

LAA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:
INTRODUCING LAA BOARD MEMBER
RUTH STANTON



"Once Upon an Evening" by Ruth Stanton

Greetings LAA members! It's my turn to write the "Introducing the Board Member" letter this month. I'm Ruth Stanton board member, artist, and mother of 33-year-old daughter and 30-year-old son.

For those who don't know me, my position on the board is VP of Exhibitions. I have been managing 4 – 6 exhibits per year since 2020. The position definitely keeps me on my toes planning shows and submitting applications throughout the year, though I wouldn't have it any other way. It's been a rewarding endeavor since I've gotten to know a lot of artists, the galleries throughout East Bay, and I love working with our dedicated board members. Not only do they work hard to support and provide interesting opportunities for our

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members, but they are also a fun group to work with.

When I'm not managing shows for LAA or participating in other art exhibits, I'm traveling with my husband. In the past 8 months we've

traveled to Switzerland, St. Lucia, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. When we aren't traveling, I'm attending yoga classes, walking with my neighbor and painting in my studio. My medium is acrylic on canvas, and I toggle back and forth between landscapes and figurative work. You can view my work at ruthstantonart.com or follow me on Instagram at ruthstantonartwork.

If you have questions regarding our shows, please contact me at shows@laa4art.org.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our future shows. Until then be safe and have fun creating artwork.

SPECIAL CERAMICS EXHIBITION OPENS AT MAIN STREET ARTS



"Chinese Dragon" by June Bowens

Main Street Arts is kicking off July with **"Handle with Care"**, a special group exhibition showcasing the work of Bay Area ceramic artists Olga Jusidman, Mary Leigh Miller, June Bowens, and Kate Chenok. The show features a striking variety of pieces, including ikebana vases (the Japanese art of giving life to flowers), Raku and Saggar-fired works, and both wheel-thrown and hand-built clay sculptures.

The public is warmly invited to an artist reception on Friday, July 4, from noon to 7 p.m. "Handle with Care" will be on view through Sunday, July 27.



July's free drawing piece "SpamaLicious" by Paula Oesterling

Main Street Arts is home to 12 gallery members working in a range of media, including painting, metal, glass, mixed media, and ceramics. Each month, the gallery hosts a free drawing for a piece of original art by one of its members. July's giveaway is "SpamaLicious" by Paula Oesterling. Stop by, fill out an entry form, for a chance to take home a unique piece of art to decorate your home.

www.mainstreetarts.net

Main Street Arts is located at 613 Main Street, Martinez, CA 94553

Open Wednesday-Saturday 11-4, Sunday 10-3 and Martinez First Fridays 6-9



"SEEING DIFFERENTLY"
ONGOING EXHIBIT AT MORAGA ART
GALLERY



"Illusion of Paradise" by Wenda Pyman

The title **"Seeing Differently"** captures the essence of the Moraga Art Gallery's ongoing exhibit at 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. See it now through August 24th, 2025!

On display are works by more than a score of enthusiastic member and guest artists, including fanciful acrylic paintings by guest artist Judith Rohrer and a wondrous array of Wenda Pyman's "knock-yer-socks-off" photography, evoking the work of, among others, the immortal Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter. Art lovers agree that her color photos are a "delight for the eye," her black and white images, "a delight for the soul."

Also on display are striking creations by three dozen member and guest artists, including painters, glass experts, ceramicists, printmakers, woodworkers, jewelry makers, and more.

Hours: Open Wednesday through Sunday from 12 noon to 5:00 pm.

Address: 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center,

For more information, please visit the gallery's website: <https://moragaartgallery.com> or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com or call 925-376-5407.

"THE NEIGHBORHOOD"
OPENS JULY 5TH
AT ART COTTAGE

"The Neighborhood" is LAA's aRt Cottage Member Show for 2025. It opens with a reception next Saturday, July 5th, 2-4pm. There will be food and drinks and is free to the public. aRt Cottage is located in Concord at 2238 Mt. Diablo Street



Participating Artists:

Nancy Roberts	Amy Bauer
Ruth McMillin	Diane Oles
Melchia Kutches	Tom Quinlavin
Pamela McCauley	Allison Skidgel
Lynn Fulton	Samantha McNally
Karolyn Dreyer	Robert Anke
Lori Larks	Jane Russell
Ruth Stanton	

AN INSPIRATIONAL DAY AT SFMOMA RUTH ASAWA: RETROSPECTIVE

The exhibit of work by famed artist, Ruth Asawa, is truly something not to be missed. Over 300 pieces of her work including her famous wire sculptures, intricate pen and ink drawings, ceramic pieces, bronze sculptures and reliefs are featured in a marvelous display that catalogues her life.



Marion Harris at the Ruth Asawa Exhibit

Several LAA members enjoyed this extensive exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on May 16th. However, you still have time to view this show on your own since it will be on display until September 2nd.

Sharon Tama
Vice-President of Outreach and Education



MARIA SANTOSTEFANO AT BENICIA PLEIN AIR GALLERY



"Yellow House" by Maria SantoStefano

Oil painter Maria SantoStefano takes the Featured Artist spotlight for the month of July at the Benicia Plein Air Gallery with her exhibit, *COLORfornia*, featuring landscapes painted on location in the East Bay and beyond.

"I'm a colorist following in the expressive Bay Area plein air painting tradition of Pam Glover, Louis and Lundy Siegrist and the Society of Six." Maria explains. Bold, luminous color and exuberant brushwork are hallmarks of her fresh painterly style. "With very painting I try to find that sweet spot where the beauty of the scene meets the lush dimensional qualities of the oil paint itself." Maria describes painting outdoors as "an addictive pleasure." Almost all her work is done on location. "I feel lucky to live in California where plein air painting is a year-round-joy."

To learn more about SantoStefano's work, please visit: <http://www.santostefano.weebly.com>

This show runs through the month of July. Benicia Plein Air Gallery is located at 307 First Street in the heart of historic downtown Benicia and is open Friday through Sunday from 11 am to 5pm. Visit [Benicia Plein Air Gallery](#)

LAA MEMBER ANNETTE BATCHELOR
AT ALAMEDA ART & WINE FAIR



Batchelor will be participating in this year's Alameda Art & Wine Festival! "I'll have a booth featuring my oil paintings, and I warmly invite everyone to stop by, enjoy the festivities, and say hello."

Way to go Annette! Thank you for inviting fellow members to this fun event!



"Sunset Sonoma" by Annette Batchelor

LAA/LAC MEMBER SUELLEN COX



"Words" assemblage by Suellen Cox

Words, an assemblage by Suellen Cox, was selected for Bedford Gallery's Beyond Color: The Language of Black and White juried exhibition. The show will be on view July 12--September 14, 2025.

The inspiration for the assemblage---a shadow box holding selected text and slip text fragments---was a 1937 BBC broadcast of Virginia Woolf reading her essay "On Craftsmanship." The 8-minute segment of the broadcast in which Woolf discusses the significance of "words" is the only surviving recording of her voice.

Suellen exhibited her artist book *Elegy for the Lost at Port Chicago* at Arts Benicia's June/July 2025 exhibition Art of a Community. The work which commemorates the 1944 Port Chicago disaster, includes metal fragments and a poem about the 320 lives lost in the explosions.



"Elegy for the Lost at Port Chicago" by Suellen Cox

Suellen was also one of -----artists exhibiting their work in Lamorinda Arts Council's May/June 2025 exhibition "People, Places, and Things: How Artist's Examine Culture." On view was her artist book *Lost Pattern: Florence Price*; the biblio-object/artist's books *3 American Reds*; and another biblio-object/artist's book *Burying the Constitution*.

LESLIE GOLDEN AT ORINDA LIBRARY

Leslie Golden is a landscape architect with a passion for painting in oils. "I have an overwhelming sense of awe when I see the vast rolling hills and valleys so quintessentially California. Through my paintings I try to share my feelings and instill a sense of movement that bring a painting to life." She is delighted to share that her most recent paintings that will be featured at the Orinda library during the month of July. Over 16 medium and large-scale paintings of California trails, seascapes and Mt Diablo will be on display.



"Pacific Coast" by Leslie Golden

The artist reception will be on July 12 between 2:30 and 4:30. Please come out for a chat and see her most recent work!

Leslie Golden CA LIC #2431
Leslie Wagstaff
510 589 5580

www.LeslieGoldenArt.com
www.LeslieGoldenLA.com

LAA JOINS ARTSCCC!

LAA has joined Arts Contra Costa County (ARTSCCC) as a member organization.

ArtsCCC is an arts organization whose top priority is a sustainable county-wide arts foundation. It manages projects, services and supports policies for the creative community. It has received grants from the California Arts Council, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Dean and Margaret Lesher

Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, and California Humanities.

If you are an artist in Contra Costa County, you can apply to register and become a member. It's free and if you are accepted, you can create a gallery page on their website. They also have a great page that shows local public art along with a location map. For more information and to view the site, go to www.ArtsContraCosta.com

LAA DAY AT THE DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Saturday, June 21st was a perfect day for an extensive tour of the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art in Carneros. Our tour guide led us through the exhibit of featured artist, Francis McCormack, in Gallery One. We were encouraged to interpret the messaging found in McCormack's powerful paintings.



LAA Member Tour of di Rosa

We then took the open-air shuttle across part of the vast 500-acre expanse of the di Rosa ranch. Along the way we were introduced to numerous large sculptures occupying the terrain at significant junctures intended to highlight both the artwork and beautiful topographic features of the property.

But more awaited us in Gallery 2, also known as The Incorrect Museum at di Rosa. This large space "...celebrates the rule-breaking, iconoclastic spirit of

art and artists in the region" and includes work by artists such as Roy de Forest, Robert Arneson, Joan Brown, Viola Frey, William T. Wiley and many others.

LAA members were then encouraged to further explore more sculptures located throughout the grounds and enjoy a personal picnic as well.

The di Rosa Center houses a collection of over 1,800 pieces of art and rotates many of these works every two months. So, if you've never visited this Bay Area treasure, you owe it to yourself to do so.

Sharon Tama, Vice-President of Outreach and Education



NOW SHOWING AT EPPERSON GALLERY: "THE BEST OF VALONA"

Don't miss this stunning new exhibit featuring award-winning landscape artists **Jessica de Jesus**, **Nancy Roberts**, and **Maria SantoStefano**. On view for the next three months at **Epperson Gallery**, the largest **Cherokee-owned art gallery** in Northern California (1400 Pomona Street, Crockett, CA).



Best of Valona
Jessica de Jesus
Nancy Roberts
Maria SantoStefano
June 13 - August 30, 2025
Reception Sat June 21, 4-6






EPPERSON GALLERY
1400 Pomona St., Crockett CA 94525
(510) 787-2925 Open Fri - Sun 11 - 5
EppersonGallery.com

CALL FOR ARTIST MEMBER AT BENICIA PLEIN AIR GALLERY!



Call for an artist member at the Benicia Plein Air Gallery. We have an opening! We are a gallery of plein air paintings and paintings that are inspired by plein air. There is information about how to apply for a membership on our website on the membership page. You should live about 30 minutes from Benicia and want to be part of an amazing art gallery community in this historic town filled with art galleries.

www.beniciapleinair.com



CALL FOR ARTISTS! 2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW AT MAIN STREET ARTS

PICTURE THIS: An Art Exhibit Exploring Story, Mood & Memory

Entry Period July 21-August 2, 2025

The Lamorinda Arts alliance is pleased to invite members to submit their entry for “**Picture This**” an exhibit that celebrates the power of visual storytelling. We're seeking 2D and 3D pieces that capture a moment, tell a story, or evoke the feeling of a time, place, or personal experience.

Whether your work is rooted in memory, inspired by a landscape, or shaped by emotion, “**Picture This**” is an opportunity to showcase work that hints at a story, a feeling, or a moment—and invites viewers to imagine their own.

Special note, the pieces accepted into the show have a chance to be included in the Benicia Literary Arts Ekphrastic Poetry Reading program! In September, during the run of the show, poets will visit the Main Street Arts Gallery to choose artworks to inspire their poetry. The resulting poems and artworks will be showcased at the reading on October 12 at the Main Street Arts Gallery.

We welcome submissions in a range of media and styles. From painting and photography to sculpture and mixed media, this exhibit will showcase the many ways artists "picture" the world.

For entry and to learn more about the theme and show requirements, please visit www.laa4art.org for the prospectus.

The Exhibit Dates: **Friday, September 5 to Saturday, November 1, 2025**

The Entry Period: **Monday, July 21- Saturday August 2, 2025**

Reception: **Friday, September 5, 2025 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm**

Registration Fee is \$20.00 for LAA members

CALL FOR ART! ENTRY IS OPEN!
"SEA AND SHORE" AT THE PAPILLON
CAFÉ & GALLERY



"Brazilian Beach: For Castalia" by Jennifer Granat

"Sea and Shore" at the Papillon Cafe.
Lafayette Entry is open!

Entries accepted up to Wednesday **July 9th**, 2025.

Notifications: Acceptance/Non-Acceptance e-mailed by Friday **July 11th**, 2025

Delivery of Work (In-take): Wednesday **July 16th** 2025 at 12:30pm

Exhibition Dates: Wednesday **July 16th**, 2025 to Thursday **October 16th**, 2025

Coffee Klatch: Saturday **July 19th**, 2025 at 2pm

Pick Up Work (Take-down): Thursday **October 16th**, 2025 at 12:30pm.

[Prospectus](#)

[Enter on the Members Home Page](#)

EDITOR'S NOTES

All of us living in the Bay Area—especially here in the East Bay—have so much to be grateful for!

From the fugacious verdant greens of spring to the seemingly never-ending golden blanket of summer's rolling hills that surround Mt. Diablo, our reservoirs, creeks, canals, estuaries, winding, regional trails and all accompanying open spaces, plein air artists and nature lovers alike are afforded the luxury of seemingly endless "eye candy" from which to derive inspiration. We are truly fortunate to have access to such an abundance of natural beauty!

With this thought in mind, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to get a first glimpse at all the amazing plein air art featured in this issue of the LAA newsletter and I'm delighted to leave you with the image below, created by Lori Larks, the newest LAA Board Member and plein air artist extraordinaire!



"Castle Rock Preserve" by Lori Larks

Larks tells us, "Here is my latest painting of the foothills from the Diablo Staging Area, Castle Rock Preserve. A favorite spot of the Contra Costa Plein Air painters!"

Cheers to a summer filled with fun and creative adventure.

-Jennifer Granat.
LAA Newsletter Editor
2 July 2025

