

INTRODUCING LAA BOARD MEMBER,
FUSED GLASS ARTIST AND TREASURER
CYNTHIA WHITCHURCH!



"Sea Turtle" 15"x20" Glass Panel by Cynthia Whitchurch

I'm excited to introduce myself as the Lamorinda Art Alliance's Treasurer since March 2024. I bring with me a background in business—I'm a business major, a former utility executive, and St.Mary's alumni—but creativity has always been part of who I am. After years of working in a structured corporate world, I found my artistic outlet in fused glass, and it's become my true passion.

I've lived in Lafayette since 1993, and I've been creating with glass since 2010. My journey as a

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE

INTRODUCING LAA BOARD MEMBER, FUSED GLASS ARTIST AND TREASURER CYNTHIA WHITCHURCH!.....1-2

MAIN STREET ARTS WELCOMES ROBERT ANKE AND TWO NEW MEMBERS!.....2-3

LAA'S "WINTER LIGHTS" AT MORAGA ART GALLERY-A WONDERFUL SHOW!.....3

"CONNECTIONS" NOW SHOWING AT MAG.....4-5

LPIE DIGITAL DESIGN COMPETITION.....5-6

LAC HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION.....6-8

MORAGA ART GALLERY HOSTS CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION.....8-9

LAA MEMBER JESSICA DE JESUS-EAST BAY OPEN STUDIOS.....9

LAA MEMBER LESLIE GOLDEN-EAST BAY OPEN STUDIOS TOUR.....9

"CARE DEEPLY...HOLD LIGHTLY"
BY CAROL JENKINS.....9-10

LAA MEMBER ALYS BRIGGS AT THE SF WOMEN ARTISTS GALLERY.....11

INTRODUCING NEW LAA MEMBER
DEBORAH LEE.....11-12

LAA CALL FOR ART FOR ART COTTAGE.....12

EDITOR'S NOTES.....12

glass artist has grown over the years, and I now work out of my home studio, where I have three kilns that allow me to experiment with a variety of techniques. I often start by cutting and layering colored sheet glass, adding crushed glass (called frit) and powdered pigments, and then firing the piece in stages to achieve depth, color variation,

and texture. Some pieces are refired at lower temperatures to add surface dimension or enamel details. Every firing is an adventure—no two pieces are ever exactly alike.

My work is available online, in retail stores, and at art festivals throughout the year. You can always find me at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival in the Local Artist Alley. I'd love for you to stop by, say hello, and take a look at what I've been creating.

While I've been working with glass for over a decade, I'll admit it took me several years to feel confident calling myself an "artist." As a business major, I carried that classic imposter syndrome—until I began studying with world-renowned glass artist Narcissus Quagliata. He looked me square in the eye and said, "Get over it!" That moment changed everything. I've come to learn that it's not about where or how you studied—it's about showing up, doing the work, and expressing something meaningful through your art.

It's a privilege to serve on the LAA board, and I'm honored to be part of such a vibrant, creative community. Thank you for supporting local artists—we truly couldn't do it without you.

Warmly,

Cynthia Whitchurch

Treasurer, Lamorinda Art Alliance

Fused Glass Artist | Whitchurch Glass Designs

MAIN STREET ARTS WELCOMES ROBERT ANKE AND TWO NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Anke is a painter and art instructor from the East Bay. Regarding his work, he states, "I try to find that balance between letting the paint be paint and clearly conveying something. My goal is to do this with an economy of stroke that speaks of the medium while creating an engaging representation of something. Really, I just like slapping the paint around while still having people enjoy looking at a fresh version of something they recognize." Robert's work can be seen at Main Street Arts from May 1-June 29.



"Lafayette Ridge, Spring Cloudscape" by Robert Anke

In addition to our new guest artist, Main Street Arts welcomes two new members. In May, Denise Hillman and Mason Roberts will join our gallery. We are thrilled to add these talented individuals to the gallery!



MSA New Member Denise Hillman

"For me, the act of creating is about self-exploration along with the desire to connect with others on a deeper level. I strive to inject emotion into my work that sparks a response from the viewer while leaving much to the imagination...to

state visually what can't be articulated in words. When a person is standing before my work, I want it to evoke an emotion or a memory from their life; perhaps a place they've been, someone they've known or simply a particular moment they've experienced." ~Denise



MSA New Member Mason Roberts

"The time finally came when I could not hold back the ever-increasing creative tide that was overtaking my life. All I could think of was forms, colors, lines and how all of this was bursting from me and needed to be put down on paper, canvas, or something else. I needed to create something that was real and perhaps one day be seen by others. I create from feelings, heat, passion, and love. I put my feelings on paper or whatever through line, color, and form. I love it!" ~ Mason

The entire gallery is bursting with new color and new work that will be displayed now until June 29!

Don't forget to drop in to sign up to our free drawing for a chance to win this lovely sterling jewelry set by Olga Jusidman!



Sterling Silver Jewelry Set by Olga Jusidman

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



LAA'S "WINTER LIGHTS" AT MORAGA ART GALLERY – A WONDERFUL SHOW!

A big thank you to Moraga Art Gallery for hosting the Lamorinda Arts Alliance Exhibit "Winter Lights" show. It was an outstanding 3-month long show resulting in several pieces of 2D and 3D artwork being sold. I unfortunately was not able to attend the reception but heard it was a large lively group there to enjoy the diverse media-rich collection of artwork from LAA and gallery members.

If you haven't ever been to the Moraga Art Gallery, I encourage you to stop by to see the current show "Connections", which is on display until June 8 (See below).

LAA Participating artists: Robert Anke, Karen Baden Thapa, Annette Laurel Batchelor, Alys Briggs, Janet Brock, Kate Chenok, Helen Chu-Hirschberg, MaryLou Correia, Judy Feins, Lynn Fulton, Karen Giorgianni, Leslie Golden, Sarah Gopher, Marian Sims Harris, Elizabeth Kennen, Nora Krauss, Melchia Kutches, Lori Larks, Dave Manousos, Claudette McDermott, Dinah McFarlane, Ruth McMillin, Samantha McNally, Connie Millholland, Craig Moline, Anne Morrison Rabe, Ebba Navas, Nancy Roberts, Adrienne Rogers, Judith Rohrer, Jaunie Schooley, Deena Sheranko, Ruth Stanton, Charlene Steen, Sharon Tama, Dee Tivenan, Beth Zelinski

"CONNECTIONS" NOW SHOWING AT MORAGA ART GALLERY

The "Connections" exhibit is now showing at Moraga Art Gallery and runs until June 8, 2025.

The exhibit features the works of member artists, Danguole Rita Kuolas, a printmaker, and Susan Erickson, a 2-D mixed media artist. We are delighted to welcome guest artist and sculptor, Michael Rizza, to the gallery.

The exhibit will include works by more than two dozen gallery members and guest artists.

A reception will be held on **Saturday, April 12 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm**. The public is invited to view the art, chat with the artists, enjoy wine, light snacks, and music.

Danguole Rita Kuolas

Danguole Rita Kuolas transcends traditional approaches to linoleum block carving with the fluidity of the carved lines and the abstraction of the subject matter. Her original, hand pulled prints break out of the picture plane and delicately balance the interplay of black and white.



Danguole Rita Kuolas, *Pathway*

Susan Erickson

Susan Erickson's imaginative mixed media works incorporate whimsy, text and unexpected juxtapositions in her eclectic paintings and collages. Through texture and layering, incorporating pages from old books, periodicals and recycled prints, Susan tells stories linking past to present.



Susan Erickson, *Romance Daydream*

Guest Artists, Michael Rizza

Michael Rizza, a sculptor of more than 500 works over six decades, has worked in bronze aluminum, plaster, and stone. As Michelangelo is reputed to have done, he starts with a mass of stone, then brings to life whatever form resides therein.



Sculpture by Michael Rizza

The show also contains paintings, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, glassware, etchings, woodwork, photographs, prints, and much more by the gallery's core of members.

The ***Moraga Art Gallery's Gift Boutique*** features handmade gift items created by local artists including glass items, ceramics, beautiful wooden bowls, boxed cards, small paintings, decorative pillows, cards, jewelry and other gift items.

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

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

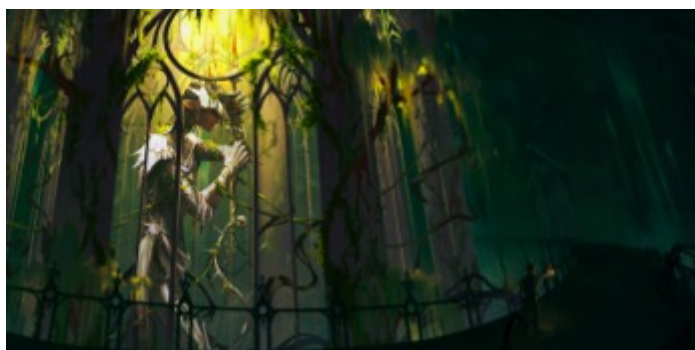
For more information, please visit the gallery's website: <https://moragaartgallery.com> or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com or call 925-376-5407.

LPIE DIGITAL DESIGN COMPETITION

Lafayette Partners in Education (LPiE) sponsors a project-based competition in 15 categories that allows Acalanes High School students to showcase their skills and passions.

This year, LAA Board member Mark Coffey and Lamorinda Arts Council Visual Arts Council Chair Olga Larner were judges of the Digital Design category. Judging criteria included originality, creativity and technical ability; personal expression of idea, feeling or value; and effective use of principles of design, including rhythm, balance, line, pattern, volume and color.

First place was awarded to Emily Bennett for her work, "Venus". She said that the painting was based on one of her previous character designs as a subject and further inspired by gothic architecture and its connections with nature. The title "Venus" comes from Venus Flytraps and Emily was inspired by their dual nature of both beauty and danger. The judges found the work sophisticated with layers of texturing and great detail in the lighting, plants, architecture and Venus' costume.



"Venus" by Emily Bennett

Second place was awarded to Qianlin Dong for "Stars". Qianlin wrote "The bluish-purple background sharply contrasts with the girl's blonde hair and white stars, showcasing my original comic character". The judges were impressed with Qianlin's use of color as well as great "movement" in the piece.



"Stars" by Qianlin Dong

The judges also awarded two honorable mentions to Bryce Belhumeur for "Pig Destroyer" and Sofia Springfield for "Small Friends".

LAC HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

Again, this year, Lamorinda Arts Alliance sponsored the digital art category of the Lamorinda Arts Council High School Visual Arts Competition. The competition included 2D artwork, 3D artwork, digital artwork and photography. We encourage you to view the show online by visiting <https://lamorindaarts.org/VAC-galleries/>.



"Heal" by Cailyn Chan

This year, the Best of Show award went to a Cailyn Chan from Miramonte for her work in clay titled "Heal". Of her work, she wrote, "It symbolizes the strength to heal and emerge stronger than before. During the creation process, the clay cracked as it

shrank around the base. While figuring out how to repair it, I discovered the Japanese pottery technique of Kintsugi, where cracked pottery is mended with gold paste. This method not only healed the cracks but made it more beautiful.”

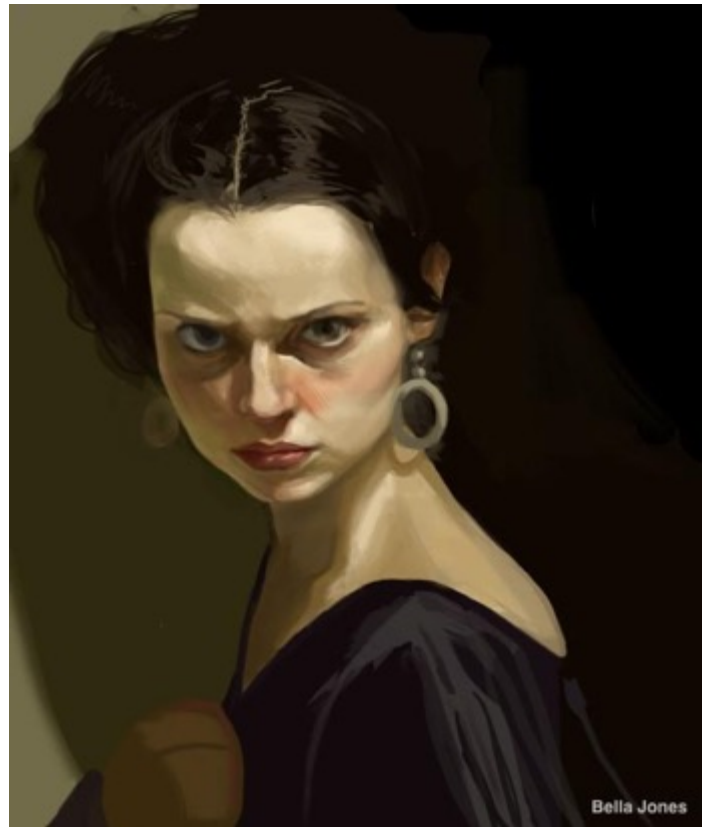


“Fractured Echo” by Ariana Hallstrom

First Place in the digital art category was awarded to Ariana Hallstrom from Acalanes for her work titled “Fractured Echo.” Ariana writes, “My piece captures the raw intensity of human emotion, depicting a woman with short hair frozen in a scream of horror and distress. Her expression conveys an overwhelming sense of fear, pain, and perhaps an unseen betrayal, immersing the viewer in the depths of her turmoil. I used Photoshop and created it with abstract textures that blend with realism. A moody greyscale palette, contrasted with deep blacks, blues, and striking reds enhances the dramatic and unsettling atmosphere. The use of digital layering techniques and manipulation of textures allows the artwork to have a tactile quality despite its digital nature, making it feel almost

tangible – as if the woman’s scream is breaking through the confines of the medium.”

Second Place in the digital art category went to Bella Jones from Acalanes for her untitled work. Bella writes, this is “a digital art piece, reminiscent of the Renaissance style that I deeply adore. However, it has impasto techniques with bigger brush strokes which adds compelling texture and depth. My mother is an artist. My love and passion for art is all because of her. I love you, mom.”



“Untitled” by Bella Jones

Third Place was awarded to Lucy Bai from Bentley for “A Wedding Night”. Lucy writes, “This piece was made digitally using Procreate, and I used bars and lines to represent restrictions to create a surrealist environment. A woman in red is shown turning away from a mirror, symbolizing the dread of her own feelings as she suppresses them in order to conform to social norms and expectations. A red veil or curtain, typical of traditional Chinese wedding clothing, is seen in the background. In addition, a throng brought a sedan chair to go with the bride to her new residence. illustrating a sense

of imprisonment and entrapment as well as the fact that women are still expected to fulfill traditional expectations of marriage and motherhood.”



“A Wedding Night” by Lucy Bai

An Honorable Mention award was given to Bennett Hudes from Las Lomas for “Loathe”. Bennett writes “My goal for “Loathe” was to create something that was uncomfortable and created a conflicted feeling. I’m very inspired by the color palettes and work of the artist Beksinski and wanted to make something vivid and grotesque. But, I also wanted it to be something you could sympathize with. I focused largely on giving the piece a graceful flow while contrasting that with tangents and parallels so it could be both stiff and dynamic. The creature I left open for interpretation as a way to better identify with it. I want the viewer to be able to decide if it’s

something hateful and evil or isolated and suffering.”



“Loathe” by Bennett Hudes

This year, as in past years, the quality of the work was outstanding and inspiring. New this year is some of the artwork is available for purchase! Go online to view the entire show.

MORAGA ART GALLERY HOSTS CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

Congressman Mark De Saulnier, representing California’s 10th Congressional District, hosts an annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in his district. The winning art work is displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year in 2025.

For the third year the Moraga Art Gallery hosted the reception for the students who participated and their parents.



Congressman Mark De Saulnier with CAC participants

The winning awards were presented and all of the students were recognized for their art work submissions. The student's art work which had been hung throughout the gallery was very impressive and reflective. It was a lovely event. The Gallery has been pleased to hold these annual receptions for the students and the Congressman.

LAA MEMBER LESLIE GOLDEN EAST BAY OPEN STUDIOS TOUR

Leslie Golden will be participating in the Eastbay Open Studios Tour the last weekend in May and the first two weekends in June.

Feel free to drop by and check out her new series of Bay Area Trails. All local exhibit. She will be painting in her studio or plein air. Come check out her no pressure to buy studio!

50 painting studies under \$100

Easy access three steps and ample parking right in front:

1 Gable Lane Lafayette. 9 am to 5:30pm
Saturday and Sunday May 31 and June 1, 7 and 8

L-Golden@comcast.net
www.EastbayOpenStudios.com
www.LeslieGoldenArt.com

LAA MEMBER JESSICA DE JESUS EAST BAY OPEN STUDIOS

LAA Member [Jessica de Jesus](#) is opening up her home studio for the first time during [East Bay Open Studios](#), May 31 – June 1. She'll have her little courtyard set up with panels showcasing her latest paintings, a selection of giclée prints, and even a few works in progress. She specializes in contemporary landscapes in gouache, watercolor and acrylic. Jessica is a member of Benicia Plein Air Gallery and is on the board for California Watercolor Association.



"Solar Pull" by Jessica de Jesus

When: Saturday and Sunday, May 31 - June 1 / 11-5PM

Where: 1131 Glengarry Dr, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Website: sfjessart.com

Instagram: @sfjess.adventure.art

"CARE DEEPLY...HOLD LIGHTLY" BY CAROL JENKINS

During this chaotic moment in time, I take solace in a few fundamental tenets about being human. Louise Erdrich writes about one of them:

"We are so brief. A one-day dandelion. A seedpod skittering across the ice. We are a feather falling from the wing of a bird. I don't know why it is given to us to be so mortal and to feel so much. It is a cruel trick, and glorious."

What is fleeting can be precious. Sunsets last for a few moments, wildflowers fade quickly. The older I get, the more I cherish the coming of Spring, knowing it is short-lived, and so am I! These are all truly glorious.

Far more often though, the pace of change can feel like a cruel trick. The years pass too quickly. I'm afraid of losing what I love. I care deeply about friends and family, about this country, about the planet--without the ability to safeguard any of it.



"Dressed in Sequins" Mixed media on canvas by Carol Jenkins

In my studio, I can start investing so much in a painting, I stop seeing it clearly. As I get closer to finishing it, I tighten up. I make small, hesitant moves because I'm afraid of ruining the parts I love. I start to wish I knew exactly what to do. But creativity is all about trial and error, the willingness to stay open to new ideas, even when they don't work. In art, as well as in the rest of life, most of us mistakenly long for an approach we can count on, a method we can use over and over, solutions that never fail.

So lately, here's what I've been saying to myself:

"Go ahead, care deeply...but hold lightly."

Holding my feelings and thoughts more gently is not passive--it takes effort. And it certainly does not stand against definitive action. In my artwork, I am freer to take more risks when I focus on what I feel like doing each moment, rather than grasping after some imagined outcome. Acting on personal or political views also goes better when I loosen my grip, when I resist the wish for certainty, especially the kind of dehumanizing certainty I oppose.

Caring deeply and holding lightly does not mean outcomes don't matter. It all matters, a great deal. Still, there is a lot to be said for relinquishing the belief that there are clear-cut answers and we should know exactly what to do. Perhaps it's enough to care deeply and to just keep trying.

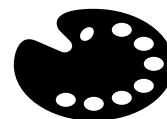
-Carol

In other news, I will be showing a body of new work along with fellow artist Belinda Hanson:

Vivid Visions: Exploring place in the far reaches of Northern California

5/16/2025-7/6/2025 at the Museum of Northern California Art, Chico, CA

Opening reception: May 16, 2025, 6-8pm
900 Esplanade, Chico, CA.



LAA MEMBER ALYS BRIGGS AT THE SF WOMEN ARTISTS GALLERY

I have two pieces in an upcoming show at the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery, "Petals and Wings". Both are a photomontage created from photos I have taken.

My mother grew up in a small farming community, Kingsburg, south of Fresno. I go there most years in February to take photos of the orchards in bloom, hence the title, "Kingsburg Blossom Trail 2025."



"Kingsburg Blossom Trail" Photomontage by Alys Briggs

The other piece got its title, "A Day Out On Irving Street," because the background is a photograph I took of a painter's drop cloth in front of a building on Irving Street.

The show at the gallery will run from May 6 - May 31 at the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery (<https://www.sfwomenartists.org>)



"A Day Out on Irving Street" Photo montage by Alys Briggs

The gallery is located at:
647 Irving Street (at 8th Avenue)
San Francisco, CA 94122

The gallery is open from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm
Tuesday - Saturday

INTRODUCING NEW LAA MEMBER DEBORAH LEE!

Deborah Lee is excited to join this vibrant artist community. Her artwork is influenced by her life as a dancer, her Berkeley roots, and Chinese American experience.

Deborah uses acrylic, charcoal, graphite and mixed media. Her current work explores different dance forms featuring the beauty of the body in motion. Her portfolio includes landscapes, portraits and abstracts. Beginning with a concept, her art gives the viewer the opportunity to discover their own interpretation and meaning.



"Free to Dance" by Deborah Lee

Her work can be seen at the juried Creekside exhibit in Rossmoor Walnut Creek and at Sophie's Cuppa Tea in Montclair (TBA).

LAA CALL FOR ART FOR ART COTTAGE

Theme and Title of the show:

"The Neighborhood"

What does a neighborhood mean to you? Have fun with this!

The Exhibit Dates: **Saturday, July 5th to Thursday, August 28th**

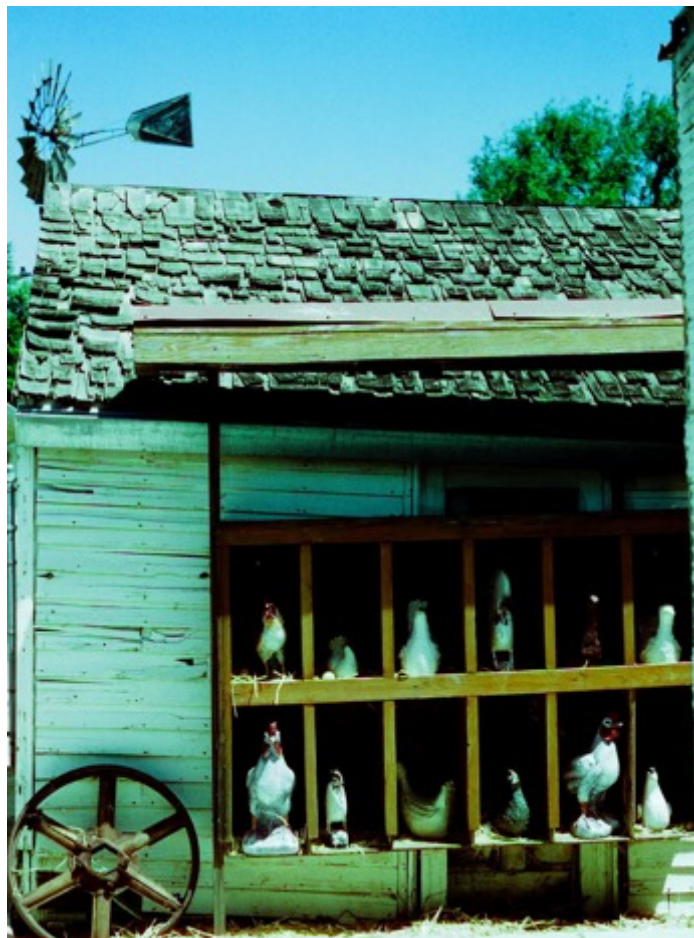
The Entry Period: **June 1 – 26th**

Reception: **Saturday, July 5th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

The registration fee is \$20 per piece for a 2-month show. **3D pieces** sold as a grouping of small sculptures or similar set items; the fee is \$20.00 per pedestal.

New Entry Process: Submit entries through LAA's on-line entry system.

For more information and to read the prospectus, please visit: laa4art.org



"Neighborhood Watch" by Lori Larks Photo-Film shot on 1954 Old Leica

EDITOR'S NOTES

Happy Spring LAA members! I hope you've enjoyed reading this May + June edition of the LAA Newsletter, and that you continue to flourish. In addition, kudos to all the student artists that participated in the various art competitions and congratulations to all award recipients!

Thanks go out to the artists who contributed to this edition of the LAA newsletter, and a warm welcome to all new members. Please be sure to enter LAA's upcoming calls for art that can be found on the LAA website: laa4art.org. Keep creating!

-Jennifer Granat 4/30/2025