – December 1

Programs

On Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Montpelier Arts Center, Abigail McBride will offer a critique of members' work. Do you have some artwork that you're thinking of submitting to the LAG Open, but you're not quite sure it's ready? Do you have a work you like but you think it could use some tweaking? Well, this critique will help with those issues. Each member in good standing may bring up to two pieces of work for which you would like Abigail's suggestions for improvement.

Abigail McBride is a well-known, nationally recognized artist who works in a variety of media and genres. She says, "the longer I paint, the more amazed I am at how beautiful the world is." A consummate Cape Cod School colorist, the draftsmanship in her work is born of an academic interest in the portrait and figure. Her work blends traditional subject matter with modern design sensibilities. She is part of a new breed of perceptual painters working from direct observation, be it plein air or in the studio. Though often free of narrative, her work is grounded in the present day as contemporary interpretation genre painting.

Abigail has a reputation as a dynamic teacher and mentor. She hosts online classes with the option of joining tightly limited critique groups. She also teaches at Anne Arundel Community College and select traveling workshops.

Abigail holds a BFA from Westmont College. She has also studied at Maryland Hall for Creative Arts, the Cape Cod School of Art, the Egeli Studio, and the Incaminati. Her work has been shown in the Steamboat Art Museum, CO; the CFD Museum, Cheyenne, WY; the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, MD; the Mitchell Art Gallery, Annapolis, MD; the Sandy Spring Museum, MD; the Academy Art Museum, MD, and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, WI. She has shown in a long list of juried exhibitions and has received many awards for her work. Her work can be found in many private collections.

Abigail is currently represented by the Benfield Gallery and McBride Gallery in Maryland, the Berkley Gallery in Virginia, the Egeli Gallery in Massachusetts, and the Station Gallery in Delaware.

Here are two examples of Abigail's work. More can be seen at abigailmcbride.com.



Sheltered Harvest



Levels

LAG Open

Laurel Art Guild Open Juried Exhibition Submission Dates Announced

Happy New Year, Laurel Art Guild members! We're delighted to announce the submission details for our much-anticipated **Open Juried Exhibition**.

This year's submission window opens on *Inauguration Day, January 20, 2025*—a time for fresh starts—and closes at the stroke of midnight on *St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2025*. That's right, two iconic holidays bookend your chance to showcase your work, making it easy to remember but just as easy to let sneak up on you.

The exhibition is limited to **2D works**, inviting painters, illustrators, photographers, and mixed media artists to participate. Selections will be made by the esteemed **Glen Kessler**, a celebrated artist, instructor, and juror. Glen is the founder of The Compass Atelier and holds advanced degrees from both MICA and the New York Academy of Art. Known for his exceptional artistic insight, Glen's expertise ensures that this year's exhibition will shine brighter than ever.

Submission window: January 20 – March 17, 2025

Anita Henley Carrington
Vice-President, LAG

LAG January Paint-In

Our goal is to have a paint-in during the month of January at MAC. Please be watching your email for details. We are waiting for confirmation of room availability from MAC management. Looking forward to more live painting in 2025! Hope to see you there.

Carol Leo
Plein Air Chair

Member News

Pam Bozzi

I sold a watercolor painting at the Yellow Barn Studio members show in December: Billy the Bull. I was privileged to have gallery space at Arts Herndon in conjunction with the CCE Irish Festival and sold five paintings there. It's been an unusually successful year for me as I sold things at shows I wasn't even accepted into in previous years. Here is one of the paintings I sold (10" x 14" watercolor).



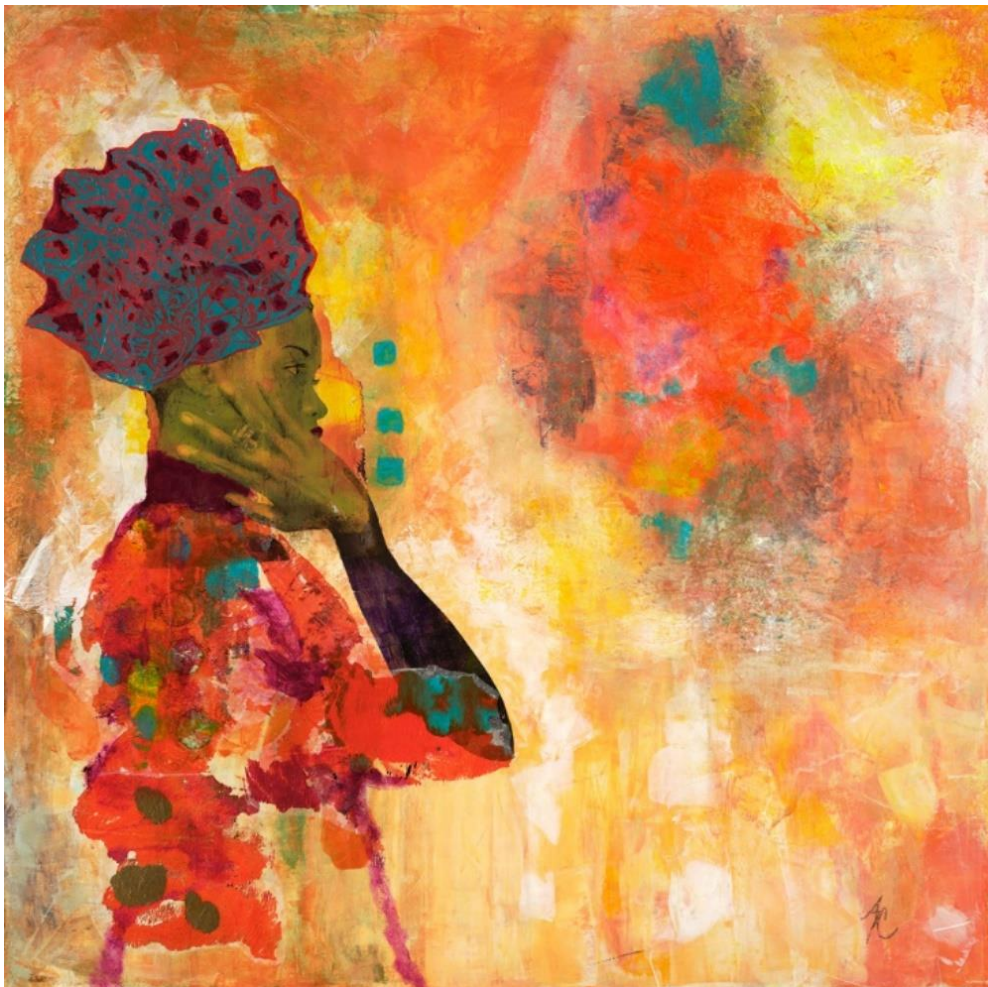
Yellow Mums

Anita Henley Carrington

Exhibitions Featuring Works by Anita Henley Carrington

1. The Atlantic Coast Mortgage Gallery at Children's National Hospital, Washington, DC
 - o Exhibition: Wonderbloom
 - o Featured Works: "The Persistent Mr. Byrd" and "The Aquatic Garden"

- Dates: Through February 2025
- 2. Wellspring Manor and Spa, Upper Marlboro, MD
 - Ongoing Exhibition
 - Featured Works: “Deep Cover,” “Tell Mama,” “Tensions and Red Flags,” and “Ancestral Whispers”
- 3. Stem and Vine, Baltimore, MD
 - Exhibition: Urban Oasis: Nature in the City
 - Featured Works: “Self” and “Petals”
 - Dates: Through February 2025
- 4. Benfield Gallery, Severna Park, MD
 - Exhibition: Winter’s Palette
 - Featured Works: “Second Summer” and “Brumal”
 - Dates: November 22, 2024 – January 30, 2025



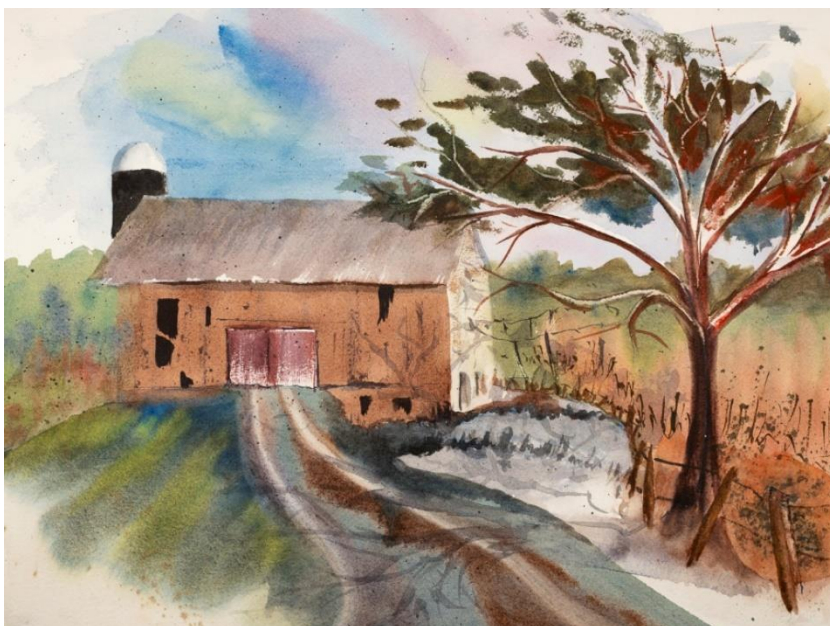
Ancestral Whispers



Brumal

Rebecca Rothey

Rebecca's painting *Electric Fence* was selected for inclusion in the Rhode Island Watercolor Society's "Inside/Outdoors" online exhibition.



President: Efrain Martinez
president@laurelartguild.org

Vice President: Anita Carrington
lagopen@laurelartguild.org

Treasurer: Eva Zang Tkatch
treasurer@laurelartguild.org

Secretary: Jill Bartos
secretary@laurelartguild.org

Immediate Past President:
Mary Ellen Simon
IPP@laurelartguild.org

Appointed Officers

Membership Chair: Eva Zang Tkatch
membership@laurelartguild.org

Exhibits Chair: Diane Shipley
Co-Chair: Linda Botts Butler
exhibits@laurelartguild.org

Webmaster: John Cholod
webmaster@laurelartguild.org

Plein Air Chair: Carol Leo
paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org

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

Program Chair: Mary Ellen Simon
program@laurelartguild.org

LAG Open Chair: Anita Carrington
lagopen@laurelartguild.org

Scholarship Chair:
Margaret Kohn
scholarship@laurelartguild.org

Newsletter Editor:
Rebecca Rothery
newsletter@laurelartguild.org

Laurel Arts Council Liaison:
Angela O'Neal
ArtsCouncilLiaison@laurelartguild.org

Workshops:
Eunice Montanez
workshops@laurelartguild.org

Historian: **OPEN**

Publicity: **OPEN**

Festival Activities: **OPEN**

**PLEASE CONSIDER
VOLUNTEERING FOR OPEN
POSITIONS!**

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