

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Pondering the Abstract" by Ruth Stanton (At aRt Cottage September 5 - October 30, see pg. 2 for details)

This time of year always brings reflection as the fall settles in, the sun shifts, the afternoon light casts longer shadows and the winds pick up--change is in the air!

It's been quite a year since Donna Arganbright handed over the reins to me. LAA has had wonderful opportunities to appear before the civic leaders: Including the County Board of Supervisors last fall (in recognition of Donna Arganbright's contribution to the arts) and to the Lafayette City Council and this past month. LAA also concluded a wonderful show in the beautiful rotunda of San Ramon City Hall.

Also of note, this past year, are the LAA artists who had the opportunity to show their work in the new Contra Costa County Building, the Benicia Public Library, the Lafayette Library, the All-Ages Recreation Den, the Orinda Public Library, and the

Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Keeping the arts alive in public spaces as well as in the small neighborhood galleries and coffee shops, notably, our loved coffeehouse Papillon, in Lafayette, the beautiful Moraga Art Gallery, and the neighborhood aRt Cottage in Concord, located just two blocks from Todos Santos square. Every venue keeps the work we do relevant and resilient.

Thank you to all participating artist members, as well as to our volunteers-to whom we owe huge appreciation because they ensure the art is carefully recorded at intake, hung with care, and

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who help manage the set up and clean-up at receptions.

Organizing and putting shows together is no small feat. Our VP of Exhibitions, Ruth Stanton, also a brilliant oil painter, contacts potential venues well in advance, usually a year or more before a call goes out, and following that, designs the prospectus, obtains a juror, if applicable, and puts out calls for volunteers. I want to especially recognize Ruth for the tremendous job she does and has done going on (I believe 9 years) serving LAA in this capacity.

Because arranging these exhibitions takes much time and effort, I want to encourage all our LAA member artists and supporters to consider volunteering to help to make sure that for each reception, for example, we have several volunteers to both set up and clean up. And, for those who want to be more involved, please do reach out. Please let any of our board members know how you are interested in contributing as you reflect on your own art journey, or perhaps when you renew your membership.

Thanks to all and I wish everyone a wonderful fall season!

-Lori Larks
LAA President 09/2026

LAA MEMBER EXHIBIT "REFLECTION"
AT ART COTTAGE OPEN SEPTEMBER 5



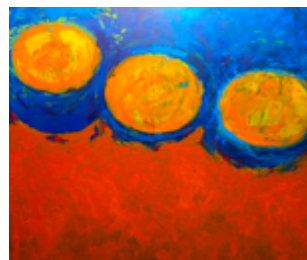
"Spawn in the Water" by Yumiko Nishizawa

LAA is delighted to announce our member show **"Reflection"** at the aRt Cottage **September 5 to October 30.**



"Yosemite Reflections" by Linda Curtis

Reflection has been examined and depicted in art for ages. Whether it be light bouncing from reflective surfaces, an image being replicated by a mirror-like element, or the mind in a time of introspection, contemplation or assessing. It has been said an artist's painting reflects the artist's mind and soul.



"The West" by Tom Quinlavin.



"Cool Carquinez" by Nancy Roberts

We hope you will join us and meet the artists as they share their reflection at the **open-house reception on Saturday, September 12 from 2:00 – 4:00.** Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

Participating Artists: Linda Curtis, Karolyn Dryer, Thomas Freeman, Leslie Golden, Angela Hordoan, Stephen Humble, Nora Krauss, Roswitha M. Kress, Jan Lainoff, Lori Larks, Ruth McMillin, Samantha McNally, Nina Moskalenko,

John Nicolini, Yumiko Nishizawa, Kristen Ockert, Marina Omelianenko, Tom Quinlavin, Nancy Roberts, Ruth Stanton, Tao Takaoka, Sharon Tama, Beth Zelinski

MAIN STREET ARTS GALLERY
FEATURES QIAN GAO AND DEAN EVANS
IN SEPTEMBER

This article by Denise Hillman

Main Street Arts Gallery welcomes award-winning painter **Qian Gao** as guest artist in September, along with gallery member **Dean Evans** as the month's featured artist.



"A Rainy Day" by Qian Gao

Gao has painted in watercolor and oils for more than 25 years, developing a style he describes as "controlled, loose painting"—fresh and spontaneous while maintaining a strong sense of structure. A self-taught artist influenced by John Singer Sargent, Edward Seago, John Yardley and Trevor Chamberlain, Gao has won awards in numerous national and international exhibitions. He is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America and California Watercolor Association. [Qian Gao - MAIN STREET ARTS](#)

Featured member artist **Dean Evans** paints the coastal areas and towns surrounding San Francisco Bay, where he grew up and has witnessed dramatic change. He seeks out places that still retain their

distinctive character, using his paintings to capture a sense of the Bay Area's disappearing past.



"New Grass" by Dean Evans

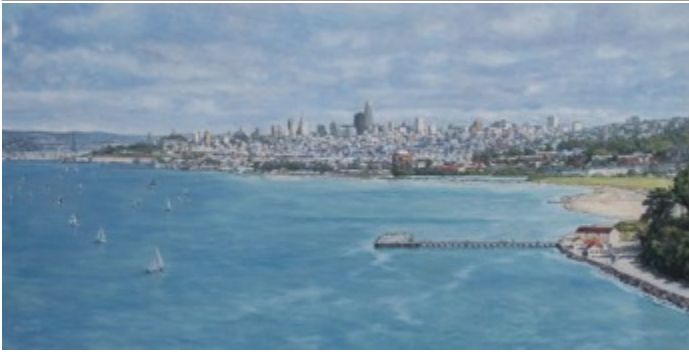
The public is invited to meet the artists at a **First Friday reception September 4 from 6-9 p.m.** Visitors can also enter the gallery's September free drawing for a chance to **win an original oil painting by Dean Evans** called New Grass.

Now in its tenth year, Main Street Arts Gallery continues to welcome art lovers and collectors alike. The cooperative gallery features the work of local and regional artists in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, jewelry, and mixed media.

www.mainstreetarts.net



"CADENCE" NOW SHOWING AT MORAGA ART GALLERY



"SF By the Bay" by Kerima Swain

YOU ARE INVITED to join the festivities at 432 Center Street in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center to view "**Cadence**," featuring two member artists, Kerima Swain and Dalia Alekna along with guest artist, Ruth Stanton, as well as the gallery's new display of paintings, ceramics, jewelry, woodworking, photography, and a great deal more on **September 26, 5-7pm**.

Come to meet more than two dozen member and guest artists while also enjoying the company of neighbors, and fellow art fans. Plentiful refreshments, including wine and light snacks, will be served.

Special bonus: Live music befitting the gallery's cordial ambience performed by Steel-Pan musician Harry Best.

The exhibit will run from August 19-October 25.

Gallery hours are Noon to 5:00 pm, Wednesday to Sunday.

For more information please visit <http://www.moragaartgallery.com>, or call [925-376-5407](tel:925-376-5407).



THANK YOU FOR MAKING "WHISPER OF COLOR" SO SPECIAL!



Karen Thapa and Allison Skidgel hanging member artwork at the Gallery at San Ramon City Hall.

A big **thank you** to all the artists who participated in *Whisper of Color* and to our wonderful volunteers who helped bring the exhibition together! From installation day to the opening reception, it was wonderful to see everyone come together to celebrate art, creativity, and our community.

The exhibition was truly beautiful, filled with thoughtful, subtle, and inspiring works that showed just how much emotion can be expressed through color. We were especially happy to see so many members and guests come out to support the artists at the reception.

Thank you to everyone who helped install the show, welcomed our guests, shared their artwork,

and made the evening so enjoyable. We couldn't have done it without you!



"Whisper of Color" reception with Lori Larks, Jennifer Granat, Dwight Shackelford, Ruth Stanton, Karen Baden-Thapa, Madan Thapa

Here are a few photos from **installation day and the opening reception**. We hope you enjoy this little look back at a beautiful evening!



Thank you for the pictures, Chelsea Pickslay!

What a beautiful show and lovely reception!

A UNIQUE TOUR FOR LAA ARTISTS
SIGN UP NOW!



Join LAA for a unique tour opportunity as we visit the **Conservation Lab of the Oakland Museum of Art** on **Tuesday, September 22nd at 1:00 PM**. This tour is not available to the general public but one granted to us by special request. Lab technicians will discuss artists' materials, what to look for, and what to document for the future. We are welcome to bring our own questions to facilitate a better understanding of the highly specialized field of art conservation, both past and future.

This tour will be strictly limited to just twelve LAA members in good standing, and we only have a few spots left. Please contact Sharon Tama, Vice-President of Outreach and Education, no later than Tuesday, September 8th at: twotamas@gmail.com using the subject heading: *Oakland Museum*.

The Conservation Lab of the Oakland Museum is located at 52 – 9th St., directly across from the Lake Merrit BART station. Additional information regarding parking and BART transportation will be forthcoming.

This should prove to be a very informative and interesting presentation, and I look forward to your participation.

For the love of art,
Sharon

LAA MEMBER LESLIE GOLDEN



"Gable Valley View" by Leslie Golden, Plein Air 2026 18x24 oil

Leslie Golden's plein air painting was accepted to a juried show "**Best of Plein Air 2026**" at the **Art Bias Gallery in San Carlos**. The view depicted in her painting is hidden behind her garage in Lafayette! Leslie Golden will also be exhibiting her new oil paintings at the **Lafayette Art and Wine Festival** this year. Stop in to see her new California seascape and landscape work.



"Cliffs Aglow" by Leslie Golden

As always, she welcomes studio visits by appointment and commissions upon request. Golden can be contacted by phone or online:

[510 589 5580](tel:5105895580) cell
www.lesliegoldenart.com

"WHAT LINGERS..."
BY CAROL JENKINS



"Secrets to Tell" by Carol Jenkins

What Lingers....

My husband happily celebrated his birthday last week. But the very next day he walked around under a dark cloud. He had turned 79 and he was suddenly feeling sad about it. I understood of course--I'm not that far behind him. Accepting the unwanted changes that inevitably come with getting older is hard. Accepting any kind of change that challenges our sense of self, the self we thought was so solid and permanent is really the work of a lifetime. We try all sorts of work-arounds—denial, distraction, a constantly hectic pace. But fortunately, we sometimes reach for acceptance by sharing, seeking and creating. We share our vulnerability with others; we seek something within that does not change; we create something that is part of us and yet does not belong to us at all.

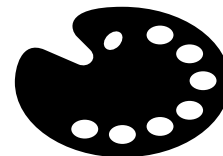
In Buddhism acceptance is not necessarily about liking unwanted change. Acceptance is more akin to letting go—letting go of our agendas, of our insistence that life conform to our personal

preferences. Creativity is especially adept at helping us loosen our grip. Musician Jon Batiste said in a recent interview that he is most creative when he gets out of the way and allows something larger to emerge. He has to be prepared by practicing, of course. Still, in his view the artist is less an inventor than a vessel. Poet Jane Hirshfield says something similar: for her poems arise from a state of attention rather than force of will. Poet Christian Wiman claims that on the other side of a poem he doesn't feel proud, he feels relieved that the poem happened at all. I know that feeling. It feels like I need to re-learn how to paint with every new painting. Each one requires a different approach and I'm relieved when I finally figure that out!

Paintings, essays, plays, dance all reflect and often amplify the world we live in. But works of art go beyond this—they become a living part of the world itself. A painting may not be mine, but it carries into the world the struggle and the love I put into it. Maybe this is true of our lives too. We don't entirely control our lives—we can't prevent the inevitability of change by force of will. But the struggle and the love that we put into our lives lingers. How we share and seek and create becomes a living part of the world.

-Carol Jenkins

CarolJenkinsArt.com
CarolJenkinsStudio
[Please stay in touch!](#)



CALL FOR ART!



"Pivot" Collage + Acrylic by Chelsea Pickslay

Call for Art for Village Theatre & Art Gallery "The Heart of It" show!

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased to invite members to submit their entry for the **"The Heart of It"** show at the Village Theatre & Art Gallery in Danville. To learn more about show requirements, and prospectus please click here: <https://laa4art.org/events.php>

The Exhibit Dates: **Thursday, January 21 to Thursday, March 25, 2027**

The Entry Period: **Thursday, October 1, 2026 to Thursday, October 15, 2026**

Reception: **Thursday, January 21 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

Registration Fee is \$20.00 for LAA members



SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS AT STUDIO 55

Be sure to check out what's going on at Studio 55 this September! Calls for Art, upcoming workshops, and figure drawing are all on the menu this month.

For more information, please click on the Studio 55 logo below:



EDITORS NOTES



"Early Season Pumpkin" 9/1/2026 Photo by Jennifer Granat

Reflect. Enjoy seasonal change. Revel in the unexpected and keep creating!

-Jennifer Granat
LAA Newsletter Editor
3 September 2026