

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Watercolor by Helen Chu-Hirschberg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In our last newsletter, I decided it would be interesting and informative to have a different Board Member introduce themselves each time in place of my message. This will enable you to get to know them better. Mark Coffey, our Member at Large, shared last time. In this newsletter, Helen Chu, our Secretary, will introduce herself. I know she will have many interesting stories to tell.

Wishing everyone a creative and happy year in 2025.

Donna Arganbright

INTRODUCING BOARD MEMBER HELEN CHU-HIRSCHBERG

Introducing Helen Chu-Hirschberg, Lamorinda Arts Alliance Secretary. Chu-Hirschberg tells us, "I'm primarily a watercolorist, with occasional forays into Prismacolor. I paint mostly food, and sometimes other subjects. I've been on the board

for about 2 years now, getting to know the other board members professionally and personally. You may have seen me around, helping at openings. I have been a featured artist at Lamorinda Arts Council and Lamorinda Arts Alliance events. Happy to share my work.

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Chu-Hirschberg continues, "In the capacity of secretary, I write the minutes of board meetings. Sometimes they can be complicated, as some issues involve much back-and-forth discussion, thinking on the go, new ideas, rethinking, and reactions. Not

only do I take notes of the most relevant points, aiming for accuracy, I later rely on the internet to check or fill in details, (spelling, etc.), to create a more cohesive summary. I usually take about a day to digest what everyone has said, assimilate and organize it into intelligible form. I think of myself as the glue that holds everything together, as others will rely on the minutes to refer to what has been accomplished, who volunteered for specific tasks, dates, events, next meeting dates, deadlines. In this way, I enjoy being a meaningful part of Lamorinda Arts Alliance."

-Helen Chu-Hirschberg

"WINTER LIGHTS" AT MORAGA ART GALLERY



"Moon Mountain" by Pat Prosek



"Attitude Figures" by Donna Arganbright

The Moraga Art Gallery will turn a corner at noon on Wednesday, January 8th with the opening of **"Winter Lights."** The first of its kind in Lamorinda, the exhibit will highlight the artwork by thirty-seven LAA artists as well as artwork by the gallery's seventeen members. The LAA portion of the exhibit was juried by Moraga Art Gallery curators K. de Groot and Danguole Rita Kuolas.

Featured in the exhibit, which ends on March 23rd, are works by two gallery stalwarts: Donna Arganbright, whose colorful ceramics and stoneware adorn homes throughout the area, and Pat Prosek, a printmaker specializing in wildlife images with an Asian flair. Also, more than two dozen gallery members and LAA artists have prepared a diverse media-rich collection of colorful paintings, photos, etchings, glassware, jewelry, woodworking, and more.

To help celebrate this diverse, media-rich collection of art in many genres, the gallery, located at 432 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center, invites the public to a **free gala reception on Saturday, January 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Participating LAA 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.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For more information visit <http://www.moragaartgallery.com>, or call (925) 376-5407.

"CARQUINEZ COLOR" NOW AT MAIN STREET ARTS



"Martinez Shoreline" by Nancy Roberts

Happy New Year! Main Street Arts proudly welcomes Nancy Roberts as our guest artist. Nancy's show, **"Carquinez Color"**, is a collection of acrylic landscapes that celebrate the beauty of the Carquinez Strait region from Crockett and Martinez to Benicia and Vallejo. Created in her signature bold and colorful style, her compositions focus on natural shoreline environments, bridges, piers, serene water views, and vintage townscape.

"Carquinez Color" opens January 3rd and runs through February 28th. **The gallery will host a reception on Saturday, January 4th from 12:00-2:00pm.**

Main Street Arts members have worked diligently to generate unique and inspiring work to cover our walls for our latest show. Take a look at our webpage to get a peak at our new art pieces.

This month's "art give-away" will a painting by Bonnie Fry called "Sleeping". Be sure to sign up for the drawing when you visit the gallery!



"Sleeping" January Free Drawing by Bonnie Fry

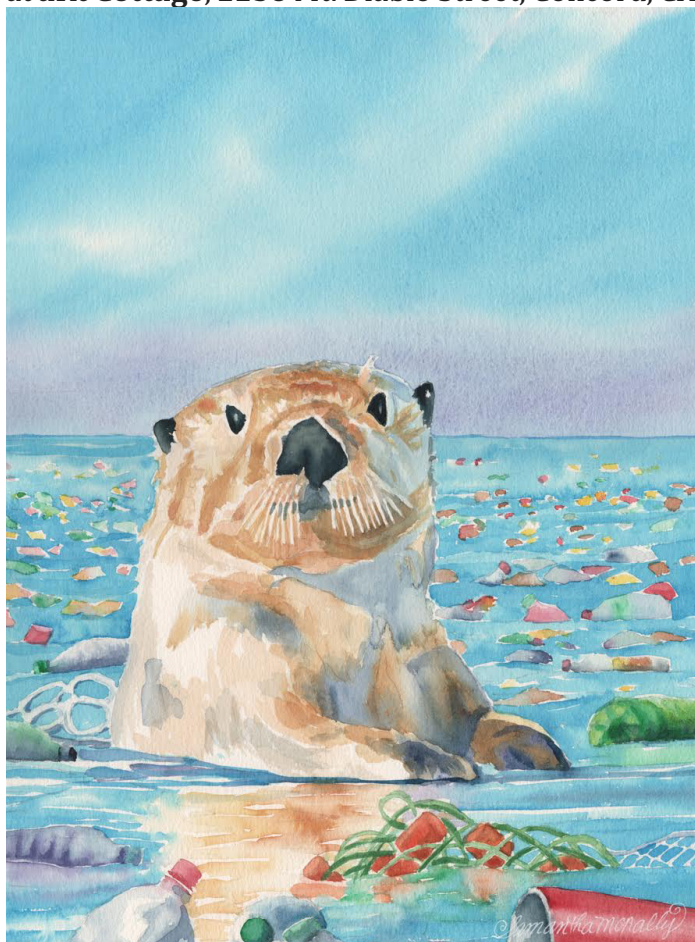
For more information, please visit:
www.mainstreetarts.net

Main Street Arts
613 Main Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Wednesday-Saturday 11-4
Sunday 10-3
First Fridays 6-9

BOOK READING AND SIGNING AT ART COTTAGE!

On **Saturday, January 18 at 6pm** Russell Knudsen is thrilled to read excerpts of "Bobbie Otter and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch" in the wonderful community of Concord. The reading will take place at **aRt Cottage**, 2238 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord, CA



"Bobbie Otter" by Samantha McNally

Knudsen is thankful for the opportunity to share the story, the beautiful artwork by Samantha McNally and the great cause they are supporting for Ocean Voyages Institute.

The Great Pacific Garbage is twice the size of Texas and Ocean Voyages Institute travels out there every summer to remove several tons of plastic debris for recycling and repurposing. Authors, Russell and Jeremy believe that humanity will take better care of our Mother Earth.....just like Bobbie Otter! Samantha McNally will be there too with the

original paintings that are featured in the book. Bring the kids! Books will be autographed and available to purchase.

aRt Cottage in Concord.

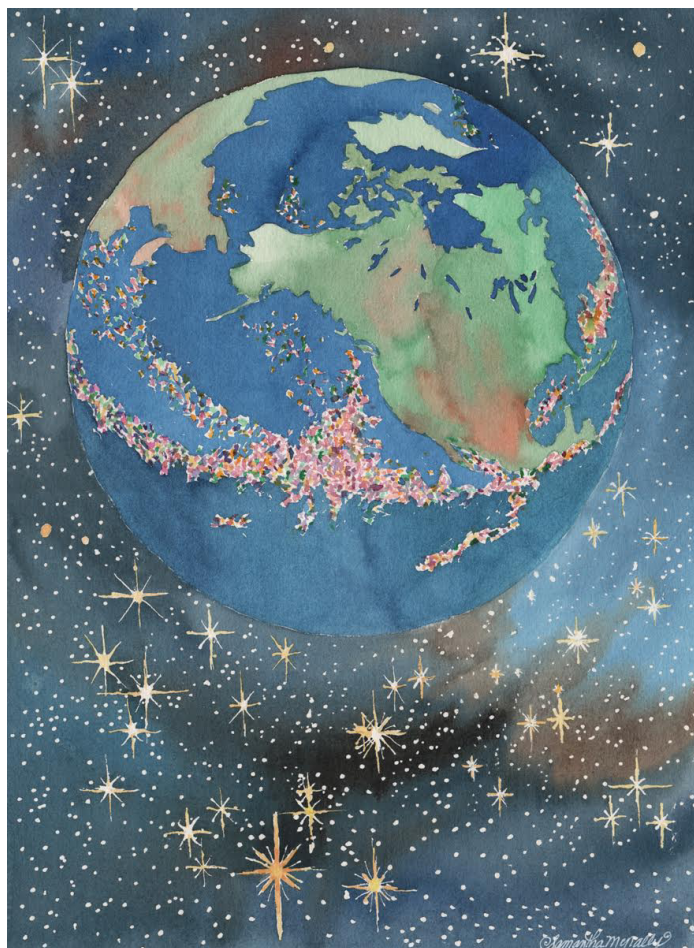
2238 Mt. Diablo Street Concord, CA 94520

www.aRtcottage.info

[\(925\) 956-3342](tel:9259563342)

artcottageconcord@gmail.com

Open Wednesday - Saturday 11am - 5pm



"Giant Garbage Patch" by Samantha McNally

"DISPATCH FROM MOROCCO" BY CAROL JENKINS

I was recently dropped into a different world. One day I was living life in a small mountain town in Northern California. The next, (after unbearably long hours on a packed plane plus a time change), I was wandering through a maze of narrow alleyways in one of the oldest cities in Morocco! It

was the profusion of color that struck me first: spices, olives and pomegranates, intricately patterned rugs and pale silk jellabas spilled out of tiny shops everywhere. And the cacophony of voices!



"Sea Heather" by Carol Jenkins

Braying donkeys, drumming musicians, the drone of amplified chants calling people to prayer 5 times a day. The tumult of sights and sounds was lush and exciting. And yet, there was something more that stirred my imagination.

What I ended up valuing most about my time in Morocco was the way my limited views of this Islamic culture were stretched. Simple stories were replaced by more complex ones. Generalizations were abandoned. As I interacted with our guides and taxi drivers, the children in remote villages and the artisans in the markets, respect and empathy for the people living in this unfamiliar land naturally grew.

Travel can be eye-opening. Even a glimpse into a different culture can help us develop a more expansive and flexible view of the world. I think art offers a similar, and equally important opportunity to step outside of ourselves and look around with fresh eyes— without the jetlag!

One of the reasons we read fiction, for example, is to experience lives we will never have ourselves. We develop a kind of intimacy with the characters in a story, we identify and empathize with their flawed humanity. Even when we don't like a character, there really is no room for an "us versus them" mentality. I love the way writer Elik Shafak puts it: "At the heart of literature there is a desire to debunk dualities...[to] cultivate understanding and empathy and build connections that honor complexity and nuance."

It is not just literature that extends our experience of the world. Even the most stoic of us can feel a wave of longing as a dancer reaches with her whole body toward something beyond words. A piece of music, a certain instrument, a singer's voice can suddenly make our heart ache. The visual arts transport us beyond ourselves too. We are drawn to a painting or sculpture precisely because it connects us with someone else's imagination, another person's encounter with the pathos, the whimsy, the beauty of our shared world.

Allowing ourselves to be moved by the arts does not solve all the problems on our troubled planet. But it does something essential, nonetheless. When we value the creative expression of others, we let in another person's way of seeing, of hearing, of feeling alive. We can celebrate different sensibilities without losing our inherent connection—our common desire for security and love. Empathy, that hallmark of our humanity, naturally grows.

-Carol Jenkins

Jenkins painting, "Sea Heather," (shown above) was accepted into the [West Coast Biennial Exhibit](#) at Turtle Bay in Redding. The show will be up from January 31-May 11, 2025.

WALNUT CREEK PUBLIC ART TOUR



"Hand of Peace" by Beniamino Bufano

Five hearty LAA art-loving members showed up on a crisp November morning for an enlightening tour of public art along the Main St. area of Walnut Creek and the public library. It was illuminating for us because we all discovered previously unnoticed art treasures along the way.

The tour lasted two hours and we pledged to sign up for the series of walking tours offered by the Bedford Gallery when they begin anew in the spring.

There are four walking art tours headed by knowledgeable gallery docents each year. Each covers a distinct area of the city and reveals significant works of sculpture, murals, paintings and the interesting stories that go with those works.

So stay tuned as we head past Winter and into the warming days of Spring. More information will be forthcoming about the next public art walking tour.

-Sharon Tama

Vice-President of Outreach and Education

LAA MEMBER SUELLEN COX

Suellen Cox is exhibiting her recently completed artist's book *Erasing Memory* at San Rafael's Falkirk Cultural Center's juried exhibition *Memories* January 10-February 21. *Erasing Memories* is a critique of efforts to target, challenge, and/or ban books by people of color.

Suellen will also have an assemblage---*The Best Season*--- in the Arts Benicia juried show *Forma Natura: Nature as Source* exhibition which runs from January 25 to March 3. The assemblage which includes a poem by the artist, was inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem *Hope is a Thing with Feathers*.

2025 LAA EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

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: February 17 - 24

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 SHOW AT The Gallery at City Hall,
San Ramon**

Theme: "In the Mix"

Exhibit Timeframe: November 4 – December 18

Entry Period: August

Reception: To Be Determined

**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.

**CALL FOR ART FOR 2025 LAA MEMBER
ART PASSAGES EXHIBIT**



The Lamorinda Arts alliance is pleased to invite members to submit their entries for the 3 month show at County Administration Building in Martinez.

The Exhibit Dates: April 8 to July 7, 2025

The Entry Period: February 17 – 24, 2025

Reception: There will be a reception, though at this time the date has not been determined.

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Registration Fee is \$10.00 for LAA members
To learn more about show requirements and Arts Passages please click on:
[https://mcusercontent.com/d8a06e7eda43677fef952a737/files/9ae9eec8-ade0-7c15-7d04-c7366111b5a2/LAA Prospectus Arts Passages 2025 .pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/d8a06e7eda43677fef952a737/files/9ae9eec8-ade0-7c15-7d04-c7366111b5a2/LAA_Prospectus_Arts_Passages_2025.pdf)

CALL FOR ART FOR PAPILLON CAFE

LAA is welcoming the New Year with a Landscape show at Papillon Cafe. The Oxford dictionary defines a landscape to be all the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal.

We are looking for paintings, fine art prints, photography and mixed media pieces that celebrate the light, colors and shapes of our natural world. The Gallery does not encourage abstract work. The show will be three months long from January 2025 to April 2025.

[Prospectus](#) Enter on the [members home page](#).

Entries will be accepted from Wednesday **January 1st** to Wednesday **January 8th**, 2025.

Notifications of Acceptance/Non-Acceptance will be e-mailed by Friday **January 10th**, 2025.

Delivery of Work (In-take) will take place on Tuesday **January 14th** 2025 at 12:30pm.

Work is to be exhibited from Tuesday **January 14th**, 2025 to Thursday **April 24th**, 2025. Artists are to pick up unsold work (Take-down) on Thursday **April 24th**, 2025 at 12:30pm.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Happy New Year and Happy Creating! On behalf of the LAA board, we hope members will take advantage of all the opportunities to exhibit work with LAA this coming year. All the best to all!