



## *APS Newsletter - March, 2026*

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### **From the President:**

Dear Artists,

Spring is making its debut! Flowers and trees are beginning to bloom under the warmth of the sun, and with them comes that familiar energy—the urge to get outside and paint, to capture the season as it unfolds.

A quick reminder that the **IAPS 2026 PastelWorld** entry deadline is right around the corner—**April 1st**. This is truly one of the largest celebrations of pastel art in the world, and I encourage each of you to consider submitting your work and being part of this incredible global community. You can enter at [ShowSubmit.com](http://ShowSubmit.com).

Our next Member Meeting will be held virtually on April 7th at 6:00 pm, featuring *Painting Mountains with Clint Howard*. It promises to be an inspiring and educational session—one you won't want to miss.

Looking ahead, the OPS/APS Non-Juried Membership Show at the AOM Gallery in Van Buren is coming up in May. Be on the lookout for the prospectus in the coming days.

Please also take a moment to review the 2026 calendar, filled with exciting opportunities including mini workshops, engaging monthly guest artists, our

juried membership show, and more. There is something for everyone, whether you're looking to learn, connect, or showcase your work.

If you have a passion for serving and would like to become more involved, we would love to have you. Whether your strengths are in organization, technology, or simply a willingness to learn, there is a place for you here. You won't be doing it alone—our current team is ready to support you every step of the way.

We are currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- APS/OPS Joint Non-Juried Shows 2027
- National Show Workshop 2027

If you're interested or would like more information, please reach out to Valerie McNee at [vm5556@gmail.com](mailto:vm5556@gmail.com).

Thank you for being part of this vibrant and supportive artistic community. Your passion and participation are what make it so special.

In the Love of Art,  
Caprise

## **CALL FOR ARTISTS:**

### **MFA Art Market, September 11–13, 2026**

After the success of last year's inaugural event, Little Rock's AMFA Art Market returns this September with space for up to 50 artists!

AMFA is calling for artists from across the country – ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, painting, photography, sculpture, and more are all permitted media.

Applications are being accepted online via [ZAPP](#) through Friday, May 8, 2026.

**Anne Parat will still be coordinating member activities** during the IAPS Convention in June. If you're looking for someone to room and/or travel with, check with Anne to see what might be available.

## Pastel 100 “Founder’s Award” Winner, Clint Howard



Super congratulations this month go to Clint Howard, whose painting “Unfolding” (above) won the Founders Award in the 2026 Pastel 100 competition in this Spring’s *Pastel Journal*. In addition to a six-page feature article in this issue, written by Robert Carsten, Clint was also featured in an online article from Streamline Publishing at the link below.

[http://ac.streamlinepublishing.com/p\\_v.php?c=19706&m=22552&s=299095c2af82ceb8cba3b55aa7bfbbc0&d=0&v=2&l](http://ac.streamlinepublishing.com/p_v.php?c=19706&m=22552&s=299095c2af82ceb8cba3b55aa7bfbbc0&d=0&v=2&l)

Best of all for us, Clint will be presenting the program at our next member’s meeting on April 7 at 6:00 PM. This will be a virtual (online) meeting featuring Clint painting mountains, so you don’t want to miss it!



# Two Arkansas Pastel Society Shows Coming Up.

## Don't Get them Confused!

The Arkansas Pastel Society will be taking part in two shows this summer.

On May 8th the annual Ozark Pastel Society/Arkansas Pastel Society non juried members show opens at the AOM Gallery in Van Buren. The reception for this show will be held at the OAM Gallery on May 15 and the show will run through June 27th.

During the month of July the Arkansas Pastel Society will exhibit at the Thea Foundation. This will be an APS non juried members only show running from June 29 through July 24. The reception for this show will be on Friday, July 17.

Keep an eye out for the prospectus for both of these exhibits which will give you the details and deadlines for each. Please plan to submit work to both.



## March Mini-Workshop

Fifteen APS members enjoyed participating in an "Arkansas Landscapes" workshop on March 21, with insightful presentations from Clarence Cash on the Hudson River School and Susan Hurst on American landscape painting more generally.

They demonstrated two distinct techniques for starting paintings and shared their expertise with members as they worked on their own pieces.



Susan's underpainting



Clarence's underpainting



All agreed that it was a very fun (and fruitful!) workshop.



Show and Tell



**Anne Parat needs you, APS Member, to volunteer to teach 2 or 3 two-hour demos at LifeQuest this fall.** A few people have been carrying this program for many years now and they are getting burned out! You don't need to be a fabulous talent! You just need to share your experience and be able to talk about how you approach painting. The class meets on Thursday, 1:00-3:00 PM. LifeQuesters are inquisitive nonjudgmental people who are anxious to learn. Many have joined APS and are contributing to our group. It's a win/win association! Please consider contacting Anne Parat, 501-343-5900 to volunteer!

**From Jenni Duncan:**

**Seis Puentes Hispanic Education Center** is still offering art classes over two years since we led a pastel course there. One of the drawbacks for teaching is that students buy materials at dollar stores or other stores they are familiar with. These are not often what a teacher is using and makes it harder for their efforts to be as successful as they could be. If you have materials, especially paper, that you bought and don't like, we would love them! Contact Jenni Duncan at [jduncan7400@gmail.com](mailto:jduncan7400@gmail.com). Teachers are always welcomed, too!

One way to help APS reach out to new members is through LifeQuest pastel classes. Feedback from our members who have taught the LifeQuest beginner's class is that sometimes better supplies are needed than the beginners choose on their own. We've budgeted funds to help, but if you have supplies you want to pass on, we would gratefully receive them to stretch our dollars.

The **APS Scholarship Committee** has funds to help both APS and not-yet-APS members take advantage of our mini and major workshops. We also help support LifeQuest pastel classes through donations of supplies. Our goals include helping our own members improve their skills but also drawing in people new to the pastel medium and connecting them with our group. Ask Jenni Duncan for an application at [jduncan7400@gmail.com](mailto:jduncan7400@gmail.com) or find the application in our website and Arkansas Pastel Society Facebook page.

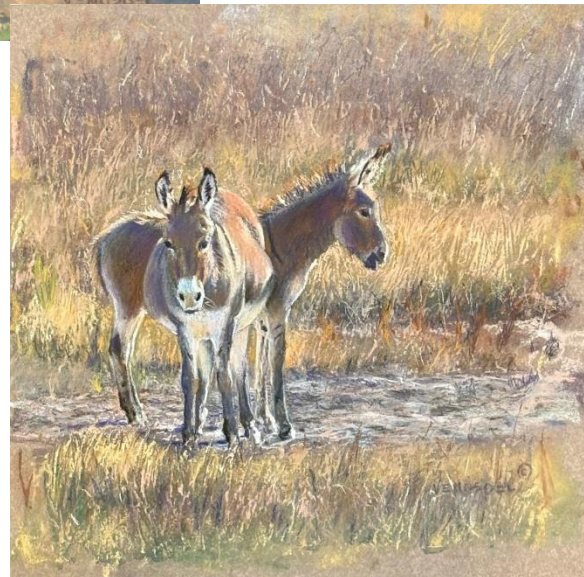
**MEMBER NEWS: From Burneta Venosdel, *Smoky Grand*, 9x12, pastel** was

Juried into the 10th Open International Show of the Arizona Pastel Artists Association, at the Phippen Museum in Prescott, Arizona. The Show runs February 28, 2026-April 19, 2026. This is the third year I have been in the prestigious International show. Judge was Karen Budan. You can see her informative talk at [www.apaa.wildapricot.org](http://www.apaa.wildapricot.org).



My two paintings are: ***Beep! Beep!!* 6x12, pastel** and ***Donkeys X3*, 10x10, pastel.**

I also got two I paintings in the Desert Dreams Miniature Masterpieces Exhibition, of Distinguished and Signature Members of the APAA which runs May 9, 2026-July 12, 2026, at the beautiful Ironwood Gallery, Tucson, Arizona. This is the first time to exhibit as a Signature having attained my Signature in November 2025.



**FROM CAPRISE COOPER;**  
**Caprise Cooper and Evelyn Laurence**  
**(A mother and daughter exhibition.)**  
**Argenta Library Gallery**  
**420 Main Street, North Little Rock**  
**March 20, 2026 – April 3, 2026**

**Architecture, Rust, Treasures (ART)** is an exhibition that explores the wonders of nature and the hidden treasures found within the landscapes that connect us. This collection reflects a shared passion for discovering lost, weathered, reclaimed subjects and reimagining them as something new.

ART is a mother-and-daughter exhibition that celebrates the beauty hidden in our world, from forest finds to overlooked architectural details. Through a variety of compositions and subjects, the artists express a deep appreciation for history, transformation, and the stories objects and places hold over time.

The exhibition features imagery of old structures that have existed for generations, some of which once belonged to our own family. A series of works inspired by rusted vehicles began with a 1951 Mercury converted truck bed discovered on our homestead. The collection moves across pastel, pencil, ink, and acrylic, reflecting the richness and versatility of our artistic voices.

Representing the next generation is seven-year-old Bearrett Laurence, the third-generation descendant of the Cooper family. He will be exhibiting in this show with his third painting, marking the continuation of a family tradition rooted in creativity.

ART is a celebration of imagination, craftsmanship, and the special bond between mother, daughter, and grandson, illustrating how a love of art is passed down through generations. We hope this exhibition—and the stories behind it—leave you inspired, moved, and deeply touched. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm, except March 30th and 31st.



## 2026 Calendar of Events and Key Dates

### April

- 4/7 Member Meeting-Painting Mountains - Clint Howard, virtual
- 4/13 Board Meeting

### 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 in Albuquerque
- 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 - Capturing Light - Charles Peer (In Person)
- TBD – Mini Workshop – Rust – Caprise Cooper

### September

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

### October

- 10/6 Member Meeting - Framing Paintings - Susan Hurst (In Person)
- 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