

LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



April 2025

President's Message

The date is set for one of the most anticipated events in our local art scene! The 56th Laurel Art Guild Annual Open Juried Exhibition is officially underway, with jury-selected artworks now being prepared for display. Congratulations to all the artists who submitted their work—whether or not your piece was selected, your dedication to creativity is truly commendable. We hope the magic of each painting, drawing, and sculpture inspires reflection, joy, and a deeper appreciation for the power of visual art.

At the Laurel Art Guild, we remain committed to fostering a vibrant artistic community, ensuring that exhibitions like this continue to enrich our souls and our surroundings. I encourage you to stay engaged with the art movement in your region. You don't have to be a well-known figure in the field—your art can be a meaningful reflection of your community and its spirit.

In addition to celebrating this exhibition, I want to extend a special invitation to those passionate about supporting artists. Laurel Art Guild is actively seeking new board members—individuals who are willing to contribute their time and leadership skills to help grow and sustain our mission. As a nonprofit organization created by artists for artists, we thrive on the dedication of people like you. Your involvement can make a significant impact in strengthening our artistic network.

I look forward to seeing you at the exhibition, meeting you in person, and hearing your insights. Your feedback is invaluable as we continue to improve and serve our artistic community with passion and responsibility.

See you soon and thank you for being part of this creative journey!

Efrain Montanez
President Laurel Art Guild
president@laurelartguild.org

Programs

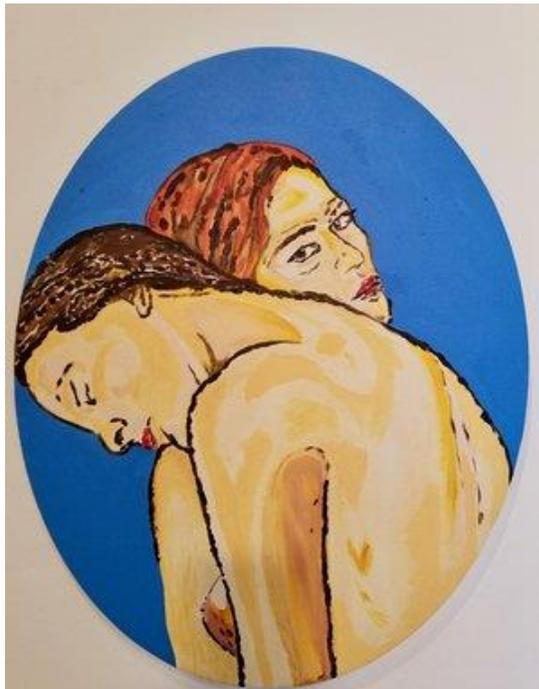
LAG programs are free and open to everyone!

On Monday, April 14, 2025 at the Montpelier Arts Center, Daniel M. Sullivan will talk about his creative process and techniques.

Mr. Sullivan is a contemporary painter based in Maryland and Chicago. While he teaches in Maryland, he maintains a professional studio in Chicago where he is currently exploring the relationship between figural and abstract painting. Influenced by artists such as Cecily Brown, Gerhard Richter, and Ad Reinhardt, he works predominantly in oils. His subject matter ranges from landscapes and still lives to images inspired by architecture, nature, street scenes, and text.

Daniel's recent work represents a shift in his artistic approach. While continuing to explore familiar elements, he is now using a broader spectrum of recurring shapes, patterns, and color palettes as well as varying textures, materials, and emotional states.

Daniel has taught painting, drawing, studio art and art history at Greenleaf Art Center, Evanston Art Center, and the Gaithersburg Art Barn. His work is featured in numerous public and private collections across the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, and Japan.



"Comfort"



Untitled

More of Daniel M. Sullivan's work can be seen at www.d-sullivan.com

LAG Open Report

Greetings, art enthusiasts! After sifting through 240 images from 126 talented artists (pew, that's a lot of scrolling!), we've finally got our lineup for the LAG Open. Big shoutout to our juror, Glen Kessler, who's been smoother than a freshly stretched canvas throughout this process. And of course, let's not forget our webmaster and all-around solution guru, John Cholod, for keeping our website from going rogue. You're a legend, John!

Now, mark your calendars with artistic flair because here are the dates you need to know:
Key Dates:



Drop-off: Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 12 PM - 2 PM or 6 PM - 8 PM



Exhibition Opens: Saturday, April 19, 2025



Reception & Awards Ceremony: Saturday, May 3, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 PM



Exhibition Closes: Sunday, June 1, 2025



Pick-up: Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 12 PM - 2 PM or 6 PM - 8 PM

Curious about who made the cut? Click the link below to see the full list of participants. Get ready to be inspired, intrigued, and maybe even a little jealous of all that talent. See you at the gallery!

[List of Selected Artists and Works](#)

Member Article

The Color of Love: Art and Religion Intertwined

Angie O'Neal

While reading recently, I stumbled across a quote by Marc Chagall that deeply resonated with me: *“In our life there is a single color, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of life and art. It is the color of love.”* This insight captures the profound universality of love—a force that transcends boundaries and imbues art with purpose and vitality. In the vibrant strokes of Chagall's own work, this color of love resonates, interweaving the human experience with deeper spiritual and emotional truths.

Art has long served as a bridge to the divine, making the intangible accessible and the sacred visible. Religious traditions throughout history have relied on art to express devotion and convey teachings. Whether it's the ethereal beauty of stained-glass windows in Gothic cathedrals, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling, or the transcendent spirituality of Hilma af Klint's abstract visions, the nexus between art and religion is undeniable. Van Gogh's *Starry Night* captures a cosmic reverence, while Georgia O'Keeffe's depictions of nature evoke a spirituality

rooted in the earth's beauty. These works transcend their immediate form, offering meditative reflections on faith, love, and the universal quest for meaning.

Chagall's connection to religious imagery—his depictions of biblical stories, Jewish heritage, and Christian themes—epitomizes this relationship. His work, alongside that of artists like Rembrandt, whose religious portraits resonate with humanity, or Caravaggio, who imbued sacred scenes with emotional realism, reminds us that art is a luminous celebration of both human and divine love.

Ultimately, love is the thread that ties art and religion together. It gives life to creative expression, enabling artists to channel the divine and craft works that inspire, heal, and connect. As we reflect on Chagall's wisdom, let's honor his sentiment by spreading love with a canvas and a palette full of it, creating vibrant expressions that unite and uplift us all.

Member Article

Workshop Report

Pam Bozzi

In February, I attended a six-day workshop with English landscape watercolor artist Oliver Pyle. It was held at The Mill at Fine Creek west of Richmond VA. The agenda for the workshop was planning your painting into manageable chunks plus some of his favorite techniques. Ollie gave us three methods for painting a distant row of trees, tips for painting skies and distant mountains, and methods to blend these distinct areas of our painting. I started this painting at the workshop and completed it at home. I used my own reference photo of a lake in Glacier National Park because it had cloudy skies, layers of mountains, and water similar to the subject matter of his demonstration. This painting is 7.5 x 10.5 inch.



LAG's Participation in Annual Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts, 2025

Each year, a large community outreach event takes place on the grounds of Montpelier. The event consists of vendors of plants, art, arts, and crafts, and community services. A tea is offered in the Montpelier Mansion. It is a fun family occasion.

The Laurel Art Guild is a part of this event. Our visitor tent, which offers opportunities to visitors to try out various art media, is a popular attraction. All year, LAG has use of the Montpelier Arts Barns facility at no charge. This event is our way to express thanks to MAC for accommodating us.

In addition to the visitor tent, LAG members may set up their own vendor tables and tents to display and sell their artwork, crafts, and plants. Each year, many customers stop by and enjoy these offerings by LAG members. Everyone who participates has sales. Sales are free from fees or commissions.

We would also like to have a table that will sell good quality slightly used or unused art supplies that you no longer want or need. The funds from this sale will go to the LAG Scholarship fund. Please join us this year by being part of this Festival. Below is a chart listing the various stations and time periods that are available for signup. Note that for any young people among your family or friends who need community service hours for school, helping LAG with the Festival will be a great way to earn them.

You may email your information to Carol Leo paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org

Hope to see you there!

MAC Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts Festival, Saturday, April 26, 2025						
NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	SET-UP (✓) 8AM	TAKE-DOWN (✓) 4PM	Visitor Tent 10am-1pm	Visitor Tent 1pm-4pm	Display/Sell Artwork/Cards/Prints (✓) 10am-4pm

[Here are scenes from the 2024 Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts.](#)

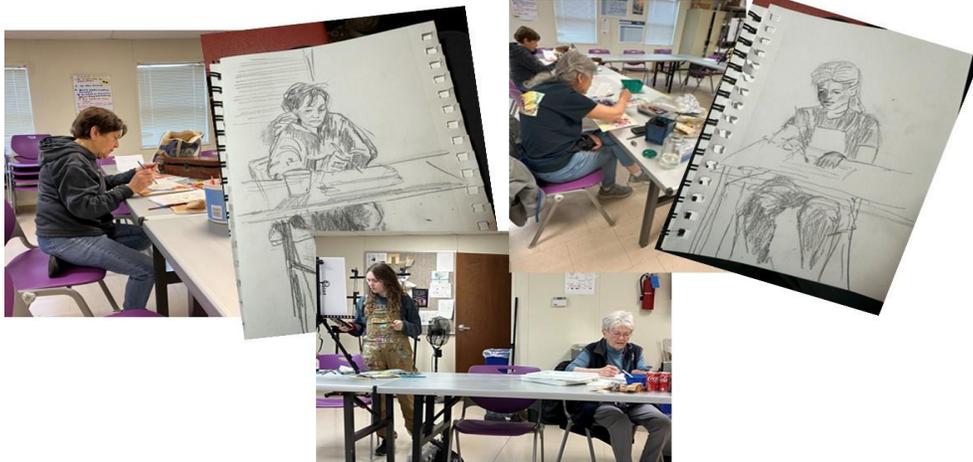
February Paint-In Report Submitted by Carol Leo



Three LAG members, Kimberly, Barbara, and Carol, and guest, Renee met on Thursday February 27 at MAC to paint and draw from life. We chose from flowers and fruit as our still-life items, and Barbara chose to depict those who were painting the flowers and fruit.

We had worthwhile conversations as we focused on our artwork and shared details of our artistic endeavors.

Our next live painting session will be a paint-out in April. Stay tuned to email for the information!



Exhibits

Ongoing - Small Works at MAC. A new show will be hung on April 21 and it will run through July 17. Entry Form has been sent out by e-mail. If you need a new one, please let me know. Congratulations to Carol Leo for selling 2 of her paintings and to Rob Robinson on selling 2 of his shadow boxes.

Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center – Currently on display from March 22 through April 25. We have nine artists displaying their work.

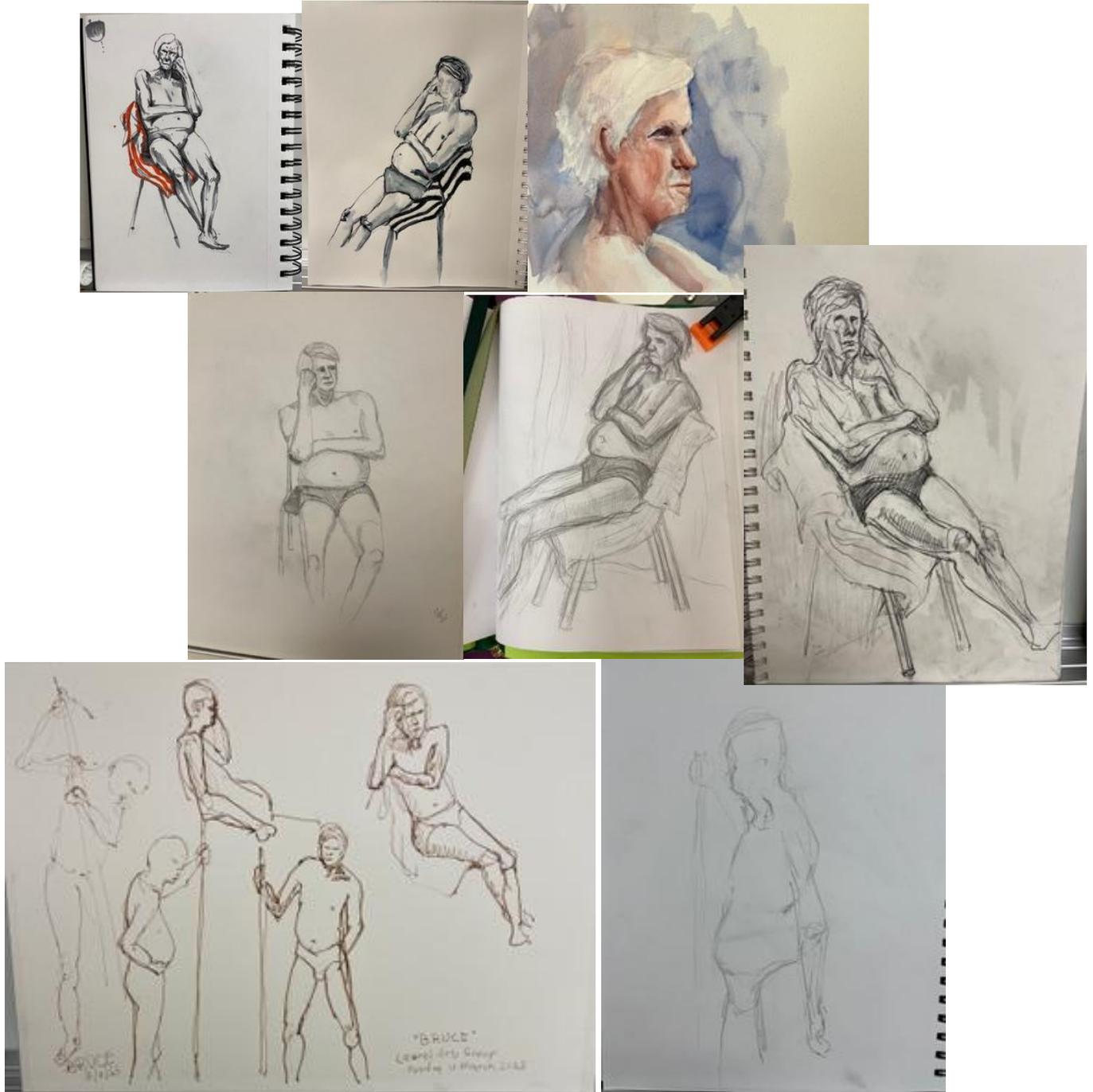
The Meeting House Gallery, Columbia – May 3 – July 26 – Mark your calendars for the reception to be held on Sunday, **June 8**, 2:00 – 4:00.

John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at Patuxent Wildlife Center – the whole month of August. Start getting ready with work that shows nature and animals. More information will be sent closer to the date.

Brookside Gardens – October 20 – December 1

Member News

Pam Bozzi - I participated in the model sketch event at the LAG meeting March 10. During the Show 'n Tell, it was suggested to take photos of the artwork produced for the newsletter. I took the photos of all proffered sketches and here they are:



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lagopen@laurelartguild.org

Treasurer: Open
treasurer@laurelartguild.org

Secretary: Jill Bartos
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Immediate Past President:
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Appointed Officers

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Program Chair: Mary Ellen Simon
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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