

# ★Holidays Celebration Issue★

## LAG Holidays Luncheon

Saturday December 13, 12:00 PM

Place: Chidos Tex Mex Restaurant in Laurel  
Address: 14600 Laurel PI, Laurel, MD 20707



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

December 2025 Holidays issue

Dear Laurel Art Guild Members,

As we approach the end of the year—quickly, it seems—our hopes and expectations for the future continue to grow. Excitement is building as new ideas and events begin to take shape. The Laurel Art Guild is entering a fresh season of creativity and, as your president, I want to hear from each of you.

I know many of you have wonderful thoughts on how we can strengthen our artistic community, enrich our creative processes, and enhance the way our organization serves its members. This new season will be defined by connection—members connecting with one another, sharing knowledge, showcasing artwork, and expanding opportunities for creative growth.

I warmly invite you to share your proposals and ideas: projects you would like to lead, classes you want to teach, workshops you envision, or initiatives you hope to see. My commitment is to listen closely and explore every possibility that aligns with our mission and supports the growth of the Laurel Art Guild. It's time to bring those ideas to life.

We also have exciting news on the horizon. Through our partnership with the Laurel Arts Council, we are collaborating on a major project that will offer our members a meaningful opportunity to shine and be recognized throughout the city of

Laurel. Stay tuned for updates—there is much more to come and we encourage every member to be actively involved.

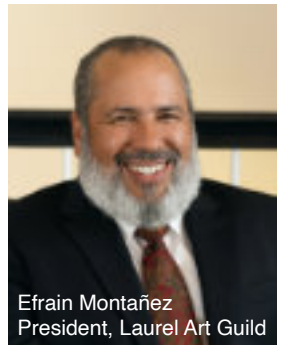
Looking ahead, our annual Open Juried LAG Exhibition is returning next year. Prepare your artwork and be ready to submit once the prospectus is released. As always, we look forward to experiencing bold, fresh creativity from our talented community of local artists—whether expressed through two-dimensional or three-dimensional works.

As this year draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to all Laurel Art Guild artists—professionals, hobbyists, amateurs, and seasoned creators alike. May the joy of creativity fill your heart, may the warmth of the holidays surround you, and may 2026 bring abundant opportunities and unending inspiration.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Efrain Montañez

President, Laurel Art Guild



Efrain Montañez  
President, Laurel Art Guild

**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**





## PROGRAMS

# 2025 Laurel Art Guild Luncheon

You are invited to join us for an energizing networking experience designed to connect you with new artists, creative partners, and professional resources that can support your career path. Bring your business cards, samples, or promotional materials to make the most of every introduction.

We will also unveil key highlights from the upcoming Laurel Art Guild season, including new initiatives and opportunities you won't want to miss. Plus, all attendees will be entered into an exclusive raffle.

Please let us know if you're able to attend—we'd truly appreciate it! RSVP to

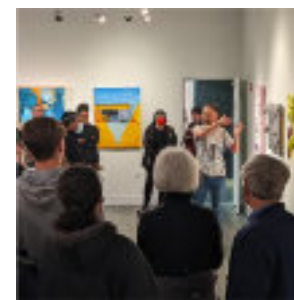
**Date: Saturday, December 13th, 2025**  
**Time: 1200PM**  
**Place: Chidos Tex Mex Restaurant in Laurel**  
**Address: 14600 Laurel Pl, Laurel, MD 20707**



**Raffle for all LAG  
active members**

**4 professional  
watercolor kits**

**FREE!**



## The 37th Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition

**MEET UP  
ON  
DECEMBER  
6th!**

Are you available on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 6th? If so, please join me at 3:30 pm for the 37th annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition at the Montpelier Arts Center. We'll meet in the lobby and walk around together to see an amazing art show and to attend the Art Reception. The theme this year is *Illusion and Transformation*. I am quite

interested in how this theme will be interpreted. And some LAG artists have their art exhibited!

Let's celebrate the community of visual artists who live, work, attend college, or have an art studio in Prince George's County. The Art Reception will be held at 3:00-5:00 pm and everyone is welcome. This exhibition runs until January 3, 2026.

I hope to see you there!

Margaret Panebianco

## EXHIBITS

**Ongoing** - Small Works at MAC. We hung a new show on October 18 and it will run through January 16, 2026. MAC has agreed to have a continuing showing there for the foreseeable future. We are so lucky to have this opportunity to show our work.

**Brookside Gardens – 13 sales so far!!!!** We hung the exhibit on October 20 and it will run through December 1. There are 45 works of art representing 14 artists plus bin work from several people. I hope you get the opportunity to drive over and see it – it is a very nice show with lots of variety!!!

## Laurel Arts Council Liaison

By Margaret Panebianco

## PREAKNESS ART CONTEST COMING SOON

Did you know that the Preakness is coming to Laurel in 2026? Well, it is. It will be the 151st running of the Preakness Stakes, held on May 16. As their website states: the Preakness is the pivotal jewel in horse racing's ultimate series, The Triple Crown!

The city of Laurel is gearing up to celebrate the 2026 Race, which will be held for the first and only time at Laurel Racetrack while Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course undergoes renovation.

Get your art materials ready because the Laurel Arts Council (city of Laurel, Maryland) is teaming up with

the Laurel Art Guild for an art competition. This will be a mini version of the National contest held annually by the Preakness. Here you can see the current and past national winners:

<https://www.preakness.com/the-art-of-racing>

The theme for the National Preakness Art Competition is an interpretation of "the spirit, power, and beauty of Thoroughbred racing." Most likely, the theme for the local art competition will revolve around horse racing as well. So, be thinking of that as you do your art. More details will be forthcoming.

Margaret Panebianco  
LAG LIAISON

## Laurel Art Guild BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President:</b> Efrain Martinez	<b>Plein Air Chair:</b> Carol Leo
<b>Vice President:</b> Obed Diaz	<b>Scholarship Chair:</b> Margaret Kohn
<b>Co- Vice President</b> Josué Martínez	<b>LAG Liaison</b> Margaret Panebianco
<b>Immediate Past President:</b> Mary Ellen Simon	<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>
<b>Appointed Officers</b>	<b>Rebecca Rothey</b>
<b>Exhibits Chair:</b>	



**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.



MEMBER NEWS

Pauline Clatterbuck

The best kind of news...Pauline's small works painting *October Dusk* 9 x 12 oil sold! Also, all three of my miniature paintings were juried into this year's Miniature Painters, Sculptors, Gravers Society of Washington, DC, which opens November 22, 2025 and runs until to January 10, 2026. Please see [MPSGS](#) for address, time and photos of this and earlier exhibits.

Carol Leo

Carol was juried into the Montgomery Art Association Exhibit to be held at the Strathmore from November 22, 2025 to January 10, 2026. Carol has two paintings in the *Building Community* Exhibit in the Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Rd., Bowie, MD from September 22, 2025 to January 23, 2026. She also has cards, small paintings, and prints on sale at the City Shops in Gaithersburg through June 2026.

Delia Mychajluk

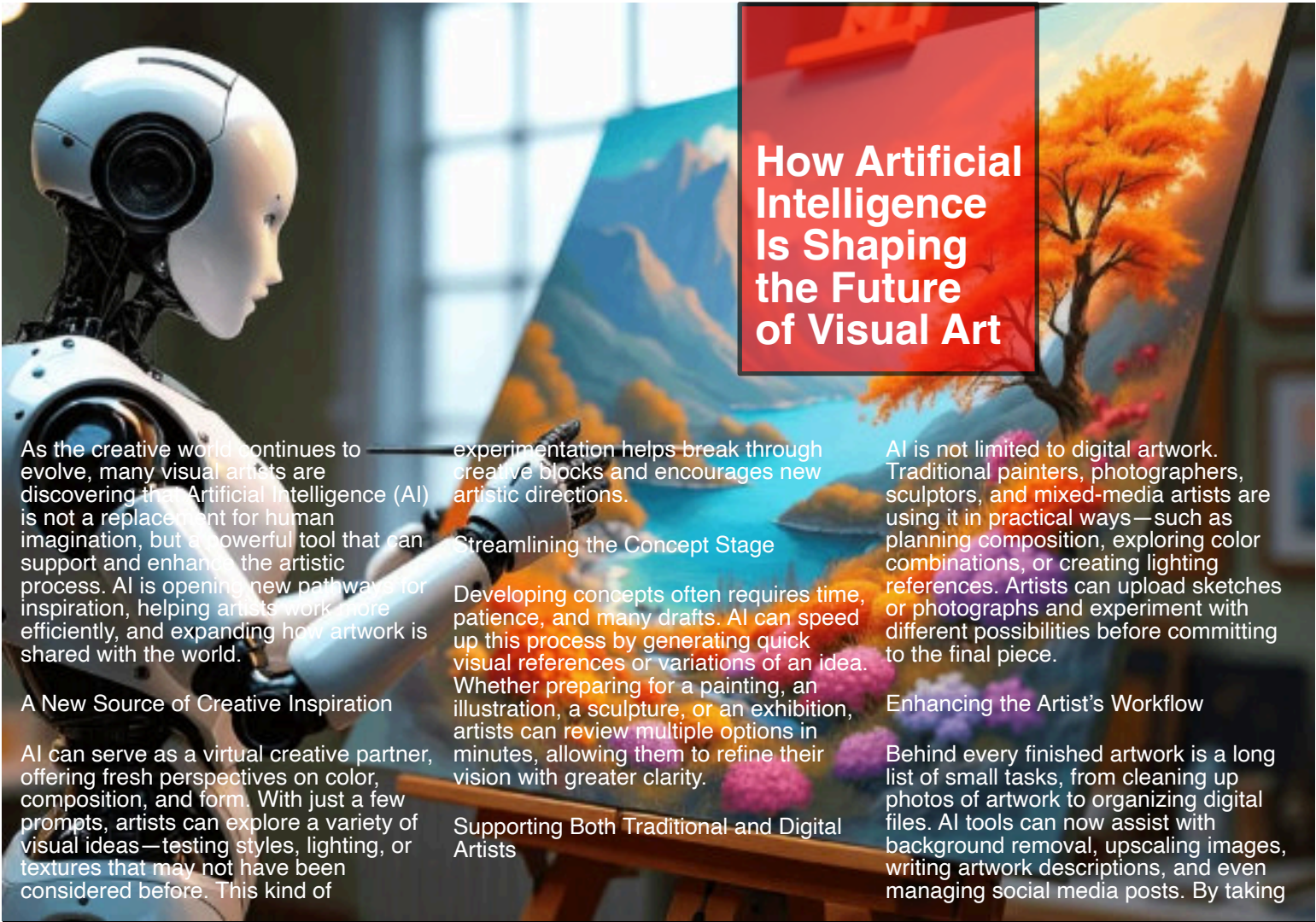
Delia has a piece in The Women's Caucus for the Arts National online exhibition Fall of Freedom/Freedom of Expression.

Ray Robinson

Rob's Shadow Box Exhibit at the Laurel Beltsville Senior Activity Center was quite a success! Everyone said they loved his exhibit and he sold fifteen (15) shadow boxes. He is scheduled to return to the Center in the fall of 2026 for a new exhibit.

Diane Shipley

Diane is wrapping up her year with five shows. She has her art in Small Works and Brookside Gardens. She was juried into two shows – The Meeting House Gallery (reception will be held on Sunday, December 14 from 3:00-5:00 pm), and the Prince George's County exhibit at Montpelier (reception on Saturday, December 6 from 3:00-5:00 pm). She also has a solo show at the Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center featuring her miniatures and small works.



### How Artificial Intelligence Is Shaping the Future of Visual Art

As the creative world continues to evolve, many visual artists are discovering that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not a replacement for human imagination, but a powerful tool that can support and enhance the artistic process. AI is opening new pathways for inspiration, helping artists work more efficiently, and expanding how artwork is shared with the world.

A New Source of Creative Inspiration

AI can serve as a virtual creative partner, offering fresh perspectives on color, composition, and form. With just a few prompts, artists can explore a variety of visual ideas—testing styles, lighting, or textures that may not have been considered before. This kind of

experimentation helps break through creative blocks and encourages new artistic directions.

Streamlining the Concept Stage

Developing concepts often requires time, patience, and many drafts. AI can speed up this process by generating quick visual references or variations of an idea. Whether preparing for a painting, an illustration, a sculpture, or an exhibition, artists can review multiple options in minutes, allowing them to refine their vision with greater clarity.

Supporting Both Traditional and Digital Artists

AI is not limited to digital artwork. Traditional painters, photographers, sculptors, and mixed-media artists are using it in practical ways—such as planning composition, exploring color combinations, or creating lighting references. Artists can upload sketches or photographs and experiment with different possibilities before committing to the final piece.

Enhancing the Artist's Workflow

Behind every finished artwork is a long list of small tasks, from cleaning up photos of artwork to organizing digital files. AI tools can now assist with background removal, upscaling images, writing artwork descriptions, and even managing social media posts. By taking

on these repetitive tasks, AI helps artists reclaim more time for creating.

Expanding Visibility and Accessibility

AI can help artists reach wider audiences by improving online presentation and accessibility. Automatic translations, descriptive text for exhibitions, and enhanced portfolio tools allow artists to share their work more effectively with diverse communities—locally and worldwide.

Encouraging Innovation and Exploration

A growing number of artists are integrating AI into their creative practice, experimenting with hybrid techniques that blend traditional craftsmanship with digital generation. From

interactive installations to new forms of digital expression, AI invites artists to explore uncharted creative territory.

A Tool for Today's Artist

AI cannot replicate the emotion, perspective, or personal story an artist brings to their work, but it can support the artistic journey in meaningful ways. As we look forward to a new season of creativity at the Laurel Art Guild, AI stands as a resource that can inspire, assist, and empower artists of all backgrounds and skill levels.

Resource Chat GPT

OPEN



`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](http://www.laurelartguild.org).