



## *APS Newsletter – November-December, 2025*

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From the President:

Dear Artists,

The APS 11th National Juried Show was a big success. Congratulations to all the winners and a special thank you to Cornelia Beck, Kate Stewart, and all the volunteers for coordinating this wonderful event.

☀️ **WE NEED YOU!** Help Shape the Future of Our Society ☀️

We are closing the gap on our needs. Thank you to all those that have stepped into our open roles.

If you have a passion for serving, organizational and computer skills, and a willingness to learn, we have a place for you. Don't worry — you won't be left on your own. Our current members are ready to work alongside you and pass the torch with full support. We also have role descriptions and step-by-step documentation to guide you every step of the way.

Whether you're looking to give back, grow your skills, or just get more involved — now is the perfect time to jump in.

Here are the roles we are looking to fill and contact information for you to reach with any questions.

- **CRITICAL NEED: APS Website and Facebook - contact Vic Mastis (vicpastel@aol.com)**
  - If you have website experience or are computer savvy, we need you!
  - Maintaining the website, monitoring email, and adding/removing content.
  - Maintain the Facebook APS Talk and APS pages.
- **National Show Workshop 2027 - Valerie McNee (vm5556@gmail.com)**
  - Works closely with National Show Chair. Works through logistics with the artist on accommodations, price, number of days, location, etc.
  - Note the coordinator attends the workshop to assist with any needs of the artist, members and location, they are able to participate in the workshop as time allows free of charge.
  - The Committee Chair may select any number of members they see fit to accomplish the tasks outlined below.

Together, we can continue to build a strong, creative, and connected community.

In the Love of Art,

*Caprise*

## Christmas Party at Anne's House!

Saturday we met at Anne Parat's house for our annual Christmas party. We voted to approve next year's officers for the positions that have been filled so far, but noted that we still need someone to manage social media and the webpage. We also talked about adding a mini-workshop about getting unstuck when your art is lagging. Cynthia Kresse won the drawing for the door prize. Then we visited, snacked, mingled, snacked some more, and even watched birds at the feeder outside Anne's window. It was a fun and festive day, and a great way to wrap up the year.



Bird-watching from the window



## **National Juried Show at Argenta Library:**

Our 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Juried Show is on view through Friday, December 12 at the Argenta Library on Main Street in North Little Rock. Our opening reception was held on Friday, November 21. The prizewinning paintings are pictured below and on the following pages.



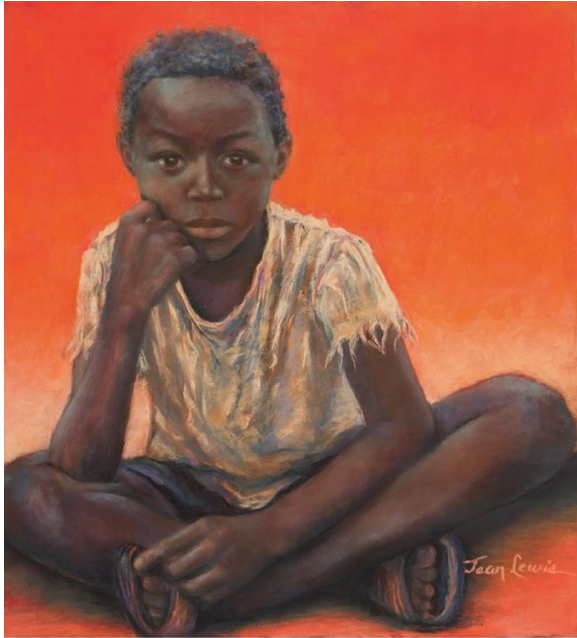
**Best of Show - Jason McCann - Aiden, Nintendo, and the Oversized Chair**

Also that evening, the following new Signature Members were announced: **Jenni Duncan, Nancy Blackford Siferd, Cathy Nugent, Dominique Simmons, and Clarence Cash.** Congratulations to all!



**First Place – Dominique Simmons – Broken**





**Second Place-Jean Lewis - Chris Cross**



**Third Place – Connie McCann**

**View of the Picnic**



**Arkansas Artist'  
Award --**

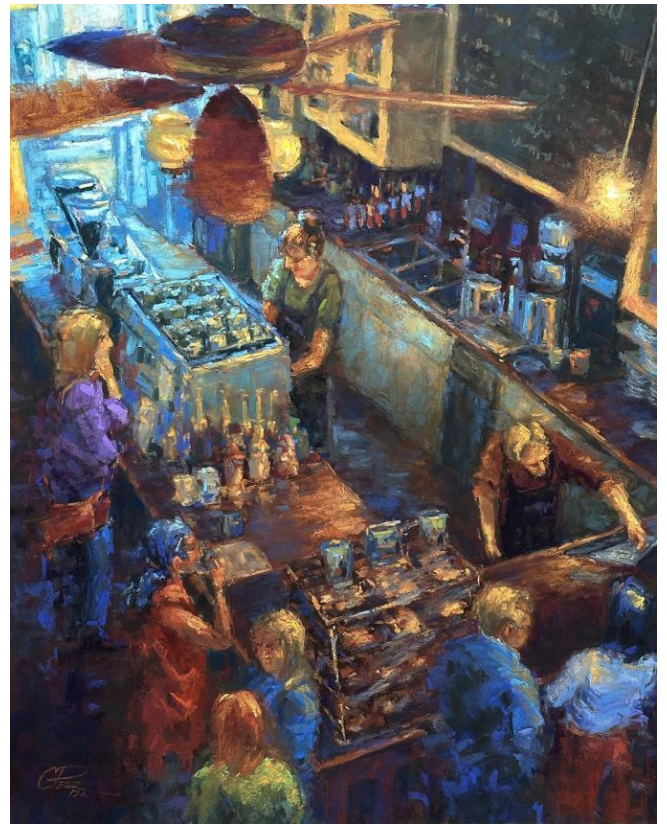
**Susan Hurst  
Perfect Stillness  
(right)**



## Honorable Mentions:



**Mary Dornhoffer – Morning Promise**



**Charles Peer – Morning Rush**

**Caprice Cooper -- Holmes 440  
Wrecker (left)**

The contents of the entire show may be viewed on the APS webpage by clicking on the 'Show Catalog' link under the show description. If you haven't checked the webpage lately, you might want to check it out. It has been recently updated with new information on recent events.

[www.arkansaspastelsociety.org](http://www.arkansaspastelsociety.org).



## News From Charles Peer: The 2026 OPS & APS Members

Exhibit will be held at Arts On Main, 415 Main St., Van Buren, AR, 72761, AR, May 8 – June 27, 2026 with an opening reception on



Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 PM. This is a beautiful facility, and we will be exhibiting in two of their three main floor galleries. Shown are photos of the front facade of the main building, the lobby and the two galleries in which our work will be displayed.





## Colette Ody Smith Workshop:



(NOTE: the two paintings were photographed from a computer screen; causing the whites to appear blue)

“Artists have a superpower – the ability to see something before it happens.” (quote from Colette during the workshop)

Colette likes to paint on a square format because “It’s easier to break the rules in a square.” To create texture in specific areas, she layers pastel with fixative, in alternating layers, but doesn’t use fixative at the finish. She also mentioned that she will be teaching a workshop in Door County, Wisconsin, in August. Sounds like a great way to beat the heat of an Arkansas summer!

**Also coming up next summer, the final IAPS Convention will be held in Albuquerque June 16-21.**

What can I say? If you haven’t been to IAPS before, you definitely want to go to this one. If you have been before, you definitely want to go to this one. If you’re going, please let Anne Parat know, as she is coordinating activities among members during the convention. Hope to see you there! Cathy Spann

**P.S.:** One more personal note: It was my joy and privilege to play my keyboard during our National Show opening. Thank you to everyone for the opportunity, and for your encouragement and support.

**From Our Membership Chair:** It's time to renew your membership in the Arkansas Pastel Society for the year 2026.

Please send your name, any changes we should make to your contact information, and a check for \$25.00 made out to the Arkansas Pastel Society to:

Ann Bleed, Membership Chair  
18 Cove Creek Pt.  
Little Rock, AR 72211



## **2026 Calendar of Events**

### **January**

- No Member Meeting
- 1/12 Board Meeting - Annual Planning Session

### **February**

- No Member Meeting

### **March**

- 3/3 Member Meeting - Inventorying, Organizing, and Shipping - Jean Lewis (Virtual)

### **April**

- 4/7 Member Meeting - Painting Mountains - Clint Howard (Virtual)
- 4/13 Board Meeting
- TBD Clarence Cash Mini Workshop

### **May**

- 5/5 Member Meeting - Use of iPad for Paintings - Tom Herrin (In Person)
- 5/8 OPS/APS Non Juried Member Show Opens (AOM Gallery Van Buren)
- 5/15 OPS/APS Non Juried Member Show Reception

### **June**

- 6/2 Member Meeting - Sharing Techniques/Ideas - APS Members (In Person)
- 6/16 - 6/21 IAPS

- 6/27 OPS/APS Non Juried Member Show Closes

## **July**

- No Member Meeting
- 7/13 Board Meeting
- TBD Non Juried Member Show at Thea Gallery

## **August**

- 8/4 Member Meeting - Framing Paintings - Susan Hurst (In Person)

## **September**

- 9/8 Member Meeting - Composition and Fragmentation - Holly Tiley Tentative (In Person)
- 9/1 - 9/15 Annual Membership Survey

## **October**

- 10/6 Member Meeting - Capturing Light - Charles Peer Tentative (Virtual)
- 10/12 Board Meeting - Kick-off of solicitation of board members

## **November**

- 11/17 Member Meeting - Demo by Member Juried Show Judge Aaron Shuerr (In Person)
- TBD Member Juried Show and Workshop with Aaron Shuerr

## **December**

- TBD Christmas Party and Annual Meeting