



Brrrr y'all.

Here we are in the bleak midwinter. I don't know about you, but all I want to do is snuggle under the covers until the dogwood trees blossom mid-April. However, since that isn't a realistic option, I did the next best thing - I grabbed up my sister and left home heading to Bentonville and Crystal Bridges. We're making our way back home now, but first we had to stop at Arts on Main in Van Buren and then The Fort Smith Regional Arts Center, where by the way, we happened to catch Virmarie DePoyster's artist talk about her "Beyond Labels" pastel portraits exhibition. (Go see it before the end of the month, if you can.) Tomorrow we might find another gallery or two before finally pulling into my driveway. I already feel warmer just being surrounded by all that art.

So, what are you doing to lift your spirits and spark your creativity on these dark cold days? I am looking forward to seeing you all in March at our first meeting of the new year and learning your answer to that question. Also remember to bring to our March meeting all your ideas for programs, speakers and workshops for the upcoming year. And remember the IAPS Convention is happening this June in Albuquerque. Registration and details are at IAPSpastel.org.

In the meantime, keep painting and keep sharing your work on our FaceBook page.



Valerie McNee

Help Us Celebrate
APS's
20th Birthday!

Feb. 17, 2024
2 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church
1818 Reservoir Road
Little Rock

Rides will be provided for
charter members unable to drive.
Contact Anne Parat
at 501-343-5900 or
anne.parat@gmail.com



APS Calendar

January 23, 2024 - 12 Noon - 3 p.m.

Pick up National Show Entries,
Layman Library, North Little Rock

February 17, 2024 - Arkansas Pastel
Society 20th Birthday Celebration,
2 p.m., Unitarian Church, Little Rock

March 5, 2024 - APS Members
Meeting.

April 2, 2024 - APS Members
Meeting.

April 4 - 26 - APS/OPS Exhibition at
John Brown University

April 5, 2024 - Opening Reception
for APS/OPS Exhibition at John Brown
University.

July 2024 APS Exhibition at Thea
Foundation

November 15, Opening Reception
APS Juried Members Show, ACANSA
Gallery

Change of Painting Pickup Date For APS National Show

Due to the snow and sub-freezing temps
that have hit our area, the Layman Library
has requested that we change the pickup
date for art in the APS
National Show to Tuesday,
January 23rd, from noon
to 3 p.m.



Renew Your APS Membership for 2024!

Members need to renew their APS
membership before April 2024, so if you
have not done that yet, a membership
form may be found on our website:
www.arkansaspastelsociety.com.
Membership for new members who joined
during the last quarter of 2023 will be
carried over to 2024.

See the Exhibit Prospectus at the end of this newsletter for more details!



2024 OPS/APS Members Exhibit Proposed Schedule for the OPS/APS Members Exhibit

John Brown University

Fine Arts Gallery, Windgate Visual Arts West

(right next to the large monument/flag poles)

Dates: Thursday, April 4 – Friday, April 26, 2024

Important Dates:

- Drop off at JBU Visual Arts West, Fine Arts Gallery (First Floor): Saturday, March 23, noon-4:00pm
(OPS Members may drop off their paintings at the gallery after the OPS March 9th General Meeting.)
- Hang the exhibit: Tuesday, April 2 (time to be determined)
- Exhibit opens: Thursday, April 4
- Opening reception: Thursday, April 11, 5:30-7:00pm
- Exhibit closes: Friday, April 26 5:00pm

Each member is allowed two paintings. We will be asking for volunteers to help receive and check out paintings, hang the exhibit, do demos during the reception and to create “storyboards” visually explaining their process of painting that will be mounted next to their painting. Debbie Strobel and Anne Parat will be delivering the artwork to and picking it up from JBU. If there is anyone else who can assist, please let Caprise Cooper know. More entry details to be announced at a later date.

The complete 2024 OPS/APS Members Exhibit Prospectus is at the end of this newsletter with complete details about the exhibit.

Plan to Enter APS's Three 2024 Shows

The Arkansas Pastel Society and the Ozark Pastel Society will exhibit together again in April of 2024 at John Brown University in Silom Springs with the opening reception on April 5, 2024.

The APS Exhibition at the Thea Foundation is tentatively set for July of 2024. Exhibition reception is scheduled for Friday, July 13, during the third Friday night Artwork.

The APS Juried Member Show is scheduled to exhibit at ACANSA Gallery with the opening reception on November 15, 2024. More information will be coming out in the summer.

Entry Dates for the 2024 Triennial Delta Show

Beginning June 28, 2024 - August 25, 2024, the first Delta Triennial will be held at the new Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (AMFA), bringing new artists and voices to advance the rich legacy of art making in the Mid-South region.



Artwork submissions will be accepted online through February 11, 2024, via

Call for entry (CaFE). Visit the CaFE website to create an account, read the list of rules and review the entry requirements. Read more about it at <https://arkmfa.org/art/exhibitions/delta-triennial-2024/>. See the Call for Entries at https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=12469.

The Art Odyssey 2024 *Call for Artists!*

The Art Odyssey announces a call for artists for the 2024 tour, which will take place September 26-28, 2024.

All artists in the Mountain Home, Arkansas area, including Baxter and surrounding counties, are encouraged to apply. Interested artists should submit an application with photos of three current works of art.

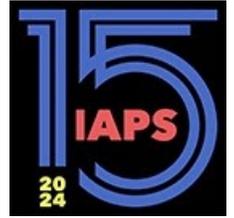
Artists are encouraged to have their own working studio, but artists without studios may apply as well. Artists will be selected through a jurying process.

Applications can be mailed or delivered to:
Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter
County
300 Library Hill Lane
Mountain Home, AR 72653

Applications must be received by February 29, 2024.

[Please click here to view or download the 2024 Artist Application.](#)

The IAPS Fifteenth Biennial Convention Albuquerque, New Mexico June 11 - 16, 2024



It's not too late to make plans to attend the IAPS convention in 2024. Learn more by visiting: <http://www.iapspastel.org/pdf/IAPS-UCT-Scholarship-2024Convention.pdf>.

The Pastel Society of North Carolina
is proud to announce our
8th International Online Juried Exhibition

Pure Color



2024 Official Prospectus: Open to soft pastel artists only – and it's completely online!

Judge of Selections: Albert Handell

Key Dates:

Online Entry Opening June 14 / Deadline August 14

Notice of Acceptance August 28

Exhibition Dates September 1 thru September 30

Awards:

Best in Show \$1300 / 1st \$1000 / 2nd \$700 / 3rd \$500 / 4th \$400 / 6 Honorable Mentions @ \$100

Apply & see full prospectus on www.onlinejuriedshow.com

Caprise Cooper Exhibits with Daughter Generations - A Celebration of Love and Art



Caprise Cooper and daughter Evelyn Laurence stand in front of their drawings at the Generations Exhibit opening reception.

APS member Caprise Cooper recently exhibited with her daughter, Evelyn Laurence, at the Argenta Public Library in downtown North Little Rock, from December 15, 2023 through January 4, 2024.

Generations celebrated art and the special bond between mother and daughter through their love of art. Generations was about sharing the love of art, imagination, and creativity and how this passion has been passed down through the generations of Caprise's family. Included in the exhibit was a piece from her son Clayton and her grandson Bearrett Laurence, who stepped up to the easel with his first painting "The Black Hole."

"Evelyn and I extend our heartfelt thanks to those of you who attended our exhibition. Your

support and enthusiasm made this event truly special. Meeting new people and engaging in conversations about the creative process added an extra layer of joy to the experience. Your appreciation and curiosity fuel our artistic endeavors, and we are grateful for the connections we've made.

Thank you for contributing to the success of our exhibition and making it a memorable

journey. We look forward to more opportunities to share our art and connect with fellow art lovers in the future."

"It was a fantastic night. So many people came out to support us and nine paintings found their forever home!"

Caprise Cooper



Bearrett Laurence, the youngest artist participating in the Generations Exhibit, stands in front of his art.



Caprise Cooper and Evelyn Laurence stand in front of the gallery with their art hanging in the background.

Annette Pettit Selected to Exhibit in 2024 Remembering Lahaina Online Poster Contest and Exhibit



Annette Pettit, *Under the Banyan Tree*, 12"x 16"

APS member Annette Pettit's painting "*Under the Banyan Tree*" was recently selected to exhibit in the 2024 Lahaina Restoration Foundation's Exhibition, "Remembering Lahaina". The foundation's mission is to be stewards and storytellers of Lahaina's Historic & Cultural Heritage.

"It's so odd," stated Annette. "This was a commission for a friend to give his daughter and her family for Christmas. The day after I finished it an email announcement from Online Juried Shows popped up in my email and this was the first contest mentioned."

Domonique Simmons Selected for ACNMWA Registry



APS member Domonique Simmons has been named to the Biennial Juried Artist Registry Recognition by the Arkansas Committee National Museum of Women in the Arts (ACNMWA). The works of 40 Arkansas women artist in their 2023-2025 Juried

Artist Registry will be exhibited by the committee. Juror Matthew Bailey, Ph.D., Gallery Director and Assistant Professor of Art and Design, University of Arkansas Fort Smith selected the artists for inclusion in this biennial registry. According to Bailey, "Jurying this group of artist was an honor and a challenge. All demonstrate the tremendous skill and creativity among self-identifying female artist in Arkansas, whether by artists with established records of creativity or emerging artist with exciting promise.

The 2023 - 2025 Juried Artist Registry can be found at acnmwa.org/juried-artist-registry.

Tricks and Tips

"If you need to change a frame or take one open to take a photo of your painting and discover pastel dust on the glass, a dry Swiffer sheet is great to wipe it off."

Jennie Duncan



"I have found dry erasers by Mr. Clean handy to have in my studio. They can clean pastel paper up and sometimes even a spot on a mat. Blotting works best rather than rubbing."

Susan Hurst

"Cutting your own mat is hard enough so simplify the process. Keep a pencil, kneaded eraser for cleaning up pastel smudges, emery board to file rough paper cuts, ruler, and extra mat blades in the mat cutter box. This way you don't have to search everywhere for the items you need to cut your mat and you can quickly get the job done."

Nancy Martin



Welcome New APS Members

Terri deNatale

"Growing up in a remote area of Northeastern Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior, I was provided with a unique opportunity for exploration of the north woods and the vast number of freshwater lakes that inspired my love of the outdoors, which continues today. It has been my passion to capture this beauty in my paintings to show viewers the raw and bucolic feel of these beautiful woodlands, shorelines and wildlife through the usage of texture and other techniques. It is my hope that my usage of mixed mediums will inspire the viewer to become engaged with the same amount of passion as I do when creating these works. I use many different mediums depending on my subject and situation presented to me. This includes watercolor, pastel, oil, acrylic & cold wax. I call this "cross training". Currently I'm living in rural Northeast Texas with my husband, two Labrador Retrievers and one Black Mouth Cur."

About the artist:

tdenatale@yahoo.com

[instagram: terridartgallery](#)

Jean Lewis

"Growing up, I loved to draw. It was what I did whenever I had free time. A solitary pastime activity that found me creating my own comic book characters in stories that I made up, fashion sketches or drawings of animals. In 4th grade I recall drawing a deer during some free time in class. The teacher saw it and gave me high praise as she showed the class. She didn't stop there. She told me to take it next door to the other 4th grade class and have that teacher and students see it as well! What a day that was! Teacher recognition was everything, and my 15 minutes of fame that day fueled the fire in me. I took nearly every art class offered in high school, and went on to earn a B.S. in Art Education at Northern Illinois University, with a concentration in drawing and painting. Another degree would follow from Governors State University (M.S. in Education), plus numerous hours toward an MFA in drawing and painting at the same university.

Upon graduating from NIU I spent the next 30+ years teaching art in the south suburbs of Chicago, K-12. Then with retirement came the fulfillment of a dream deferred...creating my own art! I've always loved working with the human figure, so I started by taking life drawing sessions at the Tall Grass Arts Association in Park Forest, IL. becoming a Guild Artist at Union

Street Gallery in Chicago Heights, IL and taking pastel sessions with renown pastelist Marikay Peter Witlock. This was the beginning of my love for the medium of pastels. I love how rich the colors are, how forgiving they are when things go wrong, and how I found my technique when using them in my favorite finger blending method of application. I also studied portrait/figurative painting under famed Chicago artist, Clayton Beck III at this time.

My focus more recently has been on portrait and figurative drawings of children from African countries such as Mali and Kenya. In May of this 2023 I was invited by Zakat to join them on a trip to Africa! We went to the west African country of Ghana. Several cities were visited and I met and took photos of a lot of people for future pastel paintings. This was the trip of a lifetime.

My studio space is in Union Street Gallery, 1527 Otto Blvd., a 100 year old former Elks Hall, in Chicago Heights, IL. I have memberships in The Portrait Society of America, Chicago Pastel Painters and the South Side Community Art Center".

Patty Lovelace

"I am Patty Lovelace from Marshall, Texas. I am an art enthusiast and enjoy a variety of mediums, soft pastels and oil being my favorites because of the richness of colors.

I am a member of several local, regional and national art organizations.

I have been honored to receive many awards from area art shows. For the past five years I have been in charge of a weekly live model/drawing session. The participants share, learn, and encourage each other to grow in our artistic abilities.

Through my creative process I often explore subjects such as nostalgia, nature, and people, including family and friends. Experiences working as a school nurse and later in the rodeo industry have given me many opportunities for travel and meeting new people, as well as cultivating my sense of detail, color, textural and thought-provoking paintings.

I am honored to have been juried into the Arkansas Pastel Society's show and am looking forward to being a member. I wish I was closer to be able to participate more. This is the second pastel show that I have been in and I'm looking forward to many more."



Please email any information you have for the newsletter to

Nancy Martin at henson2martin@gmail.com.

Send recommendations for art books or DVDs that you have reviewed (take a picture of them if you can), information on your art accomplishments, shows you have entered, awards you have received, activities in which you are using your art, exhibits you think members might be interested in, workshops you have attended and would recommend, remarks on art products you have tried and why you would or would not recommend them, artists who have inspired you, or general information on APS committees you are working on. I would also like pictures of any APS activities you might like to share with other members, such as exhibit or workshop photos.

2024 APS Officers

The 2024 Slate of Officers was presented at the November 14th APS meeting. Members voted for new officers on December 2 during a brief business meeting at the APS Christmas Party.

*Four members who had not previously served on the APS Board in 2023 will serve in 2024: Dana Johnson, Cornelia Beck, Jenni Duncan and Shirley Bowen.

Officers:

President.....Valerie McNee
Vice President.....Debbie Strobel
Secretary.....Dana Johnson*
Treasurer.....Shirley Anderson

Committee Chairs:

National Show 2025 - Cornelia Beck*
National Show Workshop - Jenni Duncan*
(Assisted by Susan Hurst)
Members Shows/Exhibits - Caprise Cooper
Members Show Workshop - Anne Parat
Mini Workshop Chair - Shirley Bowen.
Sunshine Chair - Gerry DeLongchamp
Newsletter - Nancy Martin
Social Media - Virginia Miller
Membership - Ann Bleed
Web Site - Nancy Martin & Lois Davis
Library - Cathy Spann





2024 OPS/APS Members Exhibit Prospectus

The 2024 OPS/APS Members Exhibit will be held in April at the John Brown University Windgate Fine Arts Gallery in Siloam Springs, AR. The exhibition runs from Thursday, April 4 through Friday, April 26, 2023, with a reception on Thursday, April 11 from 6:00 pm. – 7:30 pm.

Important Highlights:

- John Brown University, Fine Arts Gallery, Windgate Visual Arts West (next to the large monument/flag poles)
- Exhibit Dates: Thursday, April 4 – Friday, April 26, 2024, with a reception Thursday, April 11, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Show Details:

- Open to all OPS and APS members with dues in good standing for 2024.
 - If you are not current with your APS membership dues, you may participate in this exhibit by renewing your membership before March 1, 2024.
 - 2024 APS dues are \$25. Please mail your check to:
Arkansas Pastel Society
Ann Bleed, Membership Chairperson
18 Cove Creek Pt
Little Rock, AR 72211
- Each member is invited to submit two paintings for display. Each member will have at least one painting exhibited in the show, their second painting will be hung based on the remaining space available in the gallery. Note: We are not expecting to have any issues with being able to hang all the artwork.
- This is a non-juried show. We are working through logistics to have the public vote for their favorite paintings.
- There is no entry fee.
- Works can be for sale or not for sale (NFS).
- All sales will be made directly with the artist.
- There will be no commissions charged for any paintings sold during the show.
- All paintings must hang for the duration of the show, even if sold.
- Painting wall labels will be provided by JBU and the Ozark Pastel Society.
- Work that was done in a classroom, workshop, or an online group scenario is not eligible.
- All subjects and styles are eligible, from traditional to contemporary. Paintings deemed inappropriate for the exhibition venue will not be displayed.
- JBU, OPS, and APS will take every precaution to ensure your artwork is safe and handled carefully while in their care, yet they do not assume any responsibility for artwork that is lost or damaged.

Important Dates:

- Anne Parat and Debbie Strobel will be transporting your artwork to and from JBU.
- APS members send your painting information (max. of 2 paintings) to Caprise Cooper (caprisecooper@att.net) by Wednesday, March 3rd. Include:
 - artist's name
 - phone number
 - painting title
 - size (h x w)
 - price or NFS
 - hanging preference number (which is your 1st and 2nd choice to be hung)
- Drop your painting(s) off at Anne Parat's home in Little Rock on Saturdays or Sundays from March 9th through March 17th, as well as, Monday, March 18.
 - Call Anne to coordinate the date and time of the drop-off. 501-343-5900.
 - 807 Shea Drive, Little Rock
 - **YOUR PAINTINGS MUST BE LABELED WITH THE SAME INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED FOR ENTRY AND PACKED FOR TRANSPORTATION.**
- Hanging of the exhibit: Tuesday, April 2 – OPS will hang the show.
- The Exhibit opens Thursday, April 4. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am -5:00 pm, Sunday 2:00 pm-4:00 pm, or by special arrangements with Charles Peer (cpeerstudio@gmail.com)
- Opening reception: Thursday, April 11, 6:00-7:30 pm
- Exhibit closes: Friday, April 26, 5:00 pm
- Anne and Debbie will bring the paintings back to Anne's home the weekend of April 27th. As it gets closer, we will send you information for you to pick up your paintings from Anne's home.

We will be asking for volunteers to do demos during the reception and create "storyboards" visually explaining their process of painting that will be mounted next to their painting (i.e. photo reference, photos of work in progress, photo of finished painting additional comments or explanations), and help with a hands-on "try it, you'll like it" pastel experience. PLEASE volunteer!!

Entry Requirements:

- Paintings must not have been exhibited in any previous Members Only show.
- Paintings must be a minimum of 80% pastel.
- Each member may submit up to two (2) paintings.
- Entries must be suitably framed under glass or plexiglass and ready to hang with wire hangers.
- No sawtooth hangers.
- Each painting must that the appropriate label information attached to the back left side of the painting. The label must include:
 - Your name
 - Phone number
 - Painting title
 - Price
 - Hanging number preference - 1 (guaranteed to be in the show) and 2 (will be in the show if space is available).

If you have questions, please contact Caprise Cooper at caprisecooper@att.net

Accommodations

If you are planning to come to the opening reception, here are some options for places to stay.

- Holiday Inn Express (SILOAM SPRINGS, AR)
- Hampton Inn (SILOAM SPRINGS, AR)
- Cherokee Hotel and Casino (West SILOAM SPRINGS, OK)
- Best Western Stateliness Lodge (West SILOAM SPRINGS, OK)