

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Three Figures by Donna Arganbright

We have just ended a beautiful exhibit of LAA Art at the Art Cottage in Concord. A new exhibit, "Delighted by Light" was hung on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 613 Main St. Arts in Martinez. Plan a visit to see LAA's work as well as the other wonderful art at Main St. Arts. Spread the word.

The Moraga Art Gallery at 432 Center St. in the Rheem Shopping Center has just hung a new show entitled "Expressions". Mary Leigh Miller's pottery and Dalia Alekna's paintings are featured along with guest artist Alys Briggs' paintings. A reception will be held on September 14 from 5 – 7 p.m. All are invited. There will be live music, wine, nibbles and of course excellent art.

I thought it might be interesting for membership to know what I do as President of LAA. The Board meets every other month. I set the agendas and conduct the meetings. It is my job to lead and hopefully inspire the Board as we work to create opportunities for our members. The buck stops with me if there are problems or issues that need to be worked out. That said, the Board always acts

on the consensus of members present at our meetings. It is a privilege for me to work with LAA's outstanding Board to lead the Lamorinda Arts Alliance.

Professionally I work in clay and make functional pieces that people can use. I am a retired Art Teacher and taught at all levels from Kindergarten through High School during the course of my career. It was a joy to see the happiness my students found in creating art.

Wishing everyone a good Fall and lots of artistic endeavors in your sights.

-Donna Arganbright

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**"DELIGHTED BY LIGHT" NOW SHOWING  
AT MAIN STREET ARTS**



"Glow" by Leslie Golden 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner People's Choice!

Delighted by Light, the current LAA show at Main Street Arts in Martinez, opened with a reception during Martinez First Fridays and the place was packed! We had a people's choice vote during the reception and here are the winners!

**There were four 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners all tied with 5 votes each:**

Lynn Fulton, Backyard Shadows  
Kim Homes, Look Up  
Maxwell Picksley, Off Elderwood  
Yi Shepard, Sleeps

**2<sup>nd</sup> place with 8 votes goes to:**  
Ebba Navas, Tidepool Sunset

**And the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner got 12 votes:**  
Leslie Golden, Glow

Congratulations to all the winners! It's a great show and we hope you all can come to the next reception at Main Street Arts on the First Friday in October to vote in another people's choice! October 4 from 6-9pm at 613 Main Street in Martinez. You can see the winner's artwork on our website under exhibitions, in the drop down menu along with all of the art in the show. <https://www.laa4art.org/galleries.php?cat=43>

**RECEPTION AT MORAGA ART GALLERY  
CELEBRATES "EXPRESSIONS" EXHIBIT**



Blue and Black Striped Raku Vase by Mary Leigh Miller

To help celebrate "Expressions," the current show, at Moraga Art Gallery, located at 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, the public is invited to enjoy art, congenial music, wine, light

snacks and the company of art lovers of all ages. This is a **free reception on Saturday, September 14th from 5 to 7 pm.**

Ordinarily, the gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For more information about the artists and this exhibit please visit: <http://www.moragaartgallery.com>, or call (925)376-5407.



## FALL SHOW ONGOING AT PAPILLON CAFÉ GALLERY



"Yellow Aspens" by Leslie Golden

**PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**

Robert Anke  
Karen Baden Thapa  
Stephanie Becker  
Phulne Carver  
Helen Chu-Hirschberg  
Karen Giorgianni  
Leslie Golden  
Jeanette Kanozik  
Elizabeth Kennen  
Samantha McNally  
Wenda Pyman  
Michael Robinson  
Jammie Schooley  
Yi Shepard  
Denna Sheranko

## FALL SHOW

The days grow shorter, the evening air is crisper, leaves change color and fall from trees, the kids head back to school and again it's time for football. These are all signs that Autumn is here. What better way to welcome a new season than with a hot cup of coffee, tea or chocolate, and see the work of local artists, their inspiration and interpretation of Fall?

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance is a diverse group of artists, each on a unique artistic journey, whose work reflects their experiences, dreams, passions and heritage.

The exhibit was curated by LAA member Karen Baden Thapa. We thank her for her commitment to bring local art to the community.

For more information on Lamorinda Arts Alliance and to see more work by the member artists, please visit [LAA4Art.org](http://LAA4Art.org). We invite you and encourage you to become a member.

LAMORINDA  
ARTS  
ALLIANCE

Papillon Gourmet Coffee and Tea is in  
La Fiesta Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle  
The exhibit runs August 15<sup>th</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>  
There is metered parking at La Fiesta Square

**Papillon**  
Cafe Gallery

## "INSPIRED BY THE GREATS" IMPRESSIVE LAA SHOW AT ART COTTAGE



Wenda Pyman with her Photographs. Inspired and taught by Ansel Adams.

LAA's exhibition "**Inspired by the Greats**" was an exciting show that paid tribute to influencers each artist counted as "great" for them. The show, which ended August 29, was filled with a wide variety of wonderful, thoughtful artwork paying tribute to artists, athletes, leaders, poets, singers ....to name a few.

The artist reception was a lively and well attended event held on July 13. To enhance the show, a notebook with an artist's statement about their inspiration was provided.

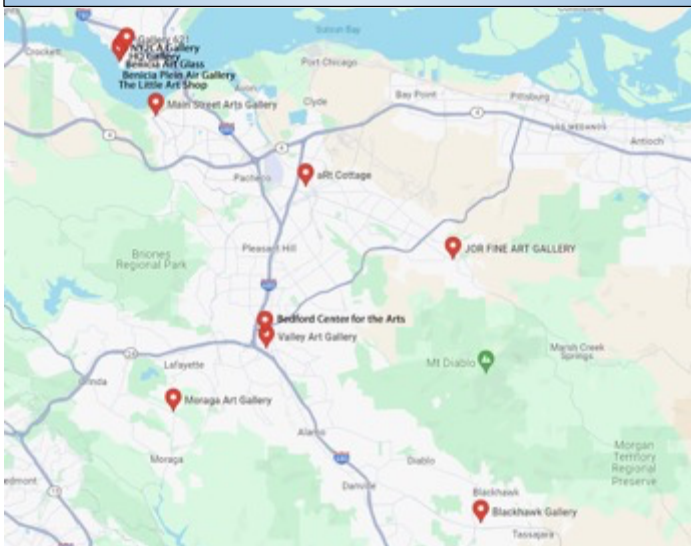
I want to extend my thanks to Frogard Schmidt for hosting LAA, Lori Larks curator, participating artists, and the artists who volunteer their time to support the various activities necessary to pull off each show.



"Inspired by the Greats" Artist reception at aRt Cottage

Participating artists: Robert Anke, Donna Arganbright, Flora Baumann, Jeff Burke, Helen Chu-Hirschberg, Karolyn Dreyer, Sylvia Fones, Leslie Golden, Sarah Gopher, Fiona Hughes, Nora Krauss, Ruth McMillin, Samantha McNally, Craig Moline, Wenda Pyman, Tom Quinlavin, Michael Robinson, Ruth Stanton, Charlene Steen, Elizabeth Verigin.

## EAST BAY GALLERY TOUR OCTOBER 2024



The Second Annual East Bay Gallery Tour has added 6 Benicia Art Galleries to the Tour this year! We now have 13 Art Galleries for you to visit during the month of October.

You have the whole month to visit them and get your Gallery Tour postcard stamped for a chance to win a prize worth \$300! There will be a couple of smaller prizes if you don't get to visit all of them. The winners will be chosen at random, picked from the completed postcards. The winners will get a certificate to purchase any artwork at any of the galleries in the Tour!

This event is free and open to anyone who'd like to participate. Visit any of the galleries listed below at the end of September or in October to pick up your postcard with a map and addresses of all the Art Galleries. The galleries will start stamping postcards on October 1.

Visit <https://www.mainstreetarts.net/east-bay-gallery-tour-2024.html> for more information.

The Galleries participating are:

- aRt Cottage
- Bedford Gallery
- Benicia Art Glass
- Benicia Plein Air Gallery
- Blackhawk Gallery, ADAS
- Gallery 621
- HQ Gallery
- JOR Clayton Gallery
- The Little Art Shop
- Main Street Arts Gallery
- Moraga Art Gallery
- NY2CA Gallery
- Valley Art Gallery



This is a QR code to the google map showing the location of all the galleries in this tour.

LAA MEMBER RACHEL FITE NOW  
SHOWING AT THE SAN RAMON LIBRARY



"Maven" by Rachel Fite

LAA member Rachel Fite is the September/October featured artist at the San Ramon Library. Her exhibit, "Vibrant Creatures" consists of "abstract realistic oil paintings, all depicting animals."

Fite relays that "there is something unattainable about animals because they live in a different sensory world than us. They are familiar, yet mysterious-this is what compels me to paint them. The creatures and plants among us are all gifted in a variety of ways, and all are important."

-Rachel Fite

More information about Fite's work can be found here: [www.RachelFiteArt.com](http://www.RachelFiteArt.com)

LAA MEMBER LORI LARKS AT ORINDA  
LIBRARY GALLERY

Larks has two paintings in Lamorinda Arts Council's "Stories We Tell" exhibit. The exhibit invited artists to submit narrative visual art along with written descriptions, poems, thoughts or feelings about their artwork.

The following is a portion of the narrative Larks wrote for her painting "Red Boat Remembers"

"...looking out from the 9<sup>th</sup> street boat launch, just down the coast not even a quarter of a mile sat a beautiful old keel boat propped up on top of an old pier, with many of its anchor posts already swallowed up by the bay.

In its day one could only imagine how sleek, fast, and grand it was, showing off its deep red hull and shiny gold trim, cutting past the other sailors, gleeful in the win."

-Lori Larks



"Red Boat Remembers" by Lori Larks

Larks' painting "Yesterday's at Borges Ranch" also includes a written piece and is now showing at the Orinda Library Gallery through November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.



## "GETTING BACK UP...AGAIN" BY CAROL JENKINS



Hidden in the Understory 1, 24x20 mixed media on framed canvas by Carol Jenkins

Jenkins writes, "I recently heard an interview with Suleika Jaouad, the author of *Between Two Kingdoms*, a brave and honest memoir about the chasm that exists between the healthy and the terribly sick. Jaouad is a compelling writer. She wrote a column about illness for the *New York Times* that helped thousands of people feel less alone. Still, when she and a friend were reading through the final version of her memoir, she said, on the verge of tears, "I wanted this to be so much better."

She's not unusual, of course. Most of us want our art, our work, our relationships, our bodies, our lives to be so much better than they are. Even when we are feeling generally satisfied with ourselves, a random criticism, a perceived slight can suddenly plunge us into feelings of confusion and self-doubt. Wanting to be better can motivate us to refine our

craft or strengthen any other aspect of our lives. But it also leaves us slightly off-balance, vulnerable to the belief that we just don't have what it takes.

This is what happened to me when my husband, usually an enthusiastic fan of my artwork, had a decidedly tepid response to a group of new paintings I was working on. Silly me--I pressed him for his honest opinion. He did his best to say something constructive, but I was already having that sinking feeling. Just like that I went from feeling hopeful about the work to completely crestfallen!

It took me a little while to recover. But when I did go back into the studio, I had to admit that I was disappointed with those paintings too. I wanted them to be so much better! I had been experimenting with an idea I'd learned in a workshop I loved. But I didn't love what I was able to do with that idea.

I remembered something George Saunders wrote about this predicament. After many futile attempts to write serious prose like Hemingway, he decided to write a story the way he spoke—funny, attention-seeking, irreverent. It was better than anything he'd ever written. He felt triumphant--(he'd found his voice!), but also a little sad.

Here's how he puts it:

*"After giving up on climbing the Hemingway Mountain I stumbled onto a little shit-hill labeled 'Saunders Mountain.'"*

"Hmm," I thought. "It's so little. And it's a *shit-hill*." Then again, that was my name on it."

He goes on to say,

*"This is a big moment for any artist..., when we have to decide whether to accept a work of art that we have to admit we weren't in control of as we made it and of which we're not entirely sure we approve. It is less, less than we wanted it to be, and yet it's more, too—it's small and a bit pathetic, judged against the work of the great masters, but there it is, all ours."*

I kept working on those paintings, this time with more abandon, relinquishing my idea of what I thought they were supposed to be, focusing instead on the colors, the rhythm of the marks, the energy in the brushstrokes. And I remembered what I often forget, that I can only paint like me.

Some paintings end up in the back of my closet or painted over. Generally, though, my work gets better the more I do it. Everyone's does. And each time I fall down and get back up again I bring a little more humility and therefore a little more heart into the work. Perhaps that's what happens in life too—that wanting to be better is a tender place inside us. We can shut it down or it can open us up. The key is to keep going.”

-Carol Jenkins

Jenkins will be showing contemporary landscapes and figurative paintings in Berkeley during East Bay Open Studios December 7-8, 11am-5pm at 1098 Sierra Street in Berkeley. Mark your calendars!

[CarolljenkinsArt.com](http://CarolljenkinsArt.com)

[CarolljenkinsStudio](http://CarolljenkinsStudio)

[Please stay in touch!](#)

### LAA MEMBER ROBERT ANKE

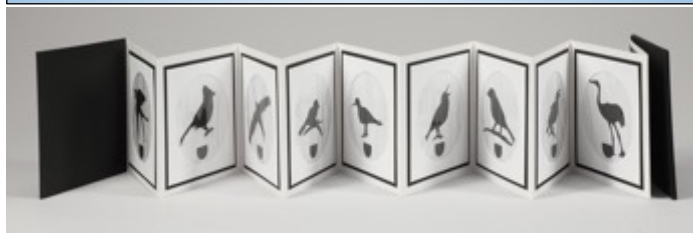
Anke tells us, “For the months of July and August I hung up my landscape boots and focused on portraits for the Sanchez Art Center's annual 50|50 show in which fifty artist make fifty 6x6 paintings in fifty days. It was the most intensive learning experience I've had since the good ol' college days. I grew a ton as an artist due to the fact that I made that commitment and had to keep it even though I was in over my head! The progress from the first portrait to the last was pretty cool to see and the journey was worthwhile to say the least.”

The show is running at SAC in Pacifica from September 6 to October 6.



“Boyhood” by Robert Anke

### LAA MEMBER SUELLEN COX



“Indicator Species” by Suellen Cox

Suellen Cox is exhibiting two artist's books—*The Path* and *Move---* at the LAC “Stories We Tell” exhibit at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during September and October 2024. She has also been invited to participate in the ArtsBenicia *Animalia* juried exhibition which runs October 26 through December 15 2024.

Nearly 3 billion North American birds have disappeared since 1970. More than half of North American grassland birds---over 700 million---have disappeared. Forests have lost more than one billion birds. Shorebirds and songbirds are in decline. Suellen's accordion fold artist's book---

*Indicator Species*---addresses these losses in 9 bird silhouettes, species information and poems.

## LAA MEMBER MARIA SANTOSTEPHANO



Close-Up, Bob's House, Benicia, by Maria SantoStefano

Oil painter Maria SantoStefano takes the Featured Artist spotlight for the month of October at the Benicia Plein Gallery with her exhibit, *My Places In the Sun*, featuring landscapes painted on location from a variety of Northern California locales.

"I'm a colorist following in the expressive Bay Area plein air painting tradition of Pam Glover, Louis and Lundy Siegrist and the Society of Six" Maria explains.

Bold, luminous color and exuberant brushwork are hallmarks of her fresh painterly style. "With very painting I try to find that sweet spot where the beauty of the scene meets the lush dimensional qualities of the oil paint itself." SantoStefano calls painting outdoors "an addictive pleasure." Almost

all her work is done on location. "I feel lucky to live in California where plein air painting is a year-round-joy."

Learn more about the artist <http://www.santostefano.weebly.com>

This show runs the month of October. Benicia Plein Air Gallery is located at 307 First Street in the heart of historic downtown Benicia and is open Friday through Sunday from 11 am to 5pm. Visit [Benicia Plein Air Gallery](#)

## WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S NEWEST LAA MEMBERS

Welcome new members! On behalf of the board and all LAA members, we look forward to learning about you and your work! Be sure to check out the LAA website for opportunities to exhibit your work and feel free to create your own gallery page. <https://laa4art.org/>

Chris Granillo, Kent Gordon, Maxwell Picksley, Guna Leikind, Denise Nomura, Doug Heine, Jeff Burke, Jaunie Schooley, Mary Leigh Miller, Lynn Fulton, Michael Robinson, Sally Van Oosbree, Katherine Bacher, Olga Jusidman, Anastasia Kolesnikova, Molly Clark, Elena Doronkina, Yi Shepard, Vicki Assegued, Lucy Beck, Jeanette Kanozik, Marilyn Verducci, Shahla Ash Sepehri, Karen Mason, Leslie Golden, Philae Carver, Debby Koonce, Susan Howell, Marilyn Jia, Andrew Dodd, and Suzanne D'Arcy



## LAA PRESENTS: A WALNUT CREEK WALKING TOUR OF ART

**Save the date: Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
10:00-11:30 AM**

Join LAA members for a delightful and informative walking tour of public art in downtown Walnut Creek. The tour begins at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, and focuses on the public art collection along Main St. and the Public Library.



"Bullman with Bulldog," 2017 by Gerald Heffernon

The tour will be led by a trained public art specialist who will be able to offer information on the very art you may have meandered by in the past and were curious about.

The cost is \$5 for adults, under 18 free. You must pay in person (cash only) and includes admission to Bedford Gallery. Parking is available in the public garage next to the Bedford Gallery.

More information will follow as we get closer to the date. But please email Sharon Tama ([twotamas@gmail.com](mailto:twotamas@gmail.com)) using the subject "LAA Art Tour" so we can estimate the number of attendees.



## "STORIES WE TELL" NOW SHOWING AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY ART GALLERY



**September 2024 Exhibit | September 3 - November 1**



LAMORINDA  
arts COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

### Stories We Tell

*This exhibit demonstrates the power artists have to tell stories visually through symbols and metaphors. Historically art was used to tell stories or accompany verbal stories, this exhibit is a reflection on how storytelling in art is still used today in many different ways through a variety of mediums. Each artist shows their unique style of narration in this exhibit. Join us October 5th for an artist reception to meet the artists and fellow art enthusiasts!*

**Gallery Hours: Mon-Thu, 10a-8p;**

**Fri-Sat, 10a-6p. Closed Sun.**

Free Admission for All

Visit us online at [LamorindaArts.org](http://LamorindaArts.org) to view and purchase art | Lamorinda Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**ARTIST RECEPTION**  
Saturday, October 5th  
2:00 - 4:00pm  
Meet the Artists and enjoy light refreshments.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda  
Curated by Lamorinda Arts Council  
[LamorindaArts.org](http://LamorindaArts.org)

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents original artwork that demonstrates the power of stories using symbols and metaphors. This multimedia exhibit of images, words and music tells stories both ancient and contemporary. The voices of artists inhabit these spaces to spark our imagination and inspire us.

Meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments at this storytelling celebration on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. at a reception in their honor.

The following artists are exhibiting: Gina Barretta, John Brown, Joy Chew, Suellen Cox, Nancy Daniels, Elaine Drew, Jennifer Granat, Karina Hou, Georgianna Krieger, Lori J. Larks, Mary Leigh Miller, Connie Vaccaro Millholland, Denise

Nomura, Jenny Rosen, Michiko Sakai, Gini Graham Scott, Susanne Simas, Ruth Stanton, Betsy Streeter, Sharon Tama and Nancy Vachani.

Saxophonist Krieger is showing eight music compositions independently released in her 2022 series, "Embrace," with eight illustrations that accompany the music. Her "Invisible Woman" composition, consisting of five 8.5" x 11" full musical scores, is highlighted next to artwork of the same title. For more information go to [georgiannakrieger.com/](http://georgiannakrieger.com/)

Visit the Gallery to view artwork from Sept. 3 to Nov. 1 at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; closed Sundays. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit [ccclib.org/](http://ccclib.org/). For questions about the exhibit or more information, email [gallerv@LamorindaArts.org](mailto:gallerv@LamorindaArts.org), visit [LamorindaArts.org/galleries-2](http://LamorindaArts.org/galleries-2) or call 925.359.4490.

### EDITOR'S NOTES

It's already almost fall, and I have to say, I'm delighted to see how vibrant this community of LAA artists has been so far this year. There have been many opportunities for members to exhibit their work, and to participate in educational tours.

Many thanks go out to our president, Donna Arganbright for captaining the ship, to Sharon Tama as VP of Outreach and Education, to Ruth Stanton, VP of Exhibitions, for her tireless efforts to procure venues for members to show their work, to Samantha McNally, our dedicated Webmaster, to Mark Coffey for designing promotional materials and all the other talents he brings to the table, to our Secretary, Helen Chu-Hirschberg, to Treasurer Cynthia Whitchurch and to Marian Sims Harris who graciously and patiently keeps track of LAA's growing membership.

In short, I'm proud to be a part of this incredibly talented board as newsletter editor, and I

appreciate all the opportunities LAA has to offer. Check out our website! <https://laa4art.org/>

That said, though it seems like I haven't gotten a lot done this year, as I look back, I have completed a sixth utility box (located at the corner of Grant Street and Willow Pass Road in Concord, CA.) with fellow CAA artist Emilie Kirkpatrick, I both exhibited and wrote pieces for the 2024 Ekphrasis Exhibit, I now have a painting at the Main Street Arts show "Delighted by Light," and I have a painting, with an accompanying poem I wrote, at LAC's "Stories We Tell" exhibit. You can read about it here (pg. 9-10) I hope to see you at the reception!

May the coming fall inspire you to create, create, create.

-Jennifer Granat  
September 2024



Emilie Kirkpatrick and Jennifer Granat 7/2024



"Music & Market" Utility Box by Emilie and Jennifer