

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated Lamorinda Arts Alliance Board Members who work throughout the year to keep LAA vibrant and relevant for our members. Thanks go to: Jennifer Granat, Editor, expertly publishes our bi-monthly newsletter and keeps us well informed; Ruth Stanton, VP of Exhibitions, provides us with our many exhibition opportunities; Sharon Tama, VP of Education, sets up thoughtful and fun educational opportunities; Helen Chu, Secretary, takes excellent detailed minutes at our bi-monthly meetings; Samantha McNally our Web Master extraordinary solves most web problems for us; Marian Harris, Membership Chair, keeps our detailed membership information in good order; Mark Coffey, Member at Large, advises us on many areas, and Cynthia Whitchurch who took over as Treasurer following the untimely death of our prior Treasurer, Maggie Lucas-Hill keeps our finances in order. Having such an excellent Board makes my job as President easy, meaningful and enjoyable.

And a big thank you to all LAA members who have participated in our events during this past year and to those who have gone the extra mile to help with set up, receptions, etc. It makes our work on the Board meaningful and worthwhile when we see

our artists come together and share their art in our communities.

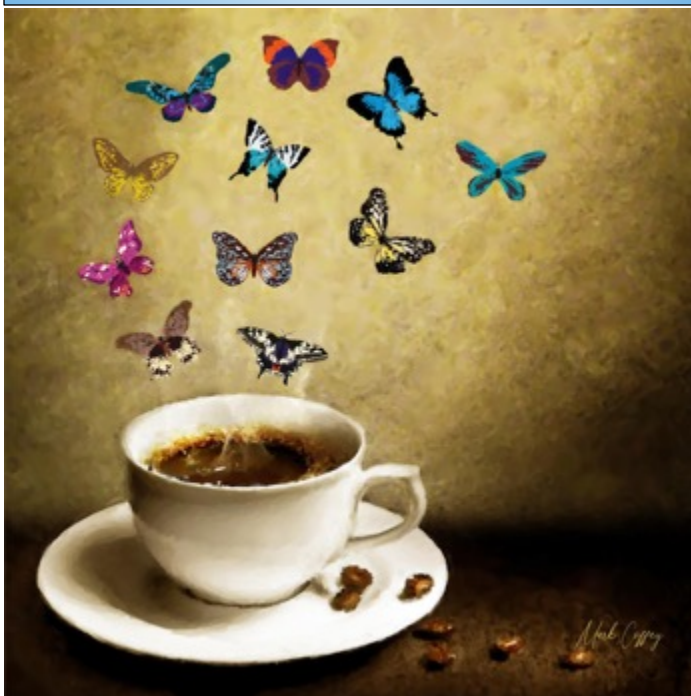
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A particular note of gratitude goes to Samantha McNally who set up the second East Bay Gallery Tour for the month of October. This wonderful publicity helps to create an awareness of all the amazing Art Galleries we have in the East Bay.

In place of the President's Message for the next several issues, I thought it would be interesting and helpful for the Board members to introduce themselves to you our LAA membership.

Mark Coffey, our Member-at-Large, will begin these introductions in this issue.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD MEMBER MARK COFFEY



"Papillon Café" by Mark Coffey

I was born in Washington State but have lived most of my life in the Bay Area except for five years attending Arizona State University in Tempe where I earned a degree in architecture. Following graduation, I returned to the Bay Area spending my early career with architectural firms and then transitioning to building contractors and real estate developers. I eventually headed my own firm specializing in construction management and real estate development consulting. I spent several years publishing "The Project Informer," an informational magazine identifying upcoming development projects in the very early stages of planning.

While publishing "The Project Informer," I became interested in digital painting and spent my spare time watching on-line tutorials to learn the process. I learned to paint using Adobe Photoshop and Corel Painter software. My hardware includes a PC computer and a Wacom Tablet with an artist stylus.

I don't remember how I originally met Donna Arganbright, but at some point, she invited me to be a guest artist at the Moraga Art Gallery. I accepted, but one of her conditions was that I join LAA. Later, she told me that they were looking for someone to be editor of the LAA newsletter. I had by that time stopped publishing "The Project Informer," but I wanted to keep up my publishing skills, so I accepted the position. The position includes a seat on the Board.

I served as editor of the newsletter from October of 2014 until December of 2018 when I decided that I couldn't commit the time necessary to continue. We invited Jennifer Granat to be editor, and she agreed to take over the position and has served as our outstanding editor ever since.

Currently, I serve on the Board as Member-at-Large where I am responsible for special projects. These are generally projects that require graphics such as promotional show postcards, show banners, hang tags, marketing brochures for LAA, etc.

The Board wishes you all a warm and wonderful holiday season filled with happiness and memories with family and friends.

I can be reached at Mark@LAA4Art.org

-Mark Coffey



**"ART MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND"
AT MAIN STREET ARTS**



"Glazed Donut" by Dean Evans

"ART MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND" at Main Street Arts Martinez on exhibit this November and December! The theme for the holiday season will include art pieces that have something circular within. Our display will delight all who visit!

The gallery's Christmas tree, loaded with hand-crafted and hand-painted original ornaments, will be on display throughout this two-month period. These mini art treasures make terrific gifts for everyone!



"Sweet and Sour" by John Tullis

When you visit the gallery, be sure to sign up for our monthly "Art Give-away." This November, Chris Granillo will offer one of his colorful paintings.

Main Street Arts will celebrate First Friday on November 1st with extended hours from 6-9 and again on December 6.

Happy Holidays to all!



<https://www.mainstreetarts.net/>

MSAG Hours: Wed-Sat 11-4
Sunday 10-3

**LAA TOUR OF MARY CASSATT EXHIBIT
AT THE LEGION OF HONOR**



"A Kiss for Baby Ann, (No. 3)" 1897 by Mary Cassatt

Join LAA for a tour of the Mary Cassatt Exhibit at the Legion of Honor Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Explore the world of American-born, French Expressionist artist Mary Cassatt at the Legion of Honor exhibit, *Mary Cassatt at Work*. The exhibit focuses on the artist's materials, processes, and

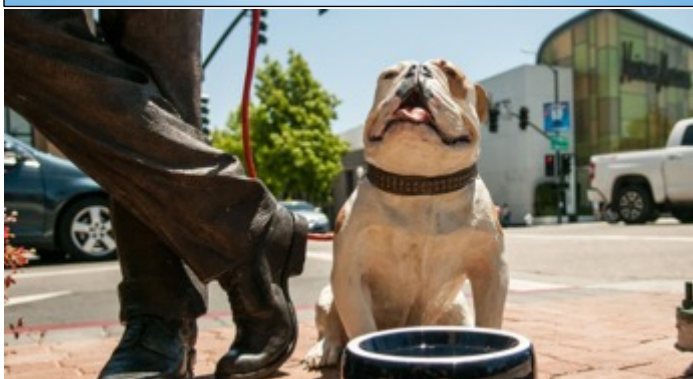
methods as she gave life to her images of women and children. Included in the exhibit are works in pastel, prints, and of course, paintings.

To join the LAA tour, please contact Sharon Tama (twotamas@gmail.com) prior to December 14 using the subject heading "Mary Cassatt". Exhibit entry fees are discounted 20 % and are as follows:*

Adults	\$28.00
Seniors	\$25.00

**FAMSF Members \$0 but you must provide your membership number in your response*

A WALNUT CREEK WALKING TOUR OF ART



"Bullman with Bulldog" 2017 sculpture by Gerald Heffernon

A Walnut Creek Walking Tour of Art
Save the date: Saturday, November 16th
10:00-11:30 AM

Join LAA members for a delightful and informative walking tour of public art in downtown Walnut Creek. The tour begins at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, and focuses on the public art collection along Main St. and the Public Library.

The tour will be led by a trained public art specialist who will be able to offer information on the very art you may have meandered by in the past and were curious about.

The cost is \$5 for adults, under 18 free. You must pay in person (cash only) and includes admission

to Bedford Gallery. Please assemble in front of the Bedford Galley before the tour begins. Parking is available in the public garage next to the Bedford Gallery.

Please email Sharon Tama (twotamas@gmail.com) no later than **Monday, Nov. 11th** using the subject "LAA Walking Tour" so we can estimate the number of attendees.

LAA MEMBER CHRIS GRANILLO ARTIST, MURALIST, PRINTMAKER & DESIGNER



"Monarchs of Martinez Piano" by Chris Granillo
Sponsored by: The Martinez Arts Association

Introducing the beautifully painted piano now located in Martinez Main Street Plaza! This Interactive art piece is free for anyone to play and enjoy.

A huge thank you to talented artist and member of Lamorinda Arts Alliance & Main Street Arts Gallery Chris Granillo for bringing this vision to life, and another big thank you to Megan Kammerer for managing and organizing this grateful to the city of Martinez for supporting this initiative, and to the community for always standing behind our local artist and fostering creativity in our town.

This piano has extra special story: it was generously donated by the estate of Diane Viera, a member of Alhambra Creek and native plant expert. Her estate offered the piano on social media, and thanks to timely call from Megan, it became ours!

To view more works:

www.ChrisGranilloArt.com

www.MartinezArts.org

www.chrisgranilloart.com

Artist, Muralist, Printmaker & Designer

"A CHORUS OF VOICES"
BY CAROL JENKINS



"River's Edge" by Carol Jenkins

I recently displayed the work of 21 local artists in my newly completed studio. It was a fundraiser for [Siskiyou Land Trust](#), as well as a celebration—a celebration of my studio and the abundance of creativity in this small mountain town. The diversity of the work was stunning—ink drawings, nail art, woodcut prints, plein air watercolors, fine woodworking, paintings of birds and pears and landscapes. Most of the work was scooped up by the enthusiastic group of people coming through, happy to acquire original art, knowing that their purchases would help preserve the land we love.

The whole experience made me think about why we make art and why we want to have it around us. And not only art—wanting some sort of beauty in our lives seems fundamental to being human. Why else would we spend hours tending a garden of flowers or placing food in a colorful design on a dinner plate. We are moved by a therapist's elegantly worded insight and awed by the grand sweep of a towering bridge. There is very little in our lives that is purely utilitarian; there is almost always an attempt to make the design of a chair, a turn of phrase, even an umbrella aesthetically pleasing. Why?

"Attention is the beginning of devotion," the poet Mary Oliver wrote in her final book of essays. I think one of the things that draws us to all that is beautiful is the devotion required to create it. When I am working on a painting, I bring a singular kind of attention to what I am doing. I am simultaneously looking at my canvas and listening to hundreds of internal cues-- "no! it's too dark in that corner," "yes! I love that mark—leave it". Exploring colors and shapes with paint can feel relaxed and playful. But I am still focused, continually aware of those inner promptings. That kind of attention, often cultivated over many years, is part of any creative endeavor. That constitutes devotion in my book.

Just as important is the infinitely diverse ways we express that devotion. George Saunders writes: "This is maybe the most profound and inexplicable thing I've ever learned from a lifetime of doing art:

if I take a thing and obsessively work with it, it always ends up having 'me' in it. It doesn't matter what I start with, and I don't require any ideas along the way except 'keep making it better, in even the smallest way'." When we devote ourselves to almost anything, our individuality, our unique voice is bound to come through. That's why I love having other artists' work in my home. I feel surrounded by a chorus of voices!

Rumi linked beauty and devotion when he said, "Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground." There are as many ways to create beauty and meaning in the world as there are people. Diversity in art, as in the rest of life, enriches everyone. Thinking back to the art show and those images of birds and pears and landscapes gracing my studio walls, I am grateful to be one small part of that chorus of voices.

In other news, I will be showing contemporary landscapes and figurative paintings in my home studio in Berkeley during East Bay Open Studios: Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8, 11am-5pm.

NEW WORKS BY LAA MEMBER LORI LARKS



"Glen Cove Morning" by Lori Larks

Larks tells us, "*Glen Cove Morning* was done on site as I painted alongside Nancy Roberts and painters with Contra Costa Plein Air. Glen Cove is a little treasure for good views from the Vallejo shore."



"Leaving Maui" by Lori Larks

Larks continues, "*Leaving Maui*" is a work, still wet, and in progress. It is from a trip of some time ago-painted from a wonderful memory and snapshot. Those peaks guard such a beautiful island, lush with life and amazing weather. I loved how quickly the clouds would roll in and back out again. I've only been there twice but it's a place I will return to. If there's water and a dynamic sky, I'm all in!"



PAPILLON CAFÉ GALLERY WINTER EXHIBIT



PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Karen Baden Thapa
Janice Davis
Catherine Duggan
Judy Feins
Jeanette Kanozik
Lori Larks
Ruth McMillin
Samantha McNally
Wenda Pymon
Anne Rabe
Nancy Roberts
Adrienne Rogers
Deena Sheranko
Lorna Strotz
Sharon Tama



The magic of Winter. There's a chill in the air, the warmth of getting together with family and friends, children filled with wonder and excitement, and a watchful eye on the power of nature. It's a great time to savor a hot chocolate, coffee or tea and enjoy the paintings of your artist neighbors and welcome a new season and a new year.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance is a diverse group of artists, each on a unique artistic journey, whose work reflects their experiences, dreams, passions and heritage.

The exhibit was curated by LAA member Karen Baden Thapa. We thank her for her commitment to bring local art to the community.

For more information on Lamorinda Arts Alliance and to see more work by the member artists, please visit LAA4Art.org. We invite you and encourage you to become a member.



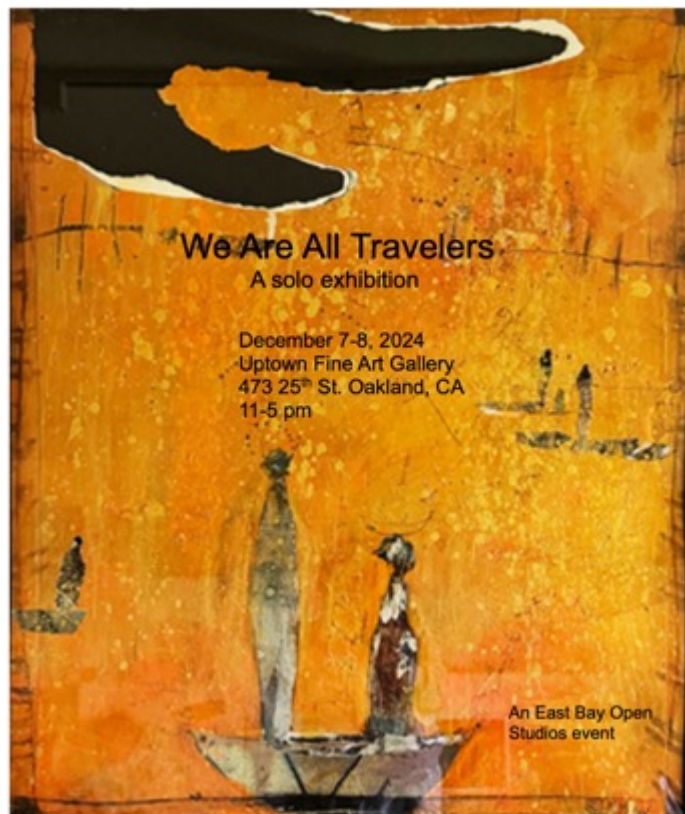
Papillon Gourmet Coffee and Tea is in La Fiesta Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle
The exhibit runs November 14th to January 14th
There is metered parking at La Fiesta Square

Papillon
Cafe Gallery

LAA MEMBER MIRA M. WHITE WINTER POP-UPS

White tells us, "This December I am hosting two very different pop-up exhibitions:

One is an Open Studio Party and Art Sale that will take place on December 1st, 2024, from 10am to 6pm. The second exhibit "We Are All Travelers" will take place December 7-8, 2024, from 11am to 5pm at Uptown Fine Art Gallery in Oakland. I hope you will be able to come to BOTH!"



For more information about Mira M. White, her work and her workshops, please visit:

<https://miramwhite.com/home.html>

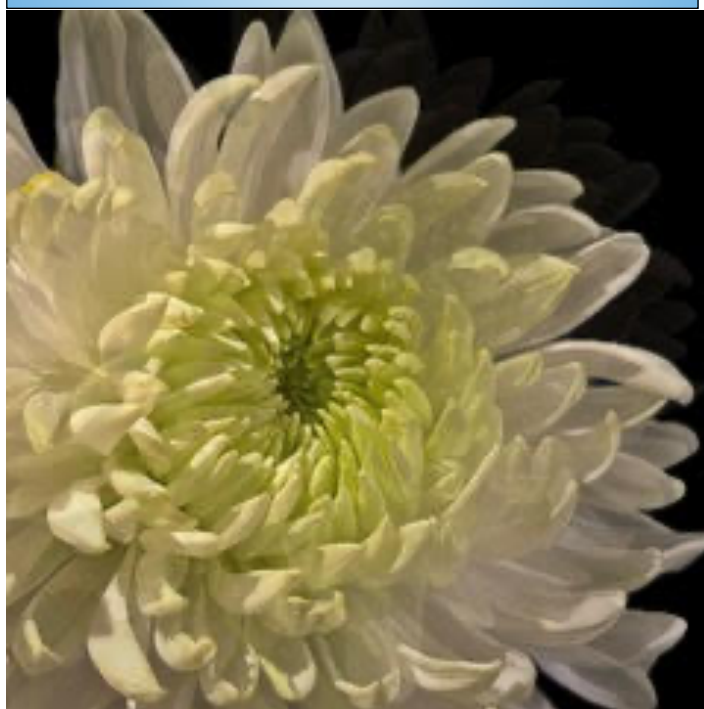
LAA MEMBER DEE TIVENAN NOW AT JOR FINE ART GALLERY



"Going Deep" by Dee Tivenan

LAA member Dee Tivenan will be a guest artist at Jor Fine Art Gallery in Danville. The exhibit will run through February 2, 2025.

LAA MEMBER ANNE RABE CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS



"Mum's the Word" by Ann Rabe

Anne Rabe has several current and upcoming showings of her work. Thirty of her photographs are on display at the Hollie's Homegrown pop-up store located in the front half of the Clocks, Etc. store in La Fiesta Square, Lafayette, just across the parking lot from Papillon. (Anne will have one of her photos in the LAA Fall show at the coffee shop, too.)

Hollie's store features numerous local artists' and artisans' work as well as Hollie's own culinary and body products. It's the perfect place to shop for holiday gifts and support local vendors. Enter from the parking lot through the Clocks, Etc. store, or from the 971 Moraga Road entry.

On November 14 from 4 - 8PM, Anne is participating along with 20 other vendors at the Phoenix Boutique Holiday Sip and Shop at Boundary Oaks Golf Club, 3800 Valley Vista Road in Walnut Creek. The event is free to attend but a percentage of sales will go to the Benioff/UCSF Children's Hospital Art Therapy Program for



WINTER'S EMBRACE
NOVEMBER 2ND THROUGH FEBRUARY 2, 2025



Dave Matthews
Assemblage
Guest Artist



New Hope
Mix Media on Yupo



Dee Tivenan
Guest Artist

RECEPTION: ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND,
FROM 4 - 6 PM

1026 Oak Street, Suite 102
Clayton, CA.
jorfineartgallery.com

Children. It's another great opportunity to get a head start on holiday shopping while enjoying complimentary hors d'oeuvres provided by Boundary Oaks, holiday music and wonderful raffle prizes, all while supporting this worthy cause. There will be a no-host bar.

Anne is also participating in the Jingtown Art Walk in the Jingtown neighborhood of Oakland during East Bay Open Studios, December 7 & 8 from 11 - 5PM each day. She will be located at Ford Street Studios, 2934 Ford Street, Studio #2, with Lisa Levine, another photographer who generously offered to share her studio, and Dobee Snowber, a wonderful mixed media artist.

Several other artist studios will be open in the neighborhood along with music, food and other merry making!

LAA EXHIBIT SCHEDULE FOR 2025

2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW at Moraga Art Gallery

Theme: There is no theme for the exhibit

Exhibit Dates: January 8 – March 23

Entry Period: October 15 – 31, 2024

Reception: Saturday, January 25 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM

2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW at Art Passages

exhibition, Administration Building Martinez

Exhibit Dates: April 7 – July 8

Entry Period: January/February

Reception: TBD

2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW AT aRt Cottage

Theme: To be determined

Exhibit Timeframe: July – August

Entry Period: May/June

2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW AT John Muir Health

Auxiliary Gallery at the Aspen Surgery Center

Theme: "Wellness & Wellbeing"

Exhibit Dates: August 30 – October 31

Entry Period: June/July

2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW AT Main Street Arts

Theme: "Picture This"

Exhibit Timeframe: September 5 – November 1

Entry Period: June

Reception: September 5

2025 LAA MEMBER Quarterly SHOWS AT Papillon Café Gallery

January – April: Landscapes

April – July: Flora & Fauna

July – October: Wanderlust

October to January 2026: Theme TBA

This information will reside on LAA's website under the Exhibitions tab and will be updated as more information is available.

EDITOR'S NOTES



"OWSF?" WIP by Jennifer Granat

While it's difficult to believe it's already November and will soon be the end of 2024, here we are.

Looking back, one of the things I am grateful for this year is when I was (some time ago!) invited to be a part of Lamorinda Arts Alliance as Newsletter Editor.

Thanks to the members of Lamorinda Arts Alliance, and to the board for all you do (voluntarily!) to support the arts!

Cheers!

-Jennifer Granat

3 November 2024