



PRESIDENTS LETTER *Mikki Bako Sorensen*

On Thursday, February 26th, a group of 47 stalwart artists were huddled inside the Sac Arts Center, waiting for the bus that would take them on the journey to San Francisco's Legion of Honor to see the Manet & Morisot exhibit. I was so happy to be included in this group as I had missed the last few Sac Arts art trips and I particularly wanted to see this show, which was ending at the end of February.

Our bus was clean, well-equipped and the captain of our vessel was the plain spoken, story-telling, John Smith. When asked if this was his real name, he regaled us with the story of his honeymoon and how when he and his new bride got to their honeymoon hotel, they had no reservation. It turns out there were two John Smiths that had reserved room and someone decided it was a duplicate and so canceled our John Smith's reservation. We laughed and teased John that it was probably someone cheating on his wife and using the name "John Smith," which he heartily laughed at.

John was a big guy with a low resonating voice and those of us sitting in the front were treated over the journey to and from San Francisco to tales of their many rescue dogs; recipes for St. Patrick's day brisket (that included port and currants and was baked in the oven instead slow-cooked on a stove); as well as a rambling history of his family who moved to the U.S. from Canada after the French - Indian war.

With the help of John Smith, we made the sometimes foggy trip to the Legion. After the chaos of getting debarked, into the museum and ticketed, we dispersed suddenly like pool balls after a particularly good strike of the cue ball. Throughout

the afternoon, I ran into Sac Arts travelers at the exhibits, the cafe, the gift shop and lolling around outside, where the sun was out and the gorgeous view from the museum's hilltop was food for the soul. There were so many smiles!!!

Throughout the entire trip, I saw smiling faces, laughter, excitement and immersion into art... so much happiness and joy!! From the comments of the travelers, this trip was a big success. I know I enjoyed it very much, not only for the art and the always enjoyable experience of the Legion of Honor, but because of chatting with other artists and time to get to know a few people better, while also making a new friend.

The question I was asked when we arrived back at Sac Arts was when will we have another bus trip? Hopefully we will manage another one this year.

It is due to a lot of work on the part of Mary Hargrave and Angelia Gordon that this trip was made possible and that it ran so smoothly. Please take the time to thank them when you see them.

AFFILIATED GROUPS

NCA (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTS, INC.)

WASH (WATERCOLOR ARTISTS OF SACRAMENTO HORIZONS)

GALLERY HOURS
TUESDAY - FRIDAY,
11AM-3PM
SATURDAY - 11AM-5PM

5330-B GIBBONS DRIVE
CARMICHAEL, CA 95608
NONPROFIT ORG. 501 (C) 3

(916) 971-3713
WWW.SACFINEARTS.ORG
INFO@SACFINEARTS.ORG

Our Mission is to encourage the creation and presentation of original visual arts, to support the cultural life of the community, and to encourage all artists to fulfill their potential.

**2026 BOARD
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CELEBRATING 40 JUDGE: BOBBIE BALDWIN

My life as an artist was created by divine intervention, I have no doubt. It started far before I started drawing. My home life created a hyper vigilant personality who needed to see how things were put together, perceived, aligned, etc. My need to escape into my zone while creating was predestined by the circumstances of my youth. The tools I learned created the focus I chose in controlling my environment through my creations. It took me many years to learn about all of this, and I have to say that 66 years isn't nearly enough to really understand all that art stands for in personality, coping skills, imagination, society, and everything that it touches.

It has been my goal since I discovered that I could draw at the age of 9 to really understand how everything is put together, including the science of color, light & shadow and techniques. I inherited an engineer's mind. I have had a desire to understand people more than anything else. So, it is appropriate that I started with portraits. I am a portrait artist and have been since day one of my learning. From the age of 9 my subjects were always people, until 1996 when I traveled with a very talented group of American artists to Russia and did my first work 'en plein air.

Throughout my 40 years of teaching, I have painted over 950 paintings. I painted 100 percent portraits until 1995, learning from the American Society of Portrait Artist seminar artists, and then the Portrait Society of America Seminars back east. I started a non-profit portrait society called the West Coast Society of Portrait Artists in 1995, creating national shows. I owned a cooperative gallery in old town Fair Oaks, called Baldwin Gallery from 2997-2001. I brought several nationally known portrait artists here to teach my students during that time. It was a wonderful experience. I loved my artists. I became a full time artist at 30 years of age but started teaching at 26. I have learned so much through the eyes of my students. I am ever so thankful for their continual unique and repetitive questions! It's those questions that make me rethink my ideas continually and grow. They say that "you are only as good as the miles of canvas/paper that you cover." Some are on their first 100 feet and others are on their second mile. I try to instill the idea that every artist has their own style. So, look for their strengths as I do and enjoy each and every artwork created by my "artists".

My largest portrait client is Shingle Springs Miwok Band, the owners of Red Hawk Casino. For their privacy I don't show their tribal elder portraits publicly. I have painted 27 formal portraits of their Tribal Elders over the last 2 decades.



WELCOME NEW SAC ARTS BOARD MEMBER JANICE HIRONAKA

I am self-taught in regard to my sense of color, composition, and spatial relationships, and I draw on my appreciation of the forms, contrasts, and motions of the natural world.

I express my creativity in a genre I coined as Kinetic Balance, encompassing shape, texture, and color. I was fascinated by fusing glass because my great anticipation of finished products was often well-rewarded. Leaving the kiln behind, I started to create geometric abstract collages from my hand-painted watercolor paper; fabric objects, and assemblages such as wall hangings and mobiles.

I now create acrylic abstract paintings after Kandinsky and The Transcendental Painting Group. My art captures both the abstract and familiar and builds on imperfect symmetries. I strive to create art that stimulates positivity and an escape from the woes of life.



SAC ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

NON-JURIED EXHIBITION APRIL 2026

Susan Lee Giles

Sac Arts Photography Group chairs, Susan Lee Giles and Charlie Willard, are pleased to announce a non-juried photography exhibition. This is an opportunity for members of the Sac Arts Photography Group to show and sell their best photographic works at the Sacramento Arts Center during the month of April.

Members of the group will be invited to submit one (1) framed photographic work of art, black & white or color, ready to hang. Receiving date is Sunday, March 29, between the hours of 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Entry fee is a \$10.00 per photograph. Space is limited in the foyer, so the maximum size accepted is 36" tall or wide. Be sure to price your work to include 30% sales commission for the Sacramento Arts Center.

Interested in becoming a member? All levels of photographic expertise are invited to join us. Each month, except (July & August) we have a guest photographer presentation on the second Sunday from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. No cost to become a member. Just join our email list and bring \$5.00 to the meeting for the Sacramento Arts Center.

For more information or to get on our email list, contact: Susan Lee Giles by text 916-251-6057 or email susanleegiles@att.net.



THE ART OF CHOOSING

Mikki Bako Sorensen

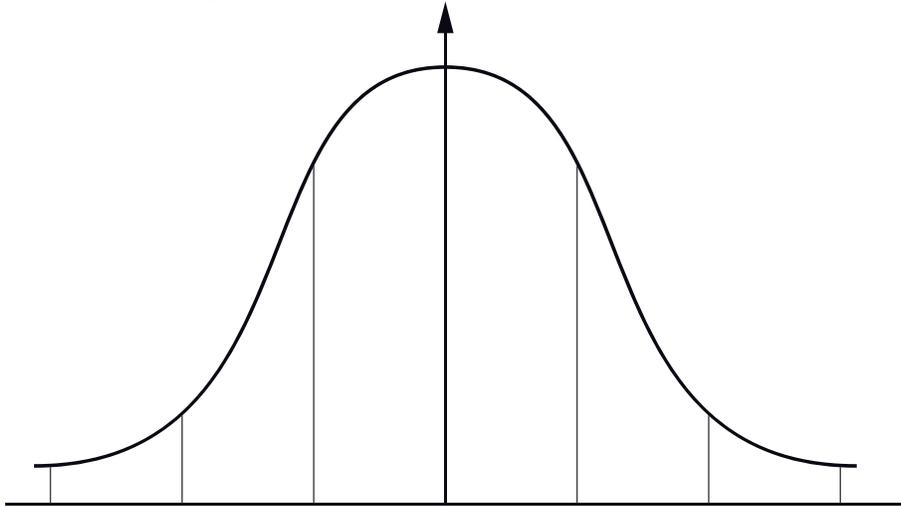
To choose and to be chosen are both powerful aspects of the human experience. The freedom to choose is a hallmark of democracy that often is taken for granted - until it is taken away from you. The ability to choose is a hallmark of functional freedom that is often taken for granted - until dementia or another disability takes it away from you.

We make many choices every single day: when to get up, what to wear, what to eat, whether to exercise now/later/not at all, who to talk to/with/about, what work/task/project/errand/fun thing to do now/next/later, whether to let something hurt/bring joy/enrage/console/motivate/dissuade ...

Our choices made, both large and small, define us whether we recognize it or not. They are the marks made in the portrait of us that is seen by others.

Choosing is so easy, we often do it without thinking: We grab a sweater as we go out the door, we reach out to hug a crying child, we open the door for someone with arms full, we sit back in our chair when someone says something insulting or unpleasant.

Sometimes, choosing without thinking - choosing by habit - creates problems for us or sets up obstacles to our being happy or fully ourselves. Habits can be good or bad and bad habits can be changed by intentionally choosing to act or react in different ways. Outcomes can be changed by intentionally choosing to act or react.



Bear with me here while I tell you about my thoughts on the Art of Choosing.

My husband David and I have been married for 56 years. Early in our marriage, David said that he thought relationships are bell curves.

When the relationship begins, you choose each other and the interest/excitement/attraction gets greater over time, climbing the curve. As problems begin with the relationship - things aren't as interesting/exciting/ attractive as they once were, the relationship begins the slide down the curve. How fast the curve changes, how high the curve gets before it changes, how far the curve moves before it changes - all reflect the interactions in the relationship. Some are short and sharp curves; some are long and drawn out.

David's theory on relationships is: You can go through to the low point at the end of the curve and give up on the relationship. End it. You no longer choose each other. Then, at some point, you find yourself in another relationship and go through the same thing over again. This curve can extend longer or shorter, go higher or be lower, but there will be that testing point, that end point, where you have to choose to keep going forward, or stop. As time passes, you are still working on the same single bell curve. There is no progress or depth. *(continued on next page)*

THE ART OF CHOOSING (CONT.)



However, in a relationship where the low point comes and you choose to stick it out, figure out where the value in the relationship lies and affirm that value - eventually a new curve will begin to rise. It too, will eventually crest and slide to a lower point and the decision will have to be made whether to keep going, or to walk away. When you choose to keep going, you create a bond consisting of multiple bell curves that is strengthened every time you choose and are chosen.

This theory can apply to all relationships: spouses, partners, parents, siblings, children, friends, colleagues, neighbors, communities ... the more often you chose and are chosen, the stronger and more rewarding the relationship can be. I think this theory applies to one's self and a passion like art.

I also believe there is an Art to the way you choose in order for your choices to be increasingly successful, rewarding and good for you. Not only must the choosing be intentional, it must be healthy, true to who you really are and free of preconceived notions of how something is supposed to be.

Choosing a fantasy will end in disappointment because it isn't based in your reality. Even if you stick it out and choose it over and over again, a fantasy will never become what you want if it is never really an intentional, thoughtful, healthy choice based in reality.

Intentional choosing of something that may be difficult, challenging, disappointing, frustrating and costly, like falling in love, or choosing to pursue a life as an artist can be hard when the low parts come. But part of the Art of Choosing is to understand that the low parts are important information. They tell you that something is not working, that you need to think about why it is not working and see what you can do to address that problem.

You might have to reconsider if the medium you have chosen is best for you, or question whether you are putting in enough time and effort, or whether the art you are doing is worth the time and effort you are putting in. You might decide you need more training, or you may need to reconsider why you are choosing to make art a part of your life.

There are no set answers. Your answers are yours alone. But the Art of Choosing, is to understand that you are choosing and to be intentional and thoughtful in your choosing. You must be able to reconsider everything over and over as time goes by, to adjust where needed, and to feel the power and joy that comes as your choices becomes clearer, stronger and more rewarding.

For me, one of the best choices I made in my artistic life was to accept that the way I had been determining what was success was not true to who I am and how I actually feel about my art. I thought that success was being able to sell my art because that was what most people seemed to think. If I told someone I was an artist, one of the first questions would be, "do you sell anything?" Artists I knew frequently talked about how well or poor they were selling or how to sell more. *(cont. on next page)*



THE ART OF CHOOSING (CONT.)

One problem for me was that I hated letting go of paintings I really liked. I usually kept favored paintings 3 or more years before I could even consider selling them. Another problem was that I was retired. I had had a busy career and life and the last thing I wanted in my retirement was to start another job. And selling art is a full time job. I got the seller's permit, created spreadsheets to track the art I created and any prints made, kept financial records, created a website and Instagram account and promoted my art. So that meant keeping up web sites and social media, attending events, entering shows, promoting my self and my art. I hated it. It took time away from creating. I came to art late in my life. So I had years and years of artistic experience to catch up on and every hour spent with spreadsheets and social media was an hour of experience and learning lost. I was frustrated by having to do all this stuff that wasn't

really art and became dissatisfied with the whole thing.

When I finally figured this out - the COVID shutdown provided a lot of thinking time - I let go of the idea that, for me, success is selling my art. It is not. For me, success is the act of creating itself and the learning of ways to create that take me closer and closer to some unarticulated but pure vision I have. For me, I am happiest when I am doing. If someone else responds well to something I have done, then I am very pleased to share that pleasure in the piece, but I am happy all by myself looking at my art on my walls every day. That is enough for me.

I have begun studying my older paintings and trying to figure out how to make them better. I think I will see what happens when I spend my time re-working them, rather than starting something new. Maybe it will be great, maybe it won't. But if/when the low point comes again, I won't quit, I will just think about where I need to adjust my thinking or approach and go from there.

Because for me, making art is pure magic. I still am amazed I can draw a tree that looks like a tree - even to other people. When I draw someone and they are actually recognizable I am filled with this bubbling joy! What if I could learn to draw them in a way that displays their essence? How amazing that would be. Maybe after doing this for 20 years, it will become ho-hum, but I sure hope not. When I look around the artists at Sac Arts who have been members and creating art their entire lives, they are generally people who are happy in themselves and I think it is because they intentionally choose art because it brings them amazement and joy.

If you are an artist who wants to sell your art and it is your passion to be able to make your living making art, the same Art of Choosing will apply. When the lower part of the bell curve hits, do some thoughtful analysis of what particular things are causing the difficulties and consider ways to address that - then continue following your passion. Be open to new ideas about how to keep going in a way that makes you happier. Try different things and see what works.

Hitting the lower part of the bell curve tells me something important. When I pay attention to that I can start that curve moving upwards. I can get the curve higher and keep it there longer when I remember the Art of Choosing: paying attention when things start sliding, listening for the information of the slide, and with thought and intention, take the steps to stop the slide and begin the rise.

THE ART OF GAIL FRIEDMAN

Gail Friedman is from the Chicago area and moved to California 10 years ago; currently living in Fair Oaks. She is a hardcore Cubs fan. Gail primarily prefers to paint with acrylics but has done several oil and mixed media pieces as well. She loves to create and explore with color, dabbles in abstracts and enjoys painting unusual themes. Her art is on display this March in the Foyer.



QUARTERLY MEETING

Critique Groups

Sandy Delehanty,
AWS, AWAM, WW, CWA

MARCH 21, 2026
10-11 AM

- ✔ Learn about starting and managing a group
- ✔ This event is free & open to the public
- ✔ No registration required



Sacramento Fine Arts Center
5330-B Gibbons Dr.
Carmichael, CA 95608

Topic: Critique Groups

In this presentation Sandy Delehanty will explore the topic of Critique Groups. Sandy will talk about the formation of her critique group in 1993 and how it has remained strong throughout the years.

She will discuss the etiquette of a strong group and what the pros and cons are. Attendees will be able to participate in a short Q&A at the end of the presentation.

We always recommend attending our events in person. However we understand that may not always be possible. If you cannot attend this event in person, please join us on zoom.

Meeting ID: 849 2214 6286

Passcode: Sandy

RON BYRNE FINE ART

Art Byrnefineart.com you can see representations of the remnants of my dad's 30 year art dealings. There are still many paintings available. See the display in Gallery 3 March 2026 and visit byrnefineart.com for more information.



WELCOME SOPHIA FIELD

Sophia graduated from University of California, Davis, in 2025 and majored in Anthropology. In her free time, she loves to practice sketching and oil painting, as well as piano and photography. She is our new Gallery Attendant at Sac Arts.

OUR ANIMAL HOUSE JUDGE IS RITA BARTEL

I am first an artist! A figurative and animal artist. I would define myself as a modernist realist artist. I prefer to be painting/drawing and doing anything creative on any day of any week. I paint the places I go and the things I see. I love to paint people and animals so I mostly paint the people and animals I come across in the settings I pass through. If I have a wonderful scene without life I'll add people and/or animals from my travels into the scene. Perhaps a place or a person I captured in Amsterdam into a scene from Spain. I do an underpainting on most pieces and usually for oils I use acrylic paint to do the underpainting and will leave part of the underpainting showing thru. When using soft pastels my underpainting is either watercolor or soft pastels with an alcohol wash. On both, my underpainting is more abstract as are the backgrounds for most paintings. I do volunteer work with Animal Outreach of the Motherlode using my art in a variety of ways and have started incorporating animal sculptures into the things I create. I love to teach workshops as well as 2-3 hour Paint and Sips in soft pastels, oil paint or acrylics.

My studio is my favorite place to be and generally will have 3-5 pieces in various stages at any given time. The sizes of my work varies from 9x12" to 36x48". I haven't gone larger as yet as the larger the painting the longer it will take to paint it. My favorite part of painting is the process of sketching, putting the composition together, picking out the medium and color palette, and creating the piece I've dreamt it would be. Once I finish the underpainting and start seeing the piece come together, I'm anxious to bring it to fruition and see the end result. The larger the canvas the longer it will take to finish, so I prefer to paint smaller.

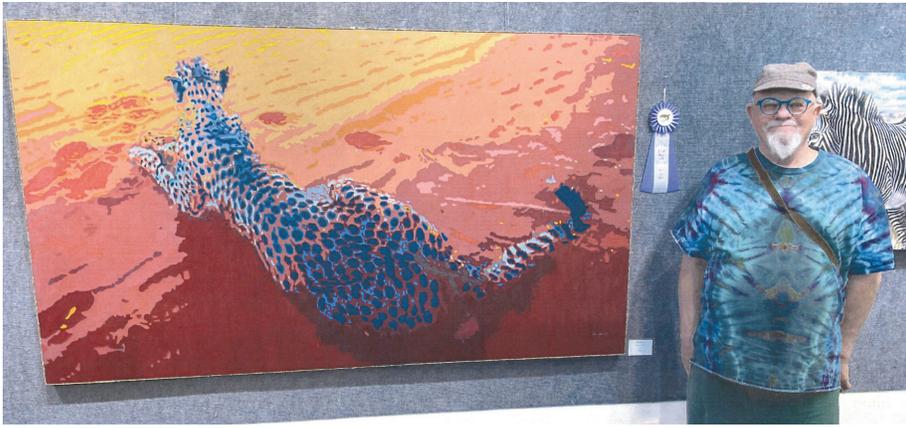
Paintings that are predominately of people have come about from asking the people I meet if I can photograph them and getting them to model for me. Usually that means for them to resume what they were doing when they caught my eye. It's amazing how many wonderful people there are who are willing to help me create the scene and stop what they are doing to model for the sake of art.



ANIMAL HOUSE 2026
Entry Deadline
April 22, 2026



SALE SAT, 3/28/26
Second Hand Art Supply
10AM-1PM



ED CHANEY IS SHOWING ART IN GALLERY 3 THIS APRIL

Born and raised in Northern California, Ed Chaney started his art world adventure at Sacramento City College in the 1970's, with a ceramic exhibition in San Francisco's Folsom Districts, The Ambush, and at Robert Opel's Fey-Way Art Gallery.

Fast forward to 2008 when Edward started painting a series of dragonfly paintings that are now housed in Citrus Heights City Hall art collection. In a Fine Arts competition he received the Golden Bear Jurors award. This led to the discovery of the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, with entries in several of their art events. Bold Expressions, Magnum Opus, and The Art of Theatre won him several fanciful ribbons. Moving on to a quieter time due to a thing called covid.

Post covid to 2025 Ed's art has been displayed at Sac Arts (Animal House) exhibit, then a run at the California State Fair with a ribbon for "Award of Excellence".

Not letting the dust gather too much at age 79, Ed is working on new works inspired from old family photos, bringing a history forward in painting, so a new audience might enjoy a glimpse of the past generations as interpreted by Ed.

ENTRYTHINGY HAS A NEW LOOK *Angelia Gordon*

As many of our artists are aware of, Entrythingy has had an absurd amount issues over the past year. I receive constant complaints about the login process, missing notifications, and more. So believe me when I say I have been just as frustrated as everyone else.

This year's Magnum Opus Exhibit felt like the last straw. Several artists gave up during the entry process because of all the technical issues. In addition, our staff and volunteers experienced an unusually high amount of technical issues on the admin side. We were unable to properly save submission statuses and send email notifications through Entrythingy. This meant that so much of the process had to be done manually. Our show chair, Paul Dessau kindly emailed each artist individually. He also called artists on the day of receiving to remind them about the drop. The show went on thanks to his hard work and dedication.

We are hoping these issues cease in the future with Entrythingys transition to a new platform. The new platform will launch this month. In addition to a new look, Entrythingy is debuting several new features for galleries and artists.

The new site looks very promising. So Sac Arts will continue to utilize Entrythingy as its entry platform for the remainder of 2026. We will also continue to offer free entry assistance to all artists entering our juried art shows.

Big Day of Giving Paint In



Kirk Rosenkranz

When

May 2, 2026
10 AM - 2 PM

Where

5330-B Gibbons Dr,
Carmichael, CA 95608

What

Join us for our first Big Day of Giving Paint In. Details are available at SacFineArts.org/events

Platinum Members

Jeanne Reilly
Jo Kopp
Mary Hargrave
Mikki Bako Sorensen
Richard Ashby
Zachary Mandell

Gold Members

Barbara Marshall
Bruce Hancock
Byron Trip
Marleen Merchant
Michele Mowrey
Paula Cameto
Sally Bostley
Sheila Jacobs
Vanessa Bondon

Business Members

Alice Horst
Diana J Holt
Megan
Michelle Ramirez
Ron Byrne

Lifetime Members

Jan Miskulin
Margaret Pollan
Skip Lee
David Peterson
Joan McMurray
Sally Durante
Bobbie Lou Hunt
Sandra Torguson



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Big Day of Giving

MAY 7





Northern California Artists INC

Artists Supporting Artists Since 1939

March-April 2026 Newsletter

NCA 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Courtesy: Bobbie Lou Hunt art4bobbie@yahoo.com
Raffle Chair: Kathi Bristow kat78gb@comcast.net
Member at Large: Phyllis Brady phyllis@phyllisbrady.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Nola Smith
 Debbie Koermer
 Juliet Patric
 Ann Fretz-Scott
 Sandra Warne
 Rebecca Guin
 Kathryn Wong
 Kevin Jones
 Mayra Ramos
 Celeste Keith
 Claudia Buchanan
 Anita Fante
 Anne Jensen

NCA CONTACT INFORMATION

Email at: norcalartsinc.org/contact

 916-971-3713

MAGNUM OPUS 2026

Magnum Opus is defined as an important work of art. This show reflects the most recent outstanding art achievements of our participating artists.

Art for this exhibit was juried by Richard Yang. He explores in the practice of impressionism and realism, seeking natural expression and the beauty of oil painting language. Over the years he has toured and painted throughout California, participating in exhibitions and becoming a member of several art organizations.

Gallery Hours:
 Tuesday - Friday 11 AM - 3 PM
 Saturday 11 AM - 5 PM
 Closed Sunday & Monday
 Gallery Admission is free.

Sacramento Fine Arts Center
 5330-B Gibbons Drive
 Carmichael, Ca 95608
 (916) 971-3713
SacFineArts.org

Harpist Joan Hall will be performing at the March 14th Second Saturday reception. Art pick up with follow the awards reception.



Artists featured on front of flyer: MingJing Wang and Edward Mallory





Upcoming Events

Magnum Opus 2026

Sac Fine Arts Center

Show Dates: Feb 17- March 14

Reception: March 14, 5 pm - 7 pm

Mira Loma High School IB Student Show

Sac Fine Arts Center

Show Dates: March 17-28

Second Hand Art Supply Sale

Sac Fine Arts Center

March 28, 10am - 1pm

Celebrating 40 Show

Sac Fine Arts Center

Show Dates: March 31 - April 25

NCA Members Show

Sac Fine Arts Center

Show Dates: April 28-May 16

Reception: May 9, 5:00 - 8:00pm

NCA Aspiring Artist

Sac Fine Arts Center

Show Dates: June 1-30

Reception: June 13, 5:00-8:00pm

Artist Standing



Don Macko received his Signature Artist Standing from Paul Dessau during the February 2026 member meeting.

In 1999, Northern California Arts, Inc. developed a four-level Artist Standing certificate program to recognize and encourage excellence within the membership: A – Artist, SA – Signature Artist, SSA – Senior Signature Artist, and MP (or MA) – Master Painter (or Master Artist).

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Artist Standing Program

Calls to Artists

Hard copies of upcoming show information are available at the Sac Arts Center

Celebrating 40 Show is March 31 - April 25

This show is celebrating the Sacramento Fine Arts Center's 40th anniversary. Join us for a special art exhibit featuring all media. Submissions are open to themes of celebration, parties, milestones, and more. Submissions are also open to the theme "40". We look forward to your interpretations. **Juror is Bobbi Baldwin.**

[Click HERE to view the prospectus.](#)

[Click HERE to enter via Entrythingy.](#)

ENTRY DEADLINE: March 5, 2026 at 11:59 PM

ENTRY NOTIFICATION: March 13, 2026



CALL TO ARTISTS
A juried art show about celebrations and milestones.

ENTRY DEADLINE
MARCH 5, 2026
Sacfinearts.org/call-to-artists



Join Us,
Show with Us!
Online Entry Ends
April 11, 2026
norcalartsinc.org
Show dates:
April 28-
May 16, 2026
at Sacramento
Fine Arts Center

ENTRY DEADLINE: April 11, 2026 at 11:59

ENTRY NOTIFICATION: April 18, 2026

NCA Member Show is April 28 - May 16

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this year's members show! Each member is guaranteed to have 1 artwork accepted. Work must be original, and may not have shown previously at Sac Arts. There will be Cash and Gift Awards. Exhibition Dates are April 28-May 16, 2026. Second Saturday Reception and Awards Presentation is the evening of May 9, 2026. Judge is **Ronald Peetz.**

[Click HERE to view the prospectus.](#)

[Click HERE to enter via Entrythingy.](#)

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Matt Zidar won artist of the month in January for his beautiful cactus painting.

Mr. Zidar came to painting later in life because his Dad wouldn't fund art school and didn't want his grandchildren to go hungry. It was good advice at the time but stifled and closeted the inner artist who then became a scientist. Ultimately, the creator within could not be denied and had to manifest beauty and joy. His well fed children were an inspiration and got him to draw with them. The only sin is to not use the skills the Grand Creator has granted us in whatever form they exist within the person. So do it. Go out and play with reckless abandon and find that child that is in you and let them speak, sing, dance, emote, float and fly. Use them wings.

Ann Bissett-Clark won in February for her moving water painting

When I was a tiny child before WWII, I would lie on the floor and draw pictures, stand and hand them to my mother and look up and see the underside of the table. She always knew what I had drawn. It's a gift that has come with me and I believe that I helped with the building of this Earth by making waterfalls and rocks. I love watching water flow over rocks and the beauty of this Earth never ceases to amaze me.



I went to SFAC in the late '90s and my watercolor, the first I had ever done, was critiqued by Richard Yip and given first place. I received a reward of a \$100 Golden Acrylics gift card and started my journey in the new medium. It's been a love affair ever since. I work in watercolor, acrylics and oils, pencils and ink, and recently did a 3D painting with rocks that I formed in clay, attached to the canvas and painted. I have done portraits, animal portraits, commissions of all kinds and murals. I now paint landscapes as they are my favorites. I am grateful to SFAC and NCA for the fellowship, instruction and wonderful demos that have helped me progress.

GUEST PRESENTERS



“Correct values and strong composition are the backbone of my painting process”

ARTIST ASHLEIGH ANDERSON DEMONSTRATED IN FEBRUARY

Ashleigh demonstrated her technique of using burnt sienna to cover the canvas in a light wash before building up a monochromatic underpainting to map out her values and composition before adding color.

Ashleigh is a self-taught oil painter, her work primarily focuses on capturing the beauty of nature with an emphasis on creating depth with light and values.

You can see her work on her website:

landscapesbyashleigh.com

AT THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING ARTIST STEVE MEMERING WILL CRITIQUE MEMBER’S ARTWORK

He will critique one piece per artist, first come first served. The critique will last one hour so approximately 30 or less pieces will be critiqued. Come early to get your number!

Steve Memering received his education at CSUS, Berkeley and Carnegie-Mellon. He, then, returned to Sacramento to live and work. Steve has had a long career as a teacher and artist. Steve's work can be found in galleries, businesses and homes all over the state. Sports fans might have seen several of his paintings hanging in the hallways of Raley field and in Skyline Restaurant at Arco Arena. Downtown Sacramento is becoming increasingly peppered with his paintings.



Steve Memering with some of his iconic Sacramento paintings

★ NCA Member News ★

CONGRATS TO MEMBER MARIE CROCKETT!

Check out her gallery showing at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center (9020 Elk Grove Blvd. Suite 101 Elk Grove, CA) from March 7th – 26th. Many of her different styles and mediums will be on display.



Member
Skip Lee was juried into “The Edge of Possible—2026 Annual Juried Exhibition” at the Point Reyes Station Route 1 Gallery!

Art Supplies For Sale!

Easels, Display Grids & Panels, Canvases, Watercolor paper, Pastel paper, Pastels, and more.

Contact **Brenda Boles** for more information.
Please text if possible, otherwise call: **916-715-0583**

SHOUT OUT TO GWEN PICKENING!



Her beautiful floral artwork was hung in the Crocker Art Museum Gift Store.

Check out her Instagram account:
[gwen_pickering_lgs](https://www.instagram.com/gwen_pickering_lgs)

MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED

★ Congratulations to our NCA Members who received awards at the Rocklin Fine Arts Open Show on February 22nd! ★

A big thank you to juror Steve Walters!



Susan Lee Giles won 1st place in the mixed media division



Andrea Morris won 1st place in the oil painting division



Paul Dessau won 2nd place in the dry medium division



Vanessa Bonden won third place in the sculpture division



Pam Avery won 1st place in the acrylic division and 3rd place in the mixed media division





LOCAL NEWS



Studio Space For Rent

At ARTISTIC EDGE CUSTOM FRAMING & GALLERY, 1880 Fulton Ave, Sacramento, CA 95825

One studio Available for Rent in March 2026. Email Kathy at artistic.edge@hotmail.com for more information.

AROUND TOWN

* Yolo Arts

Click [HERE](#) to check out the Yolo Arts Center for exhibitions and art programs in woodland.

* Crocker Art Museum

The **Sense of Beauty Exhibition** is running from now through May 24th 2026

* Free Art Supply Swap!

**Sunday, March 22nd
12-4pm**

Bring new or clean, gently used craft and art supplies. Leave what you don't need, take what you love!

Jackrabbit Brewing Co.

1323 Terminal St, West Sacramento



Contact David :

[**aquacolorist@yahoo.com**](mailto:aquacolorist@yahoo.com)

[Click HERE to see 3rd Sat. paint out website](#)

3rd Saturday Paint Out

Open to beginners and professionals of all mediums from pastel to photography, watercolor, oils, acrylic, pencil and what ever you make marks with. Third Saturday Paintout Group meets year round and is not associated with any art organization. To be notified by email of the 3rd Saturday location contact **David Peterson** and he will add you to the list.

Click [HERE](#) to view learning opportunities available at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center.



Birding Field Trips!

The Sacramento Audubon society offers many group field trip opportunities to go birding. Learn about local birds, take some amazing reference photos, and have a great time.

Click [HERE](#) to view upcoming field trips

Message from your Newsletter Editor:

I want to hear from you!

- Have you been accepted in a show?
- Where are you showing your work?
- Are you teaching a class or a workshop?
- How can the NCA help you learn and grow?

The newsletter is published once every two months, I want to include your ART news. Send me a text or an email, or find me at a general meeting.



Text: 916-768-1742 Email: landscapesbyashleigh@gmail.com



Watercolor Artists Of Sacramento Horizons

WASH Newsletter March/April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As winter comes to an end, WASH had it Member's Show. I hope you all had the chance to see the beautiful art that this club produced. I want to do a shout out to Kristi Warren, our interim Show Chair. She has done a phenomenal job putting this show together. Please reach out and thank her.

Second Saturday just happened to fall on Valentine's Day. It made for a perfect outing: See the show, celebrate the artists and then have a romantic dinner.

Some awesome news for the club, we were also awarded a \$4,500 grant from the Small Organization Sustainability Fund. This organization provides general operating support for small arts and cultural organizations throughout Sacramento County. This money will be used to support our new website and cover expenses for workshops and shows.

And, as always, I am asking for volunteers for the board. Without your help, no matter how many grants we get, we cannot continue. Please contact me if you feel the urge to join us in continuing this organization.

B.J. Taylor
President-WASH



WASH MEMBER SHOW UPDATE:



The 2026 WASH Member Show, which ran from January 27th through February 14th, was another exceptional display of the talented artists in the WASH organization. Many thanks to all the watercolorists who shared their work and congratulations to all the award winners for their outstanding paintings and well deserved awards.

The top three award winners this year were:

Awards of Excellence to Joanne Lindelof for "Miles to Go Before I Sleep" and Steve

Stein for "First Snow of the Year". The **Best of Show** honor was awarded to Tim Sloan for "Resting Figure," shown above.

HOUSEKEEPING:

*Note from your Newsletter Editor: The WASH newsletter is published and emailed to all members in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for the **May/June** newsletter will be **April 20**. Photos are especially appreciated. Thank you!*
ronnierector@yahoo.com

Be sure to send any **address, phone** and/or **email changes** to Membership Chair **NOLA SMITH** at knit2n@gmail.com.

Follow us online at:

Website: <https://washesfac.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WASH.WatercolorArtistsofSacramentoHorizons>

WASH.WatercolorArtistsofSacramentoHorizons

Instagram: @wash_sacramento

YOUR 2026 OFFICERS:

President	BJ Taylor
Secretary	Teresa Edwards
Treasurer	Cordi Sogge
Program Co-Chairs	Alyssa Gorman Rose White
Membership Chair	Nola Smith
Show Chair, Interim	Kristi Warren
Workshop Chair	Steve Stein
Newsletter Editor	Ronnie Rector
Webmaster	Chris Triplett
Media Coordinator	Help Wanted!
SFAC Liaison	Help Wanted!
Scholarship Co-Chairs	BJ Taylor, David Kalbach, Tom Adams, Chris Knopp

BECOME A MEMBER!

<https://www.sacfinearts.org/membership193bc6ca#join>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND HELP NEEDED:

Please **WELCOME** our newest WASH members:

Sandra Boschert, Lincoln, CA
Claudia Buchanan, Maxwell, CA
Judy Butler, Newcastle, CA
Mary T. Pivetti, Auburn, CA
Justine Thompson, Wilton, CA
Larry Washington, Fair Oaks, CA

Nola Smith, Membership Chair

To keep our club running smoothly, we need your help! The fun volunteer jobs we have open include:

- ◆ SFAC Liaison
- ◆ Social Media
- ◆ Communications/Promotions
- ◆ Web Master
- ◆ Show Chair



Some (most) of these jobs can easily be handled by a duet of friends. Reach out to your best budd for support. Contact a Board Member to learn how you two can help keep WASH the amazing club it is!

The **“Big Day of Giving”** is Thursday, May 7, and WASH has acquired a **\$1,000 MATCHING GRANT!** Why not double your donation while this grant is available? Write **“Big Day of Giving”** on the Memo line of your check.

JANUARY MEETING - DEMO NEWS

January's Demo artist was Stella Canfield, a long-time watercolorist from Grass Valley, originally from Bulgaria. She has taught watercolor painting many years. She painted the sky, one of her specialties, over a landscape. She emphasized that the most important aspects of a painting are design and the emotional response the painting creates. Below are a couple samples of her work, taken from her website.



WORKSHOP RECAP

Cara Brown Workshop

We just completed our first WASH workshop for 2026. Our guest artist was Cara Brown, an accomplished watercolorist who has been showing and selling her paintings since 2007 and teaching since 2011. Along the way Cara has won dozens of awards and was recognized this year by the California Watercolor Association as a Master Signature Member.

For our workshop, Cara curated 4 lesson topics from her general teaching curriculum:

- Soft edges
- Fuzzy backgrounds
- Painting the light
- Lost and Found in the Details

Cara most often works from reference photographs taken close-up. The depth of field properties of the camera will naturally blur the background slightly and often introduce pleasing distortions – a phenomenon known as “Bokeh” effect – a term originating from the Japanese word boke (“blur” or “haze”). She amplifies this depth of field property in her reference photos to create what she calls “fuzzy backgrounds” that set the stage for color and value in the main subject; creating soft and shimmering effects that lend atmosphere and a sense of light while drawing the viewer’s eye to the main subject without adding any distracting details.

Cara spent much of her time working one-on-one with participants and talking about ways to improve.

“Try to keep your short-cut brain from being in control of your brush. It will tend to do things like paint very straight lines or make



WORKSHOP RECAP, CONTINUED

all lines the same – it’s our efficiency expert and it does not make natural-looking paintings. It will also make things up that aren’t even there. Keep looking carefully at your reference and reminding yourself to paint what is really there.”

We wrapped up by sharing our work and lessons learned. The results were surprising and fun for everyone. We will definitely invite Cara to come again and hope that we can share the workshop experience with more of our members.

Additional Resources:

Cara’s website: <https://www.lifeinfullcolor.com/>

Watercolor Conversations with Cara Brown (podcast): <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/watercolor-conversations-with-cara-brown/id1637777954>

COMING WORKSHOPS

Steve Stein, Workshop Chair

Full details for all coming workshops, including pricing and registration, are available on the [Coming Workshops](#) page of the WASH website.

Continue your watercolor journey in the new year by joining one of our amazing guest artists for a hands-on workshop. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Dongfeng Li Classroom Series

Each Friday afternoon in March from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Join us in SFAC Gallery 3 for instruction using traditional still life as a method for learning from award-winning artist Dongfeng Li.

<https://washsfac.org/dongfeng-li-classroom-series/>



David Savellano Plein Air

April 16-17, 2026 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

In this plein air workshop David will share his methods for mastering watercolor timing—knowing when the paper is wet enough but not too wet, or when it’s the right moment to add the next wash and mixing colors directly on the paper, so that they melt into one another.

<https://washsfac.org/david-savellano-workshop/>

WORKSHOP NEWS, CONTINUED

Geoff Allen

May 19-21, 2026 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Wait List Only

Through a combination of demonstrations and hands-on exercises, students will explore color mixing, contour drawing, and brush handling while observing natural forms and light firsthand. Geoff emphasizes an impressionistic approach to watercolor, encouraging spontaneity and expression through techniques like wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, dry brushing, lifting, splattering—and, most importantly, knowing how to use water itself as a creative tool.

<https://washsfac.org/geoff-allen-workshop/>



“Morning Bug,” by Geoff Allen

MEMBER NEWS

Following are the WASH members’ paintings that were accepted into the 56th International California Watercolor Association Exhibition:



Sunday Market in Oaxaca - Barbara Kempe



Raging Granny - Jo Kopp



Starfield Pond - Steve Stein

Continued on Page 6

MEMBER NEWS, CONTINUED



Fishing for Dallies - Kristi Warren



Lady Liberty - Steve Walters

WASH member Ronnie Rector will be teaching "Working with Triads" on June 19 and 20 in Reno. More details can be found at <https://sierrawatercolorsociety.com/workshop/40301/ronnie-rector-watercolor>

WASH member Beth Brampton has published *The Grace of the World* on YouTube. It's a wonderful short video about her installation of artwork inspired by 30 years of experience in the Consumnes River Preserve. Here's the link to her video: <https://youtu.be/L81XESfunMs?si=2m5vjXLRjSHM30Rv>



Karen Keys has nine landscape paintings hanging in the "For The Love Of Art" gallery on Lincoln Street in Auburn. She also has matted originals and cards in the gallery show. Do stop by if you're in the neighborhood! Above is an image of her exhibit, and one of her pieces, "Hidden Lake."

PAINTING OF THE MONTH



January's Painting of the Month had 5 entries. Sandie Mele won for her painting "Three Snow Geese."

Congratulations, Sandie!

And remember: This year there is a \$100 award for the winner of Painting of the Month...but you have to enter to win!

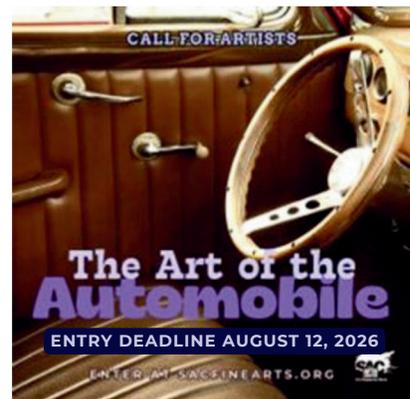
EXHIBIT NEWS

WASH would like to remind everyone that our Open Exhibition, "Go With the Flow", is slated to run from **June 16th to July 11th, 2026**, and online registration will begin in April. More details coming soon, so get those paintings started! Information will be posted on the WASH website at <https://www.washsfac.org>

Sacramento Fine Arts has a lot of exhibits coming up!
Be sure to visit their website for all the details.



Currently on display is their **Magnum Opus** exhibit. Last day to see this one is March 14. A reception is planned at the closing on the 14th, from 5 to 7 p.m.



ADVENTURES IN SHIPPING

Contributed by Sandy Delehante

I was juried into a national show and had to ship my painting all the way to Tennessee. I thought the members might find it helpful to know how I shipped it so I wrote this article. I have attached an image of the painting and also an image of it in its "nest" in the Airfloat Systems Strongbox.

How I Ship My Watercolors to National shows

My watercolor "*Still Waters, Sand Harbor*" was juried into "*OF MARK & MEANING: AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS ANNUAL MUSEUM SHOW*" at Customs House Museum & Cultural Center, Clarksville, TN. The painting had to be in Tennessee by February 2.

I have been shipping watercolors to various shows around the US since 2018, and I thought our members might want to know the system I use in case they need to ship a painting themselves. So here is how I shipped "*Still Waters*" to Tennessee.

The directions stated that paintings must be shipped in a "Strongbox" manufactured by either Airfloat Systems or Uline. This is a standard requirement of all the big national shows and art museums because they can be easily repacked for the return trip to the artist. I love these boxes because they are so strong I have used them over and over again. I have one that has made **eight round trips**, three to New York and five to Southern California. I purchased that box from Airfloat Systems for \$80. in 2020, which seemed expensive but obviously was cheap given how many times it has arrived safely with my paintings in perfect shape.

For this show, I re-used an Airfloat Systems Strongbox that I purchased for another show last year. First, I put a fresh battery into an Apple Air Tag and taped it inside the box under the foam. I then laid my painting on the center layer of foam and drew around it with white chalk so I could see where to cut the foam. This painting was slightly larger than the last painting I had shipped in this box so I had to trim the foam to create a perfect fit for this painting. After cutting the foam to create the perfect size nest for my painting, I placed it inside. I printed a photo of my painting and taped it inside the top lid so when the museum packed up the show they would know my painting goes in this box. I temporarily taped the box shut with a couple of strips of blue painters tape because I would need to open it up and place the pre-paid return label inside at my shipper's office.

The museum specified the deadline for receiving paintings but did not state a date that they would start receiving them. (Most shows state the art is to arrive between date A and date B.) So I called the museum and asked if I could ship it early in case it got lost, or a winter storm closed down the roads. Boy was that a good call! I took my painting in its box to Alhambra Mail and Parcel in Sacramento. I use this business because I was referred to them by the Art Curator, Cynthia Lou, and they did a great job. The owner created the UPS labels, we placed the return label inside and he taped and taped and taped some more, the box shut!

ADVENTURES IN SHIPPING, CONTINUED

Even though I have the UPS receipt with the tracking number, I prefer to follow my painting's progress using my iPhone so I know where it **actually** is, not where UPS or FedEx says it is. Using the Find My App on my iPhone, I followed the Air Tag from Sacramento to San Pablo, where it sat over a weekend. Then it started moving again, traveling East until it stopped in Illinois overnight. Then it was off again until it stopped in Memphis, spent another night, and finally arrived the next day at the museum in Clarksville. My painting was tucked safely away in the museum when the big storm hit and closed the roads in Tennessee. Whew!

I hope you find this useful...you never know when your painting will need to make its way to a show or a buyer halfway around the world!

The show opened February 13, and can be seen online at <https://americanwomenartists.org>.

