

LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



March 2025

President's Message

As time progresses, opportunities continue to flourish, and we call upon all artists to participate in a full artistic endeavor to elevate visual communication within our society.

Laurel Art Guild seeks passionate individuals who aspire to enhance artistic values in Laurel and its surrounding areas. If you are prone to share your passion through artistic leadership, we personally invite you to join the Laurel Art Guild. We have board positions available for dedicated leaders who wish to continue the legacy of the Laurel Art Guild. Please contact us for more information about available chairs.

I want to share some good news you may be interested in. Recently, I've connected with local county government officials who are organizing artistic expositions through the LBSAC Program Aide at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center. I encourage you to keep an eye out for Diane Shipley's notices and to have enough pieces ready for each exhibition date.

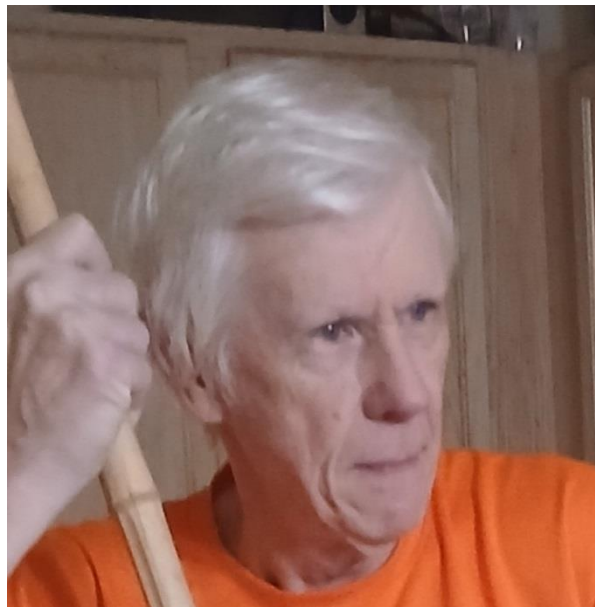
For more information, visit the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center section on the pgparks.com website. Events - Park and Recreation - Prince George's County, MD

We are committed to informing you of all the opportunities available to grow and develop your artistic presence across the region.

Programs

LAG Programs are free and open to everyone.

On **Monday, March 10, 2025, at 7 pm at the Montpelier Arts Center**, we'll have a hands-on drawing/painting session with experienced model **Bruce Shaffer**. Having a male model will be somewhat different from our past model sessions, but I know you're all up to the challenge. Bruce provided these images to give you an idea of what to expect. Bring your own drawing and painting materials. If you want to use an easel, please bring that too.



LAG Member Program Report

Great Member Meeting on Feb. 8, 2025 with presentation by Davide Prete: Sculptor, Architect, Public Visual Artist by Margaret Boles

For those who missed this presentation by a very current and local sculptor, I am writing this article. Please look him up on his [website](#), if you are at all interested in some of the most creative work that is inspiring students at UDC and Catholic University.

I was blown away by both Davide's current works and his background. His slides showed him working with his father and grandfather in Treviso, Italy, in their "blacksmith shop" where he began crafting steel sculptures as a teenager. From there he traveled abroad to show his works in other European countries and studied at the University of Venice, Italy. He worked with many metals, making copper tiles and artfully crafted gates.

Perhaps that travel and his early success influenced him to come to the United States in 2003 to study, or maybe it was his love for an American tourist. His classical training, creative mind, and inventive spirit lead him to do digital modeling for several architectural firms in Europe. He showed us a Sundial Project done with a kind of metal that appears to rust as it ages, but remains sturdy, called “Encarte”. He also showed several models of works done before coming to the US and several influenced by Greek and Roman mythology, which seemed to be his passion at the time.

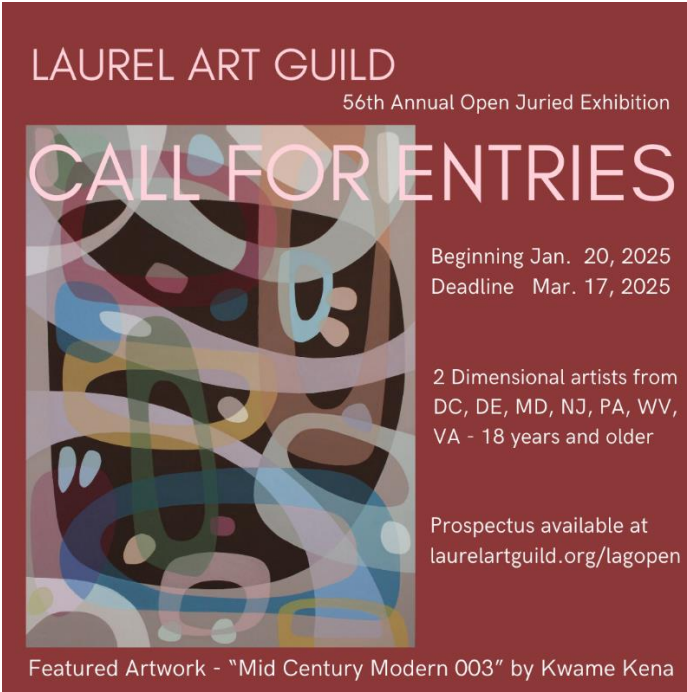
He received his MFA in Sculpture at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, MO in 2010. It seemed to me that, somewhere along the way, the lines of his work he were influenced by aerodynamics, because many of his sculptures are light and airy, seeming to take flight from the ground.

He shared visions of a sculpture he worked on for Capitol View Neighborhood Library in DC, ones in Frederick, MD, Adams Morgan, the National Zoo, and some called Art Nuvo that are in around the DMV. His work can be seen at bus stops in Hyattsville.

Davide says he does cold casting with aluminum and bronze, 3D printing, and scanning for architectural modeling and jewelry. He has worked with the Corcoran Gallery and entered works at the Internation Sculpture Exhibit in Milan, Italy. He enjoys teaching about and doing Public Art to share the history of local areas with the people living in the various places where he shows his works.

This was an engrossing and inspiring talk.

LAG Open Entry Reminder



LAUREL ART GUILD
56th Annual Open Juried Exhibition

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Beginning Jan. 20, 2025
Deadline Mar. 17, 2025

2 Dimensional artists from
DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV,
VA - 18 years and older

Prospectus available at
laurelartguild.org/lagopen

Featured Artwork - "Mid Century Modern 003" by Kwame Kena

<https://laurelartguild.org/lag-open/>

Guest Article

Paintbrush Therapy: Why Listening to Classical Music While You Paint is Better Than Therapy (And Cheaper Too!) By Angie O'Neal

After the devastating loss of my beloved mama, the heartbreak was overwhelming. I found myself searching for solace and healing. Not surprisingly, I discovered it in the one place that is a comfort zone for me, the place where I find joy: the act of painting. The healing power of color is profound; it's an artful dance between hues and human emotions—a tango that can evoke joy, sadness, or even the yearning desire to paint our walls a vivid shade of avocado green.

The psychology of color plays a significant role in this therapeutic process. Colors have the power to influence our mood and emotions. For instance, blue can evoke calmness, while red might stir up passion or energy. This connection between color and emotion is what makes painting such a powerful form of therapy.

Adding classical music to the mix enhances this experience even further. The soothing melodies of composers like Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven can help calm the mind and create a serene environment, making the act of painting even more therapeutic. The combination of color and music creates a multisensory experience that can deeply affect our emotions and well-being.



Unlike traditional therapy, painting allows for a personal and creative outlet. It's a form of self-expression that doesn't require words, making it accessible to everyone. Plus, it's cheaper! All you need is a canvas, some paint, and a willingness to explore your inner world.

In the end, painting became my sanctuary—a place where I could process my grief and find peace. The colors on my canvas, accompanied by the gentle strains of classical music, mirrored my journey from heartbreak to healing, proving that sometimes, the best therapy comes from within.

Angie's mother Sadie

Member News

Carol Leo was excited to fit some plein art into her trip to San Diego this past week.



Exhibits

Ongoing - Small Works at MAC. We hung a new show on January 18, 2025. It will run through April 17, 2025.

Exhibits confirmed for 2025:

Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center - March 22 through April 25

The Meeting House Gallery, Columbia – May 3 – July 26

John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at Patuxent Wildlife Center – the whole month of August

Brookside Gardens – October 20 – December 1

President: Efrain Martinez
president@laurelartguild.org

Vice President: Anita Carrington
lagopen@laurelartguild.org

Treasurer: Open
treasurer@laurelartguild.org

Secretary: Jill Bartos
secretary@laurelartguild.org

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

Appointed Officers

Membership Chair: Open
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

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:
Open
ArtsCouncilLiaison@laurelartguild.org

Workshops:
Eunice Montanez
workshops@laurelartguild.org

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