

Join us

and be member of a

selected group of Creative Artists.

Laurel Art Guild *Over 50 Years Supporting Local Artists.*

September 2025 Edition

Laurel Art Guild: A New Fiscal Year, A Stronger Vision

Hello Laurel Art Guild Members,

We are excited to announce that the Laurel Art Guild is back—stronger, more energized, and full of promise for the year ahead. With the beginning of a new fiscal year, fresh opportunities are opening for both our organization and our members. Expectations are high as we welcome new board members into the process, share innovative ideas, and explore ways to strengthen the flow of communication throughout our community.

This year, one of our primary goals is to expand the artistic services available to our members. Whether you are a professional artist, an enthusiastic amateur, or someone just beginning to explore the creative path, LAG is here to support and inspire you. We are committed to offering opportunities to showcase your work, engage in exhibitions, and share your artistic knowledge with others. By doing so, we aim to create a welcoming environment where every artist can grow, connect, and thrive.

Another major focus for the year will be increasing our digital presence. We are actively planning improvements to our social media outreach, enhancing the way we connect with broader audiences. Alongside this, a redesign of our website is in the works, ensuring that members and visitors alike can easily find information, resources, and updates about LAG events.

Of course, none of these efforts can succeed without the ideas, energy, and participation of our members. As a

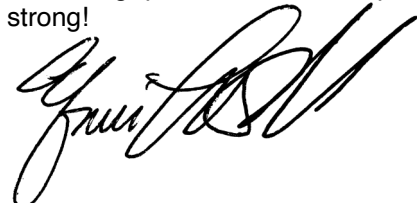
community-driven organization, we depend on your involvement to keep our mission alive. This year, we are seeking dedicated individuals to help lead and shape the future of the Guild. We currently have open opportunities for Treasurer, Secretary, Web Designer, and Social Media Content Creators. In addition, we welcome writers who would like to join our newsletter team, along with volunteers for board member positions.



Efraín Montañez

The Laurel Art Guild has always stood for the preservation and celebration of art in its many forms. With your help, we can continue to grow, expand our vision, and strengthen the values that define us. We invite you to enjoy this September edition of the LAG Newsletter and to take part in this ongoing art journey with us. Together, let's make this year one of inspiration, creativity, and community.

Join us on this exciting quest—and let's keep art alive, vibrant, and strong!



**We are looking someone like you for 2025- 2026
LAG Board, Chairs, Groups,
Resources and Committees.**

Contact us to know about available chairs and positions

EXHIBITS

Laurel Art Guild Exhibition at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge



We had a great exhibit representing nature at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge during the month of August. Lots of styles, mediums, and subject matter. See Efrain's article below for more information.

LAG's exhibit at The Meeting House Gallery was greatly appreciated by viewers. We had about 60 works of art on display and Diane Shipley had her miniature work in the glass display cases. Congratulations to Carol Leo, Delia Mychajluk, Ray Robinson, Diane Shipley, and Eva Zang on their sales from the walls. The artists also had tables set up for the reception and all made sales there. It was fun celebrating the show with family and friends.

Ongoing - Small Works at MAC. We hung a new show on July 21st and it will run through October 17th.

Upcoming Exhibits - Brookside Gardens – October 20th – December 1st. Entry Forms will be sent by e-mail in early September.

Laurel Art Guild Exhibition at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge.



Raymond Robinson Garden Visitors Other - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.

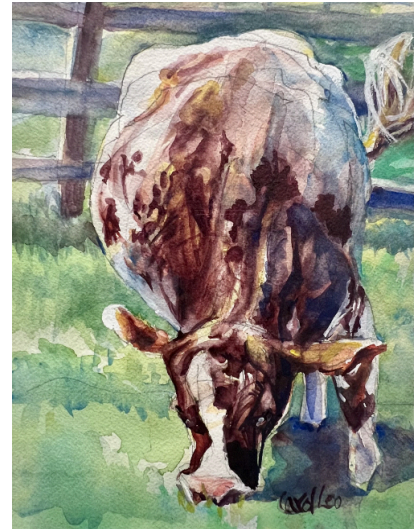
By Efrain Montañez

I am proud to share that our members recently presented an exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel. This unique event, hosted in the Refuge's main building, provided an inspiring setting for artists to display their work while surrounded by the very landscapes that inspired much of it.

The exhibition, which ran from August 1st through August 29th, featured a wide range of artworks created by LAG members. Many of the pieces reflected themes of nature and the environment, reminding viewers of the beauty and fragility of the world around us. Through their visual expressions, participating artists sought to raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources and to inspire a deeper commitment to protecting the environment for future generations.

The Patuxent Wildlife Refuge proved to be an ideal venue for this exhibition, allowing visitors to experience art and nature in harmony. Each piece stood as both a creative expression and a call to mindfulness, highlighting the role art can play in environmental education and stewardship.

Here are some of the beautiful works that were part of the exhibition:



Valeo Carol Leo In the Meadow Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



MAC

Laurel Art Guild

SMALL WORKS

Show

Showcase your talent



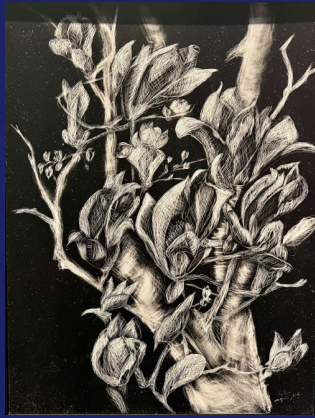
Rebecca Rothery Abert Squirrel, New Mexico Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Pauline Clatterbuck At Anchor Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Diane Shipley Egret Acrylic - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Delia Mychajluk Magnolia Scratchboard - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel, MD



Margaret Panebianco The Awesome Power of Flowers Mixed Media - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Carol Leo Ms. Lady Bug Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Pauline Clatterbuck Cash Lake Turtle Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel, MD.



Efrain Montanez, Shubunkins oil - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Pamela Bozzi Baltimore Oriole Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel, MD.



Carol Leo Startled Watercolor- Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Efrain Montanez Cemi Taino Oil - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



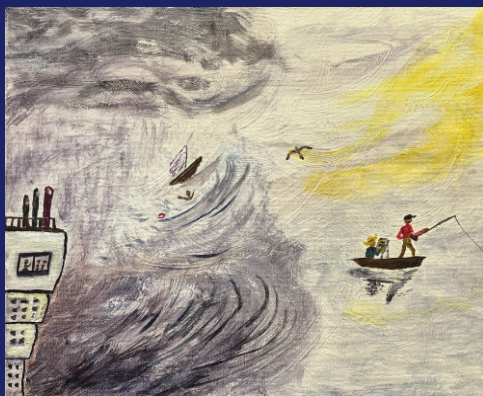
Delia Mychajluk Wild Maternity Scratchboard- Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Raymond Robinson Our Feathered Friends Other - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Ellen Cort Iris Photograph- Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Margaret Boles Impending Storm Acrylic - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Purple - Joy Mixed Media - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Pamela Bozz Cash Lake Hollow Tree Watercolor & Ink - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Delia Mychajluk Canyon Light Oil - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Ellen Cort Magnolia Acrylic - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Pamela Bozzi Feather Study Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Efrain Montanez Creek underwater Oil - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Rebecca Rothery Milkweed Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Diane Shipley Autumn Color Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Margaret Panebianco Bold and Beautiful Mixed Media - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Die Valkirie By Wagner - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.

Member News

Pam Bozzi

I have three paintings in the juried and open shows happening on Labor Day weekend at Glen Echo Park. They did NOT accept the painting of white flowers



that I expected to be in the show, but they DID accept my last-minute entry of a scene from my vacation at Glacier Park. I can NEVER tell what they will like! (Emphasis added by Pam.)

I just returned from a trip to rural Norway. I prepared a new watercolor paper sketchbook and minimal watercolor and ink sketch kit. Before I left for the trip, I prepped the sketchbook with my contact information (name, phone, and email) along with a few sketches to test out the paper. On the first day (Monday) after arrival, I sat on a bench outside a museum to make a quick sketch. Then the bus arrived, and the sketch book stayed on the bench.

A few hours later, I got a text from the museum staff that my "painting diary" was at the ticket counter. Our tour guide arranged with the museum staff to have my book mailed to the guide's brother who lives in Norway; we were planning on picking him up on Thursday to join the tour. Unfortunately, it was delivered to his home one hour after we picked him up. I stopped at a bookstore a few days later

and bought a 90-pound A5 sketch book, but the paper had no sizing and behaved like a blotter, clogging my fountain pen. It was just awful for watercolor. I, nonetheless, made a few sketches on the last days of the tour. Here are ones of a



concert hall and of the viewing station at the high end of the funicular ride. It was a great tour, even if my idea of lovely color impressions did not come to fruition.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



It's Time to Renew Your Membership

As we approach the beginning of a new program year, you'll want to make sure your membership is current to ensure that you don't miss out on any of the upcoming activities.

Please go to <https://laurelartguild.org/join-contact-us/> and click the "Pay Now" button to renew your membership. We'd also appreciate if you would take a moment to fill out the member interest form by clicking the link just above the Pay Now button.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you soon.

September

By Carol Leo

Plein Air Art Events

Bring your easel,
Table and art tools.
Join us for an outdoor
artistic experience.

For more information
paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org

Watch your email for an announcement
about a LAG Plein Air exhibition in
September. I hope to see a lot of LAG
members there!

Carol Leo

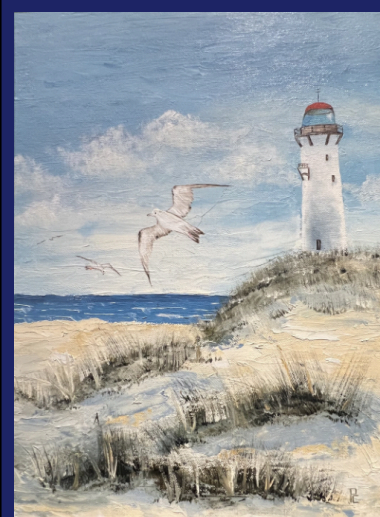
Carol Leo was part of the annual MAA Paint the Town Labor Day Show in Kensington, MD that took place over the three-day Labor Day weekend. She sold two out of her three wall hangings, and also her plein air painting. She was asked

by the family whose house she painted, to paint the house again, because someone other than the owners of the house purchased the painting. Carol went back to do a second painting and the family was pleased with it and purchased it. It was also a good sale for cards and bin work.

Rebecca Rothey

Over the summer, Rebecca has photographs and paintings accepted into the following shows:

- Foundry Gallery, Framing the Monument, *Monument Reflection*, photograph
- Praxis Gallery, Shadow Aspect, *Morning Menorah*, photograph,
- awarded honorable mention
- Glen Echo, Annual Labor Day Art Show, *Parisian With Poodle*, photograph
- Hill Center, 2025 Photography Shows, *White House Fence 1 and 5*, photographs
- Rhode Island Watercolor Society, Impressions, *Forest Spirit*, painting



Pauline Clatterbuck Beach Lighthouse - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Rebecca Rothey Our Squirrel Watercolor - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.

Summertime and Art

By Angie O'Neal

During this summer, as I wandered through galleries near and far, one radiant highlight was my visit to the Montpelier Art Gallery. Crossing the threshold felt like stepping into a living canvas—the air seemed to hum with creativity, light spilled over the floors like liquid gold, and the walls bloomed with vivid color. Sundrenched landscapes invited me to linger, bold abstracts pulsed with energy, and soulful portraits seemed to meet my gaze with unspoken stories. Montpelier offers more than artwork to view—it is a sanctuary where color, texture, and form embrace you, inviting reflection, wonder, and renewal.

Summer at Montpelier is a true celebration of creativity—painting, photography, and sculpture intertwine to awaken the senses and soothe the spirit. Each exhibit feels like a warm, artistic breeze, carrying the fragrance of imagination.

In her TED Talk “How Art Can Heal,” artist Louisa Cannell reminds us that creating and experiencing art deepens connection, builds resilience, and sparks inspiration. Art has an extraordinary power to inspire. Summer painting, with its generous light and languid

days, is unlike any other season’s—it’s freer, more luminous, steeped in warmth and joy. As an artist, I find each summer brushstroke to be a mindfulness meditation, a moment of pure presence. Hosting PaintnSip gatherings throughout the community allows me to share that magic—welcoming friends and neighbors into spaces where conversation flows like paint, creativity blooms without boundaries, and art becomes a shared journey of the heart.

So, as the golden days of summer wind down, let the art you’ve witnessed become a gentle invitation to continue summer’s inspiration: take out a canvas, gather your colors, and let yourself create. Whether painting in sunlight or simply following where inspiration leads, allow yourself the joy of making art—no rules, just freedom and possibility. You never know what beauty and healing you might discover in your own brushstrokes.

This summer (and fall!) may your story be written in color.

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Newsletter Editor:

Rebecca Rothey

newsletter@laurelartguild.org

21 Acrylic Painting Tips for Beginners

If you're a newbie to acrylic painting, we've got some tips that will help you shorten the learning curve. Our artists have pooled their collective experience to share some of their tried-and-true tricks for better acrylic painting. They were once beginners, too, so they understand the struggle when starting out. In this article, you'll find suggestions, techniques, and explanations that are guaranteed to make you more comfortable at the easel and have you painting acrylic masterpieces in no time!

Get Started Using Acrylics

To get you started, we've listed some tips that have been used in a video of an Arteza artist creating a stunning landscape. You can see these tips in action by watching the [video](#) and paint along to make your own landscape painting.

1- Find a reference. The internet is full of images that you can use as a reference for cool things to paint. Using photo references is also a great way to practice painting landscapes and urban scenes before venturing out to paint in public. Since the reference doesn't move, you can hone your painting skills easily.

2- Use synthetic brushes. Acrylic paint is a medium-bodied paint that will adhere much better on synthetic, bristle brushes than on softer brushes. They are easy to find, as brushes made especially for acrylic painting are clearly labeled.

3- Use wide strokes. You'll cover more areas and be able to create more textures by using wide strokes as opposed to thin ones. For example, you can use wider strokes for painting a background, to fill in the sky, for water, and to add mountains. Save the thinner strokes for small areas and for placing details.

4- Paint densely. Don't skimp on the paint. It's okay to use large amounts of it and

apply it thickly. You may think using less paint or thinned paint will save you money in the long run, but all it does is weaken the piece you're working on and forces you to create more layers, which can muddy the paint.

5- Work with a palette knife to add some texture. It's fun to switch things up by using a palette knife instead of a brush. Palette knives can add different textures to your artwork by either scraping paint away or adding thick layers.

6- Use a thin brush with long bristles for small details. The best brush to use for the smallest details in your painting is a long, thin-bristle brush, also known as a liner brush. Using a thin brush enables you to emphasize the edges of things. You can also add details with a small flat brush.

7- Work relatively fast. Acrylic paint is known for its fast drying time, so it's important to develop a quick painting habit. Once acrylic paint is dry, it's impossible to reactivate. There are extenders you can purchase that will add moisture to the paint and help extend the drying time.

8- Use warm and cold shades to add contrasts. Contrast is the best way to make your paintings visually interesting and to add a realistic look. You can do this by using warm colors (reds, yellows, oranges) next to cool shades (blues, purples, greens).

9- Make your painting bright and lively. Don't be afraid to use bright colors. It's amazing how dynamic a painting becomes when highlights in white and areas of bold or unexpected color are added.

10- Use different techniques. Acrylic is a versatile paint that adapts well to different techniques. You can even paint with your finger to blend and mix the colors smoothly. Experiment and play with the paint—mix new shades, use non-traditional tools, use unpredictable surfaces. These are the things that will make your painting look more diverse and help you develop your unique style.

11- Paint over mistakes when the piece is dry. If you've made a mistake, no worries. You won't have to wait long for the paint to dry to easily paint over any stray marks or unwanted colors.

More Acrylic Painting Tips for You!

Here are some more tips we think will be



helpful for you to use in your landscape painting or in your future artworks.

12- Keep a variety of brushes on hand. You never know which brush you'll be using next, so it's advisable to have brushes in multiple sizes nearby. You can start out with the basics—small, medium, large—and add more sizes and shapes later, ranging from small to large.

13- Take care of your brushes. Brushes are an important investment in your painting practice. If you want them to last, you'll need to make sure you clean them well after each use to keep them from becoming dry, rigid, and useless.

14. Use a mist of water to extend drying time. An easy way to avoid having your paint dry too quickly is to mist the paint after you've applied it to the palette. Plastic spray bottles work great for this and can be purchased inexpensively.

15. Use thinned paint for under coatings. The beauty of acrylic paint is that it can be thinned with water to resemble watercolor paint. By doing this, you can quickly add an undercoat of paint to your surface. This is called "toning" the canvas. Underpaintings can enhance your painting as well as act as a way to get you started without the fear of facing a blank or white canvas.

16. What is gesso and why does it make a difference? Acrylic artists commonly use canvas coated in gesso. A white paint mixture, gesso, prevents the paint from absorbing into the canvas and stiffens the fabric to allow the paint to lay on the surface. It also adds a slight texture or "tooth" that holds the paint while allowing it to be pushed around as the artist works. Many artists will add an additional layer of gesso before painting to add more texture to their work.

17. Use your palette for color mixing. To avoid muddying your colors on the canvas or placing a shade you don't want, always mix your colors on a palette. A palette is also a place for experimenting with color combinations.

18. Some acrylics darken as they dry. You might be surprised to find that the bright color on your palette dried somewhat darker. A good idea is to



create swatches of your colors to see which ones dry darker. Just paint a small square of paint on a scrap canvas or piece of paper and wait for it to dry. This will help you anticipate how the color will actually look, you can mix accordingly.

19. Step away from your painting periodically. It's easy to lose perspective of what you're painting. That's why you should step back and look at the overall work often. By taking just a few steps back, you'll immediately see how the

colors are working together, if angles need adjusting, or your objects are in scale.

20. Practice blending. The quick-drying nature of acrylics can make blending a challenge. But, by practicing blending your colors together, you'll get the hang of it.

21. Have two water jars handy. To keep the paint you apply to the canvas as pure as possible, keep two jars of water nearby. Use one just for cleaning your brushes and one to dip your brush in when thinning the paint. This is a good way to recycle household jars and save on the cost of purchasing special brush-cleaning basins.

Now you have some tips and tricks to take you from beginner to artist to experienced painter. The more you paint, the more you'll learn, and the better you'll get. We hope these techniques will give you the confidence to keep going. If you get stuck, you can refer back to this blog or check out one of the many blogs on acrylic painting we provide on our website and YouTube channel. We'd love to hear how it's going, so leave us a comment in the section below.

Happy painting!

Source: <https://plaidonline.com/inspire-and-create/article/21-acrylic-painting-tips-for-beginners>



ma Bales wargaret Boles Cormorant Take Off Watercolor® - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Ellen Cort Happy Garden Acrylic - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



Margaret Panebianco The Awesome Power of Flowers Mixed Media - Exhibition at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel MD.



`The Laurel Art Guild is a nonprofit organization for people interested in the advancement of the fine arts. Membership consists of professional and amateur artists expressing themselves through a wide variety of media. The Guild strives to promote public appreciation for the support of its endeavors through community involvement. The Guild makes scholarship donations to students that are continuing their studies in Fine Arts. Founded in 1967, the Laurel Art Guild is located on the grounds of the historic Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, Maryland.

`Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the visual arts. The monthly meetings provide educational presentations to further develop artistic skills and interests. Meetings and workshops are held throughout the year in addition to art shows and other events.

For more information on the Laurel Art Guild, visit the website at www.laurelartguild.org.
