

Laurel Art Guild

Over 50 Years Supporting Local Artists.

February 2026 Issue

Laurel Art Guild's 57th Art Open Juried

Dear Artists of the Laurel Art Guild,

February is often celebrated as the month of love, and for us as artists, it is a perfect moment to reflect on the love we hold for art itself. Art is more than a practice or a skill—it is a passion that moves us, challenges us, and connects us to our inner voice. Even in quiet moments or difficult seasons, our love for creating continues to guide us forward and give meaning to what we do.



The Laurel Art Guild exists because of this shared love. Each brushstroke, sculpture, photograph, and creative idea strengthens our community and reminds us that art thrives when it is shared. Through exhibitions, conversations, and collaboration, we grow not only as individual artists but as a collective that supports, inspires, and uplifts one another.

As we move through February, I invite you to reconnect with what first made you fall in love with art. Create freely, take risks, and share your journey with fellow members. Your passion matters, your voice matters, and together we continue to build a vibrant and supportive artistic community. Thank you for being part of the Laurel Art Guild and for keeping the love for art alive.

With appreciation and creative spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Efrain Montanez".

Efrain Montanez

President, Laurel Art Guild

April 18th to May 3rd 2026
Reception May 3rd
from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



Critique session with **Edmond Praybe**

Laurel Art Guild

LAG will meet **Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 1-3pm**
Montpelier Art Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd. Laurel, MD 20708



Members in good standing are invited to bring 1 or 2 pieces (no more than 2!) of their work-in-progress for Ed to comment on, with a view to helping you resolve any issues you're having with the piece. This is always a popular event and many of you have found it especially helpful for pieces you want to enter into the LAG Open.

Edmond Praybe is a Baltimore area based painter and educator. He holds a BFA from Maryland Institute, College of Art and an MFA from the New York Studio School. His work has been shown widely at venues including Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio; Bowery Galleries in New York City; and numerous academic galleries. He received a Hohenberg Travel Grant for study in Europe in 2012 as well as three Mercedes Matter Awards and was a National Parks Artist-in-residence at Catoctin Mountain Park. Ed teaches studio classes and lectures regularly at Anne Arundel Community College, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts and the Winslow Art Center. He is currently represented by Y Art in Baltimore and First Street Gallery in New York City.



We are looking for members like you to join the 2026–2027 Laurel Art Guild leadership team. Opportunities are available on the LAG Board, as Chairs, and within our Committees, Groups, and Resource teams. Your ideas, experience, and creativity can make a real difference.

Contact us to know about
available chairs and positions

Laurel Art Guild's Signature Event Returns: The Art Open Juried Exhibition

By Efrain Montañez

One of Laurel Art Guild's most anticipated and longstanding signature events is almost here—the Laurel Art Guild Art Open Juried Exhibition. For more than three decades, this exhibition has celebrated the creativity, skill, and visual storytelling of talented artists from Laurel and the surrounding communities.

Over the years, the Art Open Juried Exhibition has brought together artists working in a wide variety of media, styles, and cultural backgrounds. It offers a welcoming space where artists can gather, exchange experiences, and showcase their work for the broader community. This event not only highlights artistic excellence, but also strengthens connections between artists and art lovers alike.

The Art Open Juried Exhibition is especially meaningful for artists interested in growing their professional presence. Participants have the opportunity to sell their artwork, build valuable networks, discover future exhibition opportunities, and promote their personal art businesses. Every chance to be seen and recognized matters, and events like this provide artists and art professionals

with an important platform to share who they are and what they create.

Jurors play a vital role in the exhibition, carefully reviewing each submitted artwork. Using their professional experience and artistic insight, jurors thoughtfully evaluate how well the elements and principles of art are applied, as well as the message the artist communicates through their work. This careful process ensures that awarded pieces truly reflect artistic excellence. Participation is always encouraged, and competition remains respectful and supportive of every artist's creative voice.

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Image of the last exhibition LAG 56th = 2025

The Laurel Art Guild Board is actively sharing all exhibition details on the organization's website, www.laurelartguild.org. Artists are encouraged to review the prospectus carefully for guidelines on presentation, themes, sizes, weight limits, and other important requirements. Following these guidelines ensures a smooth submission process and equal opportunity for all participants. The prospectus also includes important dates for artwork drop-off and pick-up at the Montpelier Art Center.

Laurel Art Guild BOARD MEMBERS

President: Efrain Martínez	Appointed Officers
Vice President: Obed Díaz	Exhibits Chair: Kobina Ahoto
Co- Vice President Josué Martínez	Plein Air Chair: Carol Leo
Immediate Past President: Mary Ellen Simon	Scholarship Chair: Margaret Kohn
	LAG Liaison Margaret Panebianco

Please note that participation in the Art Open Juried Exhibition is open to members of the Laurel Art Guild. If you are not yet a member and would like to participate, we warmly invite you to join. Annual membership is just \$25, and your support helps the Guild continue organizing exhibitions, programs, and opportunities while keeping you informed about future calls and events. Membership information is available at www.laurelartguild.org/join-contact-us.

The 57th Art Open Juried Exhibition will be on view from Saturday, April 18 through Sunday, May 31, 2026, in the Main Gallery of Montpelier Art Center. The public reception will take place on May 3, from 1:00–3:00 PM.

For full details, please visit www.laurelartguild.org/lag-open, where you can download the prospectus, privacy policy, and all additional information related to the exhibition.

We look forward to another inspiring exhibition and to celebrating the incredible talent within our artistic community. 🎨🌟

MEMBERS

By: Ofelia Moore



By: Kobina Ahoto



Kobina Ahoto compositions are currently being featured in two shows. He has his art in Generations: 2026 Prince George's County Art Exhibit at the Lowe House of Delegates in Annapolis and the Annual Black History Month Exhibition at the Montpelier Arts Center.

In January, Ofelia braved the Tampa traffic and went to see the Van Gogh Experience. What a show! Because of digital "magic," I felt that I was in and part of Van Gogh's painting. Images and videos of Van Gogh's painting were projected into walls, ceilings, and floors. Van Gogh's life was tragic because of his bouts with mental diseases. The show has made me appreciate his works more.

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.

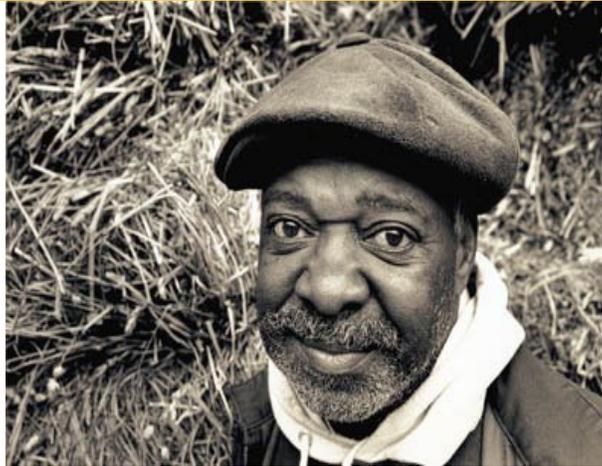
Please go to <https://laurelartguild.org/join-contact-us/> and click the "Pay Now" button to renew your membership. We'd also appreciate if you would take a moment to fill out the member interest form by clicking the link just above the Pay Now button.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you soon.

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**



Broadmead Arts Council *Presents*



Creative Lens: **Six Maryland Photographers**

- A. Aubrey Bodine • Roland Freeman • Don Knessi • Rebecca Rothey
- Lynn Silverman • Nanny Trippe



February 3 - May 31,
Reception: February 14th, 3-5pm

The Gallery
Broadmead Center
13801 York Road, Cockeysville

Questions: broadmeadartscouncil@gmail.com

This self-guided exhibit is located throughout the first floor of the Broadmead Community Center from February 3rd through May 31st between the hours of 1-4.

Please check in with the upper level reception desk upon arrival and sign the guest book located outside of the Auditorium.

Art Tip & Creative Insight: Nurturing Your Practice Year-Round



Maintaining a creative practice takes more than inspiration—it also takes intention, especially during the quieter months of the year. Winter can be a wonderful time for reflection, preparation, and growth if approached with care and consistency.

Studio habits play a key role in staying connected to your work. Even short, regular visits to your studio can keep creative energy flowing. Setting small, achievable goals—such as sketching for 15 minutes or organizing materials—can help maintain momentum without pressure. Remember, showing up is often more important than producing a finished piece.

Staying creative in winter can be challenging as days grow shorter and routines shift. Embrace this season as a time to explore ideas, experiment with new techniques, or revisit unfinished work. Winter is also ideal for research, planning future projects, and finding inspiration through books, museums, and fellow artists. Creativity doesn't always look productive—it often begins quietly.

This season is also perfect for preparing artwork for exhibitions. Reviewing prospectuses,



The Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers Society of Washington, DC concluded its 92nd Annual Exhibition and Sale on January 10. Laurel Art Guild is pleased to share that Pauline Clatterbuck successfully sold her painting, *Happy Place*, during the exhibition. See the artwork.

refining presentation details, photographing work, and ensuring proper framing or installation requirements are met can make a big difference when submitting or exhibiting. Thoughtful preparation allows your artwork to be seen at its best and helps reduce last-minute stress.

Every season offers its own creative opportunities. By cultivating healthy studio habits, honoring winter's slower rhythm, and preparing ahead for exhibitions, artists can continue to grow and stay engaged with their creative practice all year long.

Join the Conversation

on Laurel Art Guild Social Media



The Laurel Art Guild community doesn't stop at exhibitions and meetings—we're also connecting, sharing, and inspiring one another online. We invite all members, artists, and friends to join the conversation on our social media platforms.

Follow us to stay informed about upcoming exhibitions, calls for artists,

events, and workshops. Our social channels are also a place to celebrate member achievements, share creative processes, and highlight the diverse talent within our community.

Your voice matters. Like, comment, share, and tag Laurel Art Guild to help strengthen our network and expand the reach of our artists. By

engaging online, you help build visibility for the arts and create meaningful connections within and beyond our community.

Join us, be part of the conversation, and help keep the creative energy flowing—both in person and online. 🌍👥



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 or our social media.

