

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: "PASSING THE BATON"



LAA President Donna Arganbright

Passing the Baton

Looking back through my files I found a February 2010 LAA Newsletter. In this newsletter Sally Bellenger is saying goodbye as President of LAA and introducing me as the new President. And I have been President since that time... 15 years...how time flies. During those years it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your President. My wonderful Board members have made my job easy, constructive and fun. However, reflecting on how long I have served, it seems like it would be a good time for new leadership, ideas and energy. In short, I've decided it's time to "pass the baton."

Lori Larks has graciously agreed to take over the reigns as LAA President. Lori is a plein air painter and photographer and loves to spend time in

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nature. She has also been active in community service for many years. Lori will bring new ideas and leadership to our Alliance. Welcome Lori!!

I will remain on the Board as a member at large. LAA has been such an important part of my life, I am happy to serve in this capacity.

I wish to thank all of you, our LAA members, who so actively participate in our shows, contribute your stories to our newsletters, and share in our education events. You make LAA the vibrant organization that it is and ensure that the arts remain important in Lamorinda.

-Donna Arganbright, LAA President

LAA MEMBER EXHIBIT
"WELLNESS & WELLBEING"
NOW SHOWING



"Cowboy Riding the Surf" by Marilyn Verducci

LAA is pleased to announce our member show **"Wellness & Wellbeing"** at the John Muir Health Auxiliary Gallery from **September 1 to October 30**. The exhibit features some of the artists' favorite works, the pieces that best express "Wellness & Wellbeing", creating an ambiance of healing which is important to the patients, their families and friends, staff, volunteers, and healthcare practitioners.

On behalf of participating artist members, LAA will donate \$190.00 to John Muir Health to support the Auxiliary in providing the Walnut Creek Medical Center with state-of-the-art equipment, as well as support for programs and services that benefit patients and the community.

The reception will not be scheduled due to the Aspen Center Exhibit is not a commercial gallery, but a community service facility.

All are welcomed to visit the exhibit during business hours at the John Muir Health Aspen Center Gallery, located at 133 La Casa Via Suite 150, Walnut Creek.

Participating Artists: Flora Baumann, Marcela Cabrera, Helen Chu-Hirschberg, Marian Sims Harris, Jan Lainoff, Lori Larks, Ruth McMillin, Jan St Onge, Wenda Pyman, Adrienne Rogers, Judith Rohrer, Allison Skidgel, Karen Baden Thapa, Nancy Vachani, Marilyn Verducci

SEPTEMBER ART HAPPENINGS AT
MAIN STREET ARTS

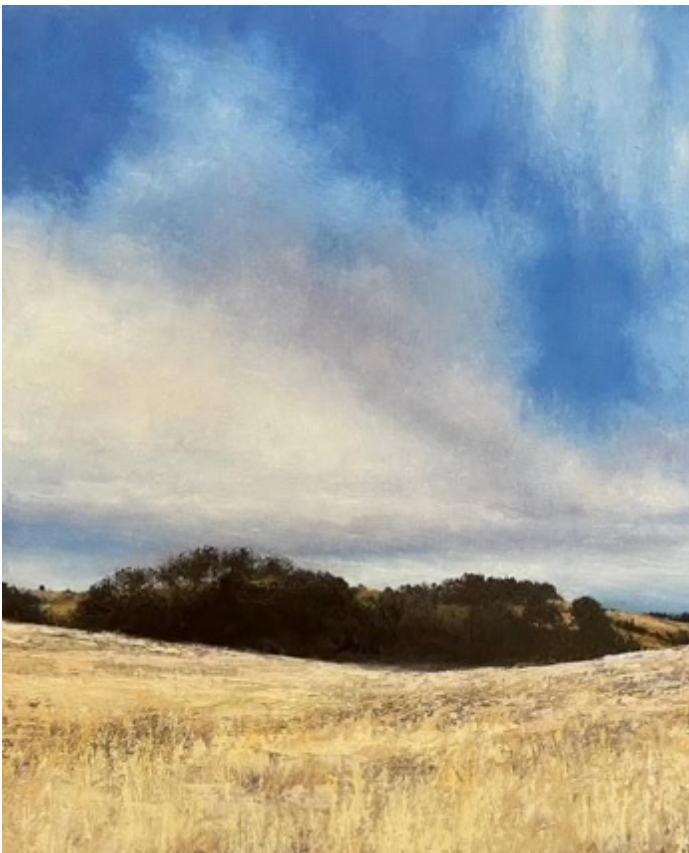
The Main Street Arts Gallery welcomes the Lamorinda Arts Alliance for a special group exhibition called "Picture This" featuring 29 artists. www.laa4art.org. This show runs from September 5th to November 1st, and the public is invited to a reception on Friday, September 5th from 6pm – 9pm, coinciding with First Friday. Come meet the artists and enjoy refreshments. Main Street will be closed to traffic for the event on the 600 block, so come enjoy the festive atmosphere!



Main Street Arts is home to 12 talented gallery members working in a range of media and will be one of 15 galleries participating in the East Bay

Gallery Tour that runs from September 1 – October 31. Visitors have two months to visit galleries and have a special postcard stamped by 11-15 galleries for a chance to win a gift certificate up to a \$300 value. More details can be found on the Main Street Arts website.

Don't forget: each month, the gallery hosts a free prize drawing for an original artwork by one of our members. August's giveaway features a painting by artist Dean Evans. Stop by, fill out an entry form, and you might take home a unique new work for your collection!



"Fernandez Ranch" by Dean Evans

Now celebrating our ninth year in business, the Main Street Arts Gallery is located at 613 Main Street, Martinez, and is open Wednesday through Sunday.

Visit us online at mainstreetarts.net.
www.mainstreetarts.net

Main Street Arts is located at 613 Main Street, Martinez, CA 94553
Open Wednesday-Saturday 11-4, Sunday 10-3 and Martinez First Fridays 6-9



LAMORINDA ARTS ALLIANCE DONATES TO TOWN HALL THEATRE'S 2025 GIVING CAMPAIGN

LAFAYETTE, CA—The Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA), a nonprofit organization committed to supporting and promoting the visual arts in the Lamorinda area, is proud to announce a \$500 donation to Town Hall Theatre Company as part of its 2025 Giving Campaign.

This contribution reflects LAA's ongoing mission to uplift the arts and celebrate the creative organizations that help make our community vibrant. Town Hall Theatre, a cornerstone of performing arts in Lamorinda, has long provided opportunities for audiences of all ages to experience high-quality theatrical productions, education programs, and cultural enrichment.

"We're proud to support Town Hall Theatre's efforts," said Donna Arganbright, President of Lamorinda Arts Alliance. "Our Board unanimously agreed that this donation is a meaningful way to recognize the vital role the theatre plays in inspiring creativity and connection throughout our region."

Lamorinda Arts Alliance is a local volunteer-based nonprofit comprised of artists and supporters dedicated to fostering artistic growth, collaboration, and public awareness of visual arts. This donation marks another step in LAA's

commitment to partnering with fellow arts organizations across disciplines.

For more information about Lamorinda Arts Alliance, visit <http://www.laa4art.org>

To learn more about Town Hall Theatre Company and how you can contribute to their 2025 Giving Campaign, visit <http://www.townhalltheatre.com>

**WATERCOLORIST SAMANTHA McNALLY:
SEPTEMBER'S FEATURED ARTIST AT
BENICIA PLEIN AIR GALLERY**

Benicia's Changing Tides
September Featured Artist
Samantha McNally
September 5 - 28



Samantha McNally has painted several famous and historic Benicia scenes for her September Featured Artist spot at Benicia Plein Air Gallery, September 5-28. The new book, **"Benicia's Changing Tides"** by Fiona M. Hughes and illustrated by Samantha, is written in poetry style. Many of Samantha's paintings on view at the Gallery in September are a part of this new book, fresh off the press.

Visit the gallery and you will see the book in its first publication and the original paintings on the wall. You can order the book on Amazon here: [Benicia's Changing Tides on Amazon](#). Bring it to the gallery September 7, 12, 13 or 20 and meet the artist for a signing.

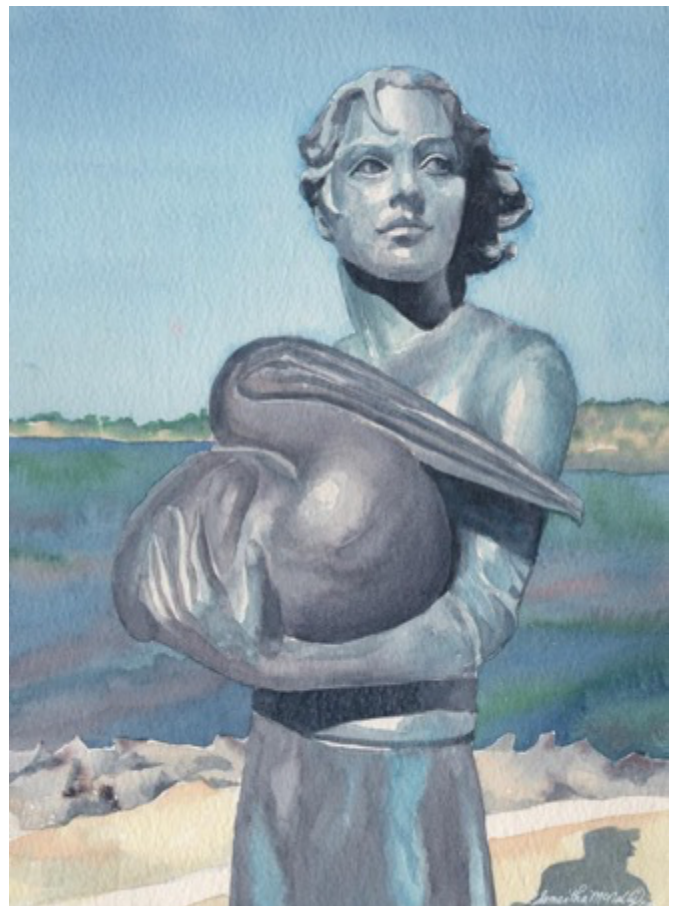
McNally has also organized the **3rd Annual East Bay Gallery Tour**, and this year, 15 Galleries are participating!

You are invited to Benicia Plein Air Gallery to pick up your free Gallery Tour Postcard. Get it stamped at each of the galleries, and you will have a chance to win a \$300 certificate to buy art at any of the galleries on the postcard.

Samantha McNally is a watercolor artist and a signature member of the California Watercolor Association. She is a board member and webmaster of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, webmaster for Benicia Literary Arts, Benicia Plein Air Gallery, aRt Cottage and Main Street Arts Gallery. Samantha will soon be a board member of the Valley Art Gallery. You can find Samantha's watercolor paintings in Valley Art Gallery and Main Street Arts as well as Benicia Plein Air Gallery.

To learn more about the artist and her work, please visit McNally's website:

www.samanthamcnally.com.



"Neptune's Daughter" by Samantha McNally

THIRD ANNUAL EAST BAY GALLERY TOUR!



Gallery Tour Postcard Sample

The Third Annual East Bay Gallery Tour, organized by Samantha McNally, has a total of 15 galleries to visit this year during the months of September and October. Visit them all and get your Gallery Tour postcard stamped by a total of 15 galleries for a chance to be one of 3 winners of a certificate worth \$300! If you have your postcard stamped by 11 galleries, you could win one of 4 certificates worth \$100.

The winners will be chosen at random, picked from the turned in postcards. You can turn in your postcard at the last gallery you visit. The winners will get a certificate to purchase any artwork from any of the galleries in the Tour! Begin at any of the galleries listed below in September and/or October to pick up your postcard with a map and addresses of all the Art Galleries. The galleries will start stamping postcards in September.

Samantha is a local artist member of Main Street Arts (MSA), Benicia Plein Air Gallery (BPAG), Valley Art Gallery and Arts Benicia. Samantha is the webmaster for aRt Cottage, MSA and BPAG as well as the webmaster for Lamorinda Arts Alliance who will have a guest exhibit at MSA during this Gallery Tour. There is a LOT of art to see, don't miss this free chance to win!

Participating Galleries include:

aRt Cottage 2238 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord
Arts Benicia 1 Commandants Lane, Benicia
Benicia Art Glass 309 1st Street, Benicia
Benicia Plein Air Gallery 307 First Street, Benicia
Blackhawk Gallery, ADAS 3416 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville
First Street Arts 333-D First Street, Benicia
Gallery 621 920 First Street, Suite 203, Benicia
JOR Clayton Gallery 1026 Oak Street Suite 102, Clayton
Main Street Arts Gallery 613 Main Street, Martinez
Moraga Art Gallery 432 Center Street, Moraga
NY2CA Gallery 617 1st St, Benicia
Studio 55 Art Gallery 55 Howe Rd., Martinez
The Little Art Shop 129 First Street, Benicia
Valley Art Gallery 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek
Village Theatre and Art Gallery 233 Front Street, Danville

The East Bay Gallery Tour website.

<https://www.mainstreetarts.net/east-bay-gallery-tour-2025.html>

FREE GALA RECEPTION FOR "ALL THAT GROWS" AT MORAGA ART GALLERY



"Hydrangias" by Jill Landau

Enthusiastic reviews for "All that Grows," the Moraga Art Gallery's current exhibit, augurs very well for the free public reception for art lovers of all ages on Saturday, September 27th, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at 432 Center Street in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center.

Featured in the display are the works of two gallery members: Karen Mason, who leans toward multi-paneled bird and floral subjects with bold lines and vibrant textures in a luminous Asian atmosphere. Also, painter and printmaker Jill Landau, relying on a potpourri of techniques -- light, shape, and color-- that delight viewers with evocative renderings of land, farms, water, people, and more.



"Windy Fall Day Among Aspens" by Karen Mason

In addition, Oakland's Judy Rosenfield, as the featured guest artist, has mounted a stunning collection of

stained-glass mosaics that reflect nature's unparalleled colors and patterns. Overall, art in many genres by more than two dozen artists fill the gallery's elegant spaces with paintings, jewelry, ceramics, photographs, woodworking, etchings, and a great deal more.

For more information, visit:

www.moragaartgallery or call 925-376-5407.

LAA TO VISIT BEDFORD ART GALLERY



Bedford Art Gallery Photo

LAA will visit Bedford Gallery Sunday, September 14 at 12:00 PM

Join LAA as we visit the Bedford Art Gallery at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek on Sunday, September 14th at noon. We'll enjoy a docent-led tour of the exhibition ***Beyond Color***. This special exhibit examines and celebrates juried artwork by local, national and international artists in a wide range of mediums, all executed in the power of black and white. The Bedford notes, "... *Beyond Color* highlights the remarkable ways artists harness the stark contrasts and subtle gradations of achromatic media to convey profound emotion, intricate detail, and striking composition."

Please email Sharon Tama (twotamas@gmail.com) using the subject heading "Bedford") by September 7th to join us for this notable exhibition.

Admission to the exhibit is \$10 and a link for payment directly to LAA will be provided once you've contacted Sharon.

The Leshner Center for the Arts is located at 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. Parking is easily available next door at the City of Walnut Creek Parking Garage on Locust St.

**LAA MEMBER MELCHIA KUTCHES
CREATES ORGANIC LIGHTED SCONCES!**



"Organic Sconce Light" by Melchia Kutches

Kutches tells us, "I recently finished a project of a vision I had of what to do with a dried gourd from Halloween time. It's the gourd that is multicolored (including black) and has appendages, like a starfish.

Kutches continues, "I cut it in half with a hacksaw, very carefully. Half as in keeping the overall shape and having two shallow bowls, if you will. I then papier mâchéd both pieces, for stability. Primed them. Painted the outsides green with Jackson Pollock splashes of orange. The insides were painted with gold enamel paint. I purchased battery operated LED light kits. And drilled holes

through the gourd at center of the bowl shape to attach. I glued a wire armature so that I could hold the light kit and hang my new organic lighted sconces! I love them."

Nice work Melchia and thank you for sharing this fun piece along with how you made it!

**LAA MEMBER RACHEL FITE
ON VIEW NOW AT
SAN RAMON CITY HALL GALLERY**

LAA Member Rachel Fite is now showing her work at San Ramon City Hall Gallery through the month of September. For more information about the artist, please visit: www.RachelFiteArt.com

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Art Exhibition

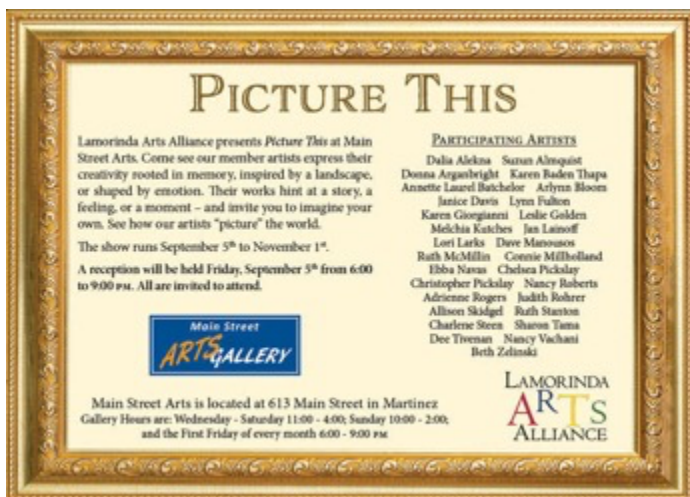
Rachel Fite
*Known for bright colors and a loose style.
Come see her oil paintings!*

San Ramon City Hall Gallery
7000 Bolinger Canyon Rd.
Open 8:30am - 5pm

Sept. 2025



"PICTURE THIS" NOW SHOWING AT MAIN STREET ARTS



"ALIGNED" AT GREY LOFT GALLERY FEATURES LAA MEMBERS

Aligned opens at the Grey Loft Gallery on September 20th, 2025 where LAA Members Valerie Corvin, Anne Rabe and Dee Tivenan as well as East Bay artists Dobee Snowber, Kim Cardoso and Lisa Levine will be featured in the group show. *Aligned*, is a dynamic exhibition that shows how distinct voices can converge into a vivid tapestry of expression to create a collective narrative that speaks to universal themes of connection, contrast, and creativity.

The six artists met through the international online Artist Alliance. Meeting monthly through the pandemic and beyond for critiques of each other's work as well as conversations over brunch, they decided to create a proposal for a collaborative show which they submitted to Gray Loft Gallery located in Oakland's Jingtowntown neighborhood.

Aligned is a testament to the power and the strength of artistic community and the invisible threads that connect us. It invites viewers to find harmony within contrast and to experience the many ways art can tell stories, stir emotions, and capture the essence of shared humanity. From Valerie Corvin's vibrant abstracts to Lisa Levine's surreal digital landscapes, *Aligned* moves fluidly across a spectrum of style and vision. Kim Cardoso's luminous encaustics engage in quiet dialogue with minimalist forms, while Anne Rabe's photographs bridge tradition and modernity. Dee Tivenan's emotive paintings resonate with the textured, mixed-media works of Dobee Snowber, uniting abstraction and figuration in unexpected ways.

As these diverse artworks are presented side by side, you are invited to explore the alignments, both seen and unseen, that thread through the exhibition. *Aligned* is a celebration of how different mediums, styles, and perspectives can come together to form a powerful and inspiring whole.

Exhibition Details

Title: *ALIGNED*

Show dates: September 20 – November 8, 2025

Venue: Gray Loft Gallery, 2889 Ford Street, third floor, Oakland 94601

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 20, 4:00 to 6:30 pm

Wine Tasting: Saturday, October 18, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Closing Reception: Saturday, November 1, 4:00 to 6:30 pm

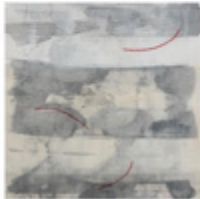
Gallery Hours: Saturdays 1:00 – 5:00 pm and by appointment

A L I G N E D

Lisa Levine



Kim Cardoso



Dee Tivenan



Anne Rabe



Valerie Corvin



Dobee Snowber



September 20 – November 8, 2025

open all Saturdays 1- 5

Opening 9/20, 4-6:30

Wine Tasting 11/18, 3-5

Closing 11/1, 4-6:30

GRAY LOFT GALLERY



2889 FORD STREET #32 OAKLAND, CA GRAYLOFTGALLERY.COM

Microsoft



CALL FOR ART!

2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW AT SAN RAMON CITY HALL



"By the Stream" by Nancy Vachani

There will be a 2025 LAA MEMBER SHOW AT The Gallery at City Hall, San Ramon for which Lamorinda Arts alliance is pleased to invite members to submit their entry for the **"In the Mix"** show at the Gallery at City Hall, San Ramon. To learn more about show requirements, click on Prospectus below.

The Exhibit Dates: **Tuesday, November 4 to Thursday, December 18**

The Entry Period: **September 10 to 20**

Reception: **Friday, November 7 from 5-7pm**

Registration Fee is \$20.00 for LAA members
[Prospectus](#)

2025 LAA QUARTERLY EXHIBITS AT PAPILLON CAFÉ GALLERY

The current Papillon Café Gallery exhibit “Sea & Shore” is now showing through October 15th, 2025:



PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Suzan Almquist
Karen Baden Thapa
Flora Baumann
George Elrenhaft
Judy Feins
Elizabeth Kennen
Nora Krauss
Lori Larks
Samantha McNally
Wendy Pymann
Adrienne Rogers
Deena Sheranko
Marian Sims Harris
Lorna Strotz
Sharon Tama
Beth Zelinski



It's summer. When the temperatures rise, our thoughts often turn to the ocean and a cooling sea breeze. What better time to stop by the Papillon Café & Gallery to sip a beverage, enjoy a treat and see how our local artists are inspired by waves, water, sandy beaches and rocky shores as well as the aquatic creatures and wind-swept fauna.

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

We thank Karen Baden Thapa for curating the exhibit.

For more information on Lamorinda Arts Alliance and to see more work by the member artists, please visit LAA4Art.org. We invite you and encourage you to become a member.



Papillon Gourmet Coffee and Tea is in
La Fiesta Square, at 67 Lafayette Circle
The exhibit runs July 14th to October 16th
There is metered parking at La Fiesta Square

Papillon
Cafe Gallery

Here listed (below) are the shows LAA Members have participated in (and are currently participating in) this year at Papillon Café Gallery.

January – April: "Landscapes"

LAA Coffee Klatch: Saturday March 15, 2pm

Takedown: April 24, 12:30pm

April – July: "Flora & Fauna"

LAA Coffee Klatch: April 26, 2pm

Take down: July 16, 12:30 pm

July – October: "Sea & Shore" (Current Show)

LAA Coffee Klatch: July 19, 2pm

Take down: October 16, 12:30pm

October to January 2026: Theme TBA

Entry: TBA

Acceptances: TBA

Receiving: October 16, 12:30 pm

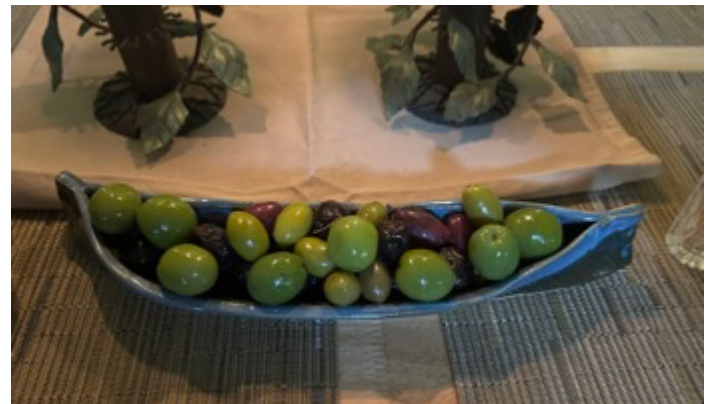
LAA Coffee Klatch: October 18, 2pm

Takedown: TBA

We hope you will apply to exhibit your art for the October-January 2026 Quarterly show (TBA). More information will be announced soon—please be sure to check www.laa4art.org to learn more about when and how to enter the October-January show at Papillon Café Gallery, and to view past exhibits.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I'm truly sad to see Donna Arganbright retire as president of LAA. However, I am excited to see what Lori Larks has to offer as the incoming President. As difficult as Donna's shoes are to follow in, I believe Larks will not disappoint! That said...



"Olive Boat" by Donna Arganbright (in private collection)

Donna, you have been a teacher, an inspiration, and the leader of this prominent and diverse non-profit organization for the arts, in Lamorinda, for over fifteen years. I am personally grateful you will be staying on as an LAA Board Member at Large. Thank you for your service to others and your dedication to the advancement of the arts.

-Jennifer Granat, September 2, 2025