

January 2024



Newsletter

18411 N. 7th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85023 602-944-9713 PO Box 41534 Phoenix, AZ 85080

President's Note



Mike Garcia

Hello Art Lovers,

I was wondering today if we could think of something. Something like, what was the best part of the day for you. Maybe it was seeing someone special that you love or finishing a piece of art to your satisfaction, or getting good news about someone else. It could be anything, and sharing that thought with someone else, maybe having them share with you. This happens when I'm at my niece's dinner table. What was the best part of the day and who at the table with us, did something you appreciate.

I guess I'll start and today the table is AAG: the best part of the day for me is simply waking up and realizing that I have another day to spend making myself and the artists I care about a little happier. Who I appreciate is a little tougher as there are so many. Today I'm going to say David Bradley, and here's why. The other day I was talking to him. I had assumed he was a vet because of the amount of time and tireless effort he puts into the veterans and other programs. He said he was not and I realized how selfless and considerate he was. If you look around you may see someone that deserves a special comment from you, now's the time to speak up. You'll feel better if you do. There is so much to be grateful for in the New Year.

Tom Mura

Artist of the Month - Kristi James



Kristi James

Kristi James has always had a passion for art, but job responsibilities left little time for serious artistic pursuits. It was a sculpting class here or a stained-glass class there, until she tried reproduction porcelain doll making. She spent 8 years of learning the art of reproductions and this eventually led to sculpting original dolls, making molds, slip casting, firing and the creation of movable bodies, handmade wigs and custom clothing. Four years ago, she discovered a new passion...watercolor painting and is particularly drawn to portraiture. She finds the medium demanding, maddening, and unforgiving... but glorious.



A Little Girl in Porcelain

Arizona Artist Guild is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization led by volunteers dedicated to providing and promoting opportunities in the visual arts including exhibitions, education and outreach.

It's Time to Grow at...

18411 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85023

John Erwin - "Winter Wonderland in Watercolor"

Thursday, January 18 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Members \$35 | Non-Members \$40



John Erwin possesses a wealth of watercolor experience among other artistic values and has exhibited extensively. He has over 40 years of experience teaching watercolor with more than five years at Shemer Art Center and he now has added sketching and printmaking. He has a very long list of accomplishments, too many to name. In this workshop we will produce two pieces of artwork that capture the beauty of a sunlit winter landscape. This will be achieved by creating a snowy scene with shadows, trees with fallen snow and a cabin covered with snow. You don't want to miss this fun filled workshop.

Ann Osgood - "Abstract Painting Journey" in Acrylic

Saturday, January 20 from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

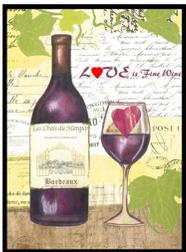
Ann Osgood, a full-time painter who enjoys working in a variety of styles, has work in collections across the country and has been the winning artist in many group shows. Abstract expressionist paintings are stories without words. They convey a feeling or idea that is created by the artist using their internal intuition. Marks, colors, brushstrokes, shapes etc. are used in an improvised way. What happens next depends on what came before. The artist takes a journey without a preplanned destination. It is this mysterious process to achieve a new thing of beauty with a life of its own that is the magic. Ann will share the process she uses to take this journey. Beginning with some exercises to explore individual mark making the class will start and work on the elements of design that will make our paintings our own.



Sherry Kimmel - "Painterly Collage" with Water Media

Friday, January 26 from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Members \$65 | Non-Members \$75



Sherry Kimmel has been exploring mixed media, mono printing, and collage since 2012. She has been teaching classes on these subjects at Arizona Art Supply along with other art clubs around the Valley. Sherry looks forward to opening your creative minds to a new way of expressing yourself through collage. In the morning an underpainting of the subject will be done and then painting and decorating collage papers for the collage process. In the afternoon the collage papers will be applied to the underpainting. Join Sherry for a great new learning experience in the "Art of Collage"!

For details and registration for all workshops visit the website

...AAG Workshops

18411 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85023

Cynthia Dunn-Selph - "Painting with Encaustics"

Sunday, February 11 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Members \$45 | Non-Members \$50 (\$45 supply fee paid the day of class)



Cynthia Dunn-Selph is a life-long photographer, painter and mixed media artist who has exhibited and taught in California and Arizona. In Latin encaustic means “to burn in” and is the process of painting with beeswax, with and without pigment, that is melted and fused to a hard surface. This ancient art form is seeing a resurgence of appeal because of its unique look, texture, and compatibility with mixed media. You will learn the basic tools that are needed and techniques to explore this diverse medium. You do not need to be an “artist” to work with this medium, just a readiness to explore and create! All tools and supplies will be provided.

Florine Duffield - “The Art of the Background”

Friday, February 23 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Members \$35 | Non-Members \$40

Florine Duffield is an international award-winning photographer, painter, instructor, and author. Her incredible images have appeared in galleries and private collections throughout the US, the UK and at the Association of Photographers Gallery, London. The background has the incredibly important role of providing context and contrast for the main subject. Having a simple, harmonious background allows the focus to fall entirely on the subject. Florine will demonstrate how to get started with a background using primed, sketched-in subjects on canvas...still life & portraits. It will be a fun day, mostly hands on.



Melanie Harman - “Naturalistic Collage”

Fridays, June 21 and June 28 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Members \$70 | Non-Members \$80



Workshop Day 1 – Design Concepts and Paper Painting: Using the elements and principles of design to analyze and simplify a reference, students will create painted papers of differing values within a color selection by direct painting, brayer work, stencils and/or gel printing.

Workshop Day 2 – Making the Collage: Starting with a drawing from a reference photo, students will attach previously created papers to a substrate. Instruction will be provided on substrate choices, stages of the collage, techniques for tearing and gluing the papers, and finishing techniques. Painter Melanie Harman has been living and working in Arizona since 1987.

Bragging Rights

AAG Member's Exhibiting Artwork

TJ Oxley & Darlene Ritter

**“Beatitude’s Vision of Possibilities” a 2-person exhibit at Beatitudes Campus
Through January 27 at 1610 W. Glendale Ave, Phoenix**



TJ Oxley
Merry Go Round

AAG is pleased to partner with The Beatitudes Campus Foundation in bringing fine art to its senior living residents, families, friends and visitors. This partnership reinforces AAG’s mission statement to continue its long standing tradition of art leadership in Arizona by promoting quality artwork for public viewing and appreciation. AAG members TJ Oxley and Darlene Ritter are proudly exhibiting their work at this venue. Visit the website for more details.



Darlene Ritter
The Pink

Ellen Nemetz

**“Neon Cactus and Animal Attraction Show” a solo exhibition at First Studio
Through January 26 at 631 N. 1st Ave, Phoenix**

Ellen Nemetz’s solo exhibition features two bodies of work. Her Neon Cactus series is vibrant cactus paintings that capture the intense heat and beauty of the Sonoran Desert. She aims to capture the complexity of human emotions and societal issues in a whimsical and thought-provoking manner in her Animal Attraction series.



Neon Desert Dreams



The Great Escape



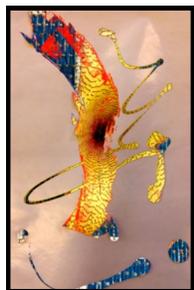
Lollipop Cactus

Hank Keneally

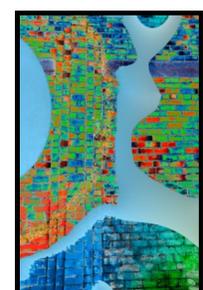
**“Embedded Art Program” at FOUND:RE Phoenix
Through 2025 at 1100 N. Central Ave, Phoenix**

FOUND:RE Phoenix is located within the Central Arts District. The entire hotel acts as a large gallery with multiple art spaces and experiences sprinkled throughout. Each guestroom is slightly different with its own look and art, creating a unique experience. Every time a guest visits, they get to sleep with a different artists' work in their room.

Hank Keneally’s is in Room 202!



Brayer Swirls



Brick Tiles

Have an exhibit to brag about? Send an email to the editor, Kimber Jones, at kkjones84@gmail.com.

Monthly General Meetings

Join us on the third Tuesday of each month from September through May for an evening of networking with artists of all media, informative and entertaining presentations by experts in their fields, critiques of members artwork, and competition for Artist of the Month. Members and guests may attend at 18411 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85023.

Tuesday, January 16 Meeting Agenda

5:00 - 5:30 pm Social Hour with finger food
Feel free to bring a brown bag dinner
5:30 - 6:30 pm Artwork Critique
6:30 - 7:30 pm Events overview and announcements
Followed by the program featuring a guest presenter

January Guest Presenter - Liz Kenyon

Soft Pastels Demonstration

Liz Kenyon worked as a book cover illustrator and currently is a pastelist who presented fifteen one woman shows and received over forty 'place' awards. She was published in a French magazine "Pratique Des Artes" and was one of the top ten finalists in the Artist Magazine's Annual Juried "Over Sixty Competition" in 2016 and 2018. She is a soft pastel instructor, teaching classes around the valley as well as Scottsdale Artist School since 2008. According to Liz, "Art is my second language. I use color, form and texture to connect with others and I keep my still life subjects fun and simple". Liz will use an ordinary cardboard box to create intense lighting effects similar to chiaroscuro with soft pastels. With the advice of the audience she will add hanging objects and tinted lighting in order to create a playful scene!



Liz Kenyon
*The Birth of Rubber
Cement: Act One*

Artist of the Month Competition

The Artist of the Month is a competition open to **AAG members** who may bring **one** submission to the meeting and members vote for their favorite piece. Winner receives a ribbon, \$25 prize and the opportunity to compete for Artist of the Year, who wins \$100. All artists are celebrated at a show and reception for their work at the September meeting. Once an artist receives the Artist of the Month distinction they are ineligible to enter for the remainder of the year.

Requirements

- Artwork must arrive by 5:20 pm
- Participating artists must be members of AAG
- 2D artwork must be wired for hanging and no larger than 40 inches on the largest side
- Sculptures must be easily handled

Artwork is subject to the conditions of the Hold Harmless Agreement used in all AAG exhibits. Contact the Artist of the Month Director for a copy of the agreement. Visit the website for more details.

October Guest Presenter Highlights - Carol Lei Bendell



Carol Lei Bendell, a lifelong professional artist and illustrator, is an active AAG member who teaches visual arts. Carol gave a lively demonstration with soft pastels creating a beautiful sky-scape. It was fascinating to watch her process and the end result was spectacular!

Get Your Artwork Critiqued

Members are invited to bring one piece of artwork to General Meetings to be critiqued. Critiques are led by art educators and professionals David Bradley and Ann Osgood. It is a great opportunity for gentle feedback. Please bring artwork to AAG by 5:20 pm.

Contact: David Bradley at davlbradly@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Jason Arkles Figure Sculpting Workshop

April 8 - 12 from 9 am - 5:00 pm / \$600



David Bradley, past AAG president, discovered Jason Arkles while traveling in Italy. He was very impressed with his clay and marble sculpting and after learning that he had given workshops around the world, invited him to give a workshop at AAG. We are lucky to have him!

In this course, sculptor Jason Arkles will lead participants in creating one-third sized figures in clay, using the visual measurement techniques of the sight-size method. Working from a live model posed in a seated position, students will learn how to build clay figures of substantial dimensions without the use of an armature, in water-based clay. Instructor Jason Arkles will work alongside students throughout the duration of the course, providing a demonstration of techniques and practices for the entirety of the course. Throughout the course, each student will work from a living model six hours a day. Instead of molding and casting the work at the end of the course, these seated figures will be hollowed out and fired into terracotta statuettes, should the students wish. Alternatively, students can take their work home for further finishing or casting, as desired. On the last day, various finishing techniques will be introduced and the works will be hollowed and left to dry.

Jason Arkles is an American sculptor, art historian, podcaster and author living in Florence, Italy. Beginning his training as a sculptor in 1996 at the Charles H. Cecil Studio in Florence,

He notably headed up the experimental sculpture program initiated by Cecil, which sought to revive a sculptural method based on optical and geometric processes (in painting, known as sight-size), once used in the ateliers of sculptors in 19th century Paris, but since the 20th century known only as a technique for painters and draftsmen. In 2006 Arkles published the fruits of this experimental sculptural technique under the title *Sculpting From Life – A Studio Manual of The Sight-Size Method*.

As a practicing sculptor, Arkles operates a studio in Florence (The Studio Della Statua, named after Alberti's treatise) and works on private commissions, specializing in portraiture in marble, but also producing figures and monuments in various media, including colossal scale terra cotta figures. His work is largely driven by a sense of narrative and psychological symbol, and this has sometimes led Arkles to foray into ecclesiastical work. Arkles is drawn both to sacred art and to portraiture for the same reason – narrative. To this end, in 2010 Arkles received a Master's degree in Sacred Art and Architecture from Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, a degree program instituted by the Vatican in 2007 and under Pontifical authority.

Recently, Jason's role of lecturer and instructor has come to the fore, locally and internationally. He has held a position since 2014 on the History of Art Department at the British Institute of Florence, and lectures for several institutions and studio in town.

Sculpture Group's Presentation

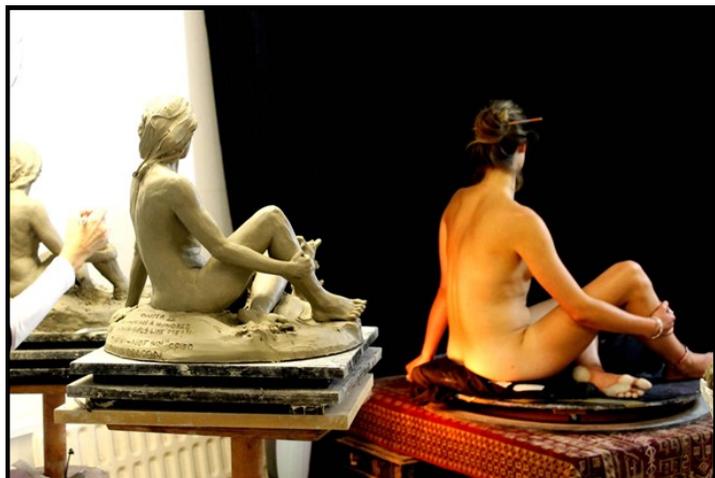
Saturday, January 27 at 1:00 pm

Our next presenter will be ceramist Casey Hanrahan who combines function and the colors of the desert in her works. Unexpected color combinations make her tactile pottery pop! Casey's presentation will include a demonstration on how she paints in molds and slip casts her pieces. 15 visitors limit. To RSVP contact John K at desertzilla057@gmail.com

Artstravaganza

Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Save the date to join us for a fun-filled day of creativity, laughter, and color in artist-led activities in partnership with Arizona Art Alliance and AAG. Proceeds will go to outreach and scholarship programs. Contact Tess Mosko Scherer info@AzArtAlliance.com if you would like to be involved with this FUNraising event.



Recurring Opportunities

Open Studio

Mondays 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 pm

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 pm

Members Free / Non-Members \$10

Easels and tables provided - bring art supplies

Come experience the benefits of sharing creative energy with other artists. Contact: Carole Matthews 630-319-5737.

Life Drawing

Tuesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm - Alternates between gestures & long poses

Thursdays 6:30 - 9:00 pm - Gestures

Members \$10 / Non-Members \$15

Easels and tables provided - bring art supplies

Come join the great models and enjoy creating next to other artists. Contact: Tom Mura at tommura2@gmail.com

Sculpture Group

Date, time and location varies

See the Upcoming Events section for details of the next presentation.

Photography Group

3rd Monday of the Month 6:00 - 9:00 pm

AAG celebrates this medium with a group dedicated to helping photographers develop their craft, expand their abilities, and show off their artistic efforts. All skill levels are welcome. Email Patrick Williams at aagphotographygroup@gmail.com to join.

Critique Group

Small groups of about ten artists meet monthly for a group critique. It is open to all AAG members and once the maximum is reached the group is closed and a wait list is started to form a new group. If you are interested in participating send an email to info@arizonaartistsguild.net.

Cancelations

Monday, April 8 - Open Studio

Tuesday, April 9 - Life Drawing

Wednesday, April 10 - Open Studio

Thursday, April 11 - Life Drawing

Visit the website for schedule updates

Outreach Programs

Veterans & Creative Distraction

Imperfect: An Exploration in Values with Eric Shi

January 27, 2024

10:00 am - 2:00 pm Veterans (in person)

2:00 - 3:00 pm Creative Distraction (via Zoom)

This class is open to veterans, healthcare workers or anyone experiencing loss, grief or isolation.

Description:

In this workshop you will be exploring the power of color through value – the lightness or darkness of color in making art.

You will work from reference photos in black and white to create drawings in two to three colors. The lightness or darkness of the values will be the emphasis of the work.

No previous experience is required.

All supplies will be provided in the veterans class.

Supply list: colored pencils, paper, cardboard/mat board, colored markers, tape, willingness to try something new and have fun at it!

Supplies for the Creative Distraction are available if needed. Email a request to ArtistsofAAG@gmail.com for supplies.

RSVP is required as space is limited.

Go to the website to register for both classes.

Hao “Eric” Shi Bio:

A Chinese born American artist, Hao “Eric” Shi was confronted with a seismic culture shift during his adolescent years when his family migrated to the United States. This singular life changing event had a profound impact on the way he sees the world.

Channeling this unique perspective, Eric strives to create art that is representative and honest to his life experience and cultural diversity. Utilizing expressive lines and bold colors, Eric explores the relationship between the artist and his subject matter through portraiture, landscapes and more.

An avid traveler and scuba diver, Eric hopes to continually progress and evolve his artistic style as he immerses himself into different cultures.

Meet the Artist - Melanie Harman



Melanie Harman, a resident of Arizona since 1987, has been a member of AAG since 2010. She has volunteered with AAG at several levels, beginning with the raffle and Artist of the Month at meetings. For several years she was the Senior Center Chair, organizing member shows at the Beatitudes Campus and Devonshire Senior Center. Currently she is the VP of Exhibitions. She creates watercolor portraits and landscapes along with acrylic collage in florals or abstract from gelliprints – monoprints made using a gelatin plate.

What inspired you to become an artist?

I began learning to paint about 2005 when a client at the gym where I worked decided to teach and asked if I was interested. I needed a creative outlet to overcome the depression I was having at the time, so I began weekly watercolor lessons with her. It wasn't until some time later that I realized that this was something I could enjoy and find stimulating. Until that time I had no idea that I could become an artist. I was not a child who drew, I was a child who read endlessly.

What influences show up in your artwork?

We all are affected by our teachers and I am no exception. I have been lucky enough to have attended some wonderful workshops by the likes of Raleigh Kinney, Tom Lynch, Fealing Lin, Jean Pederson, Michael Holter and others through local organizations such as Sedona Arts Center, Mountain Artists Guild in Prescott, AAG, Arizona Watercolor Association and Contemporary Watercolorists of Arizona. Other major influences are those AAG members who attend Monday and Wednesday open studios and my critique groups.

Which part of your creative process comes easiest/hardest?

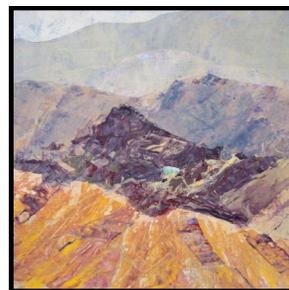
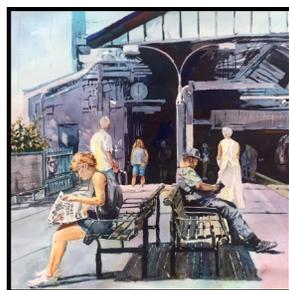
Deciding what I want to paint comes very easy to me. I take a lot of photos wherever I go and am constantly looking through them to see what I would like to paint next. Sometimes with my gelatine prints a selection made in the same session speaks to me and goes together as an abstract. What I find hardest is finishing - deciding on those final touches that can make or break the piece, particularly with abstract/non-objective work.

How do you want your work to affect people?

My work is not about sending a message; I make art for my own satisfaction - for the problem solving and decision making. A lot of my work comes from my daily life and travels. Sometimes this reminds people of their own lives and rings a chord with them.

What is your No. 1 suggestion to new artists?

Get involved. Join your local guild(s) and become an active member. In return you will make a whole bunch of new friends, learn new techniques and become more aware of opportunities. AAG has given me all of that and more.



2023 AAG Winter Exhibition

The Arizona Artist Guild's Winter Exhibition included fifty three works of art selected from over 100 entries. The spectacular show was juried by David Bradley, Britt Steinmann and Ellen Nemetz who stated that they were impressed with the high quality of the submissions, which made their selecting the show much harder. They also felt picking the awards were especially difficult because there were so many beautiful pieces.



Best of Show

Where Once a Tree Was Standing

LeAnn Hileman



Award of Excellence

Ancient Warrior

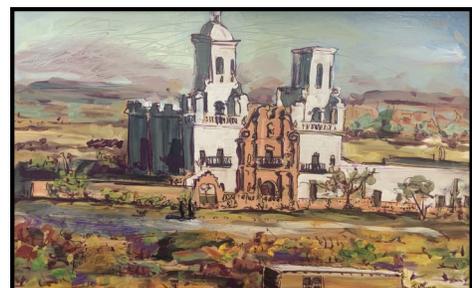
Diane Burkhardt



Award of Merit

San Xavier

Jim Kinne



Honorable Mentions

The Shaman

Ellen Van Pelt

Sonora Sonata

David Larson



Professional Tip of the Month

The Business of Art is uncomfortable and often unfamiliar. Artists would rather be making art than anything else. This page is devoted to tips for running your art business. Whether you are new to the art world or a seasoned artist you will find many of the ideas shared here helpful, informative or perhaps they act as a reminder of what you need to do.

Questions to Get You Started in Writing your Artists Statement by H.E.A.R.T.

(This article is the second in a series. See the November Newsletter for the first article.)

Writing an artist statement can be a daunting task. Knowing what to say about your work, your process, and your expression is not always easy and generally does not come naturally to most artists. Over and over, I hear artists say that they are not sure what to say when someone asks about their work. Because of this, I have compiled a list of questions adapted from **Selling From the H.E.A.R.T.**, a workshop designed specifically for artists that I developed. I urge you to take the time to do this work. Answer the questions by free-writing or stream-of-consciousness writing. Fill the page(s) with whatever comes up without concern for penmanship, spelling, or grammar. Once you have finished, then you can begin to revise and edit.

H - History....

What is your formal training?
Where did you study?
What is your informal training?
Who is your mentor and how has that person/s influenced your life?
Who is your favorite artist/the artist that influences you the most? Why?
What event(s) shaped you as an artist? There could be several from different stages of your life
Does your family history show up in your art?
Do your life experiences show up in your work?
Do you show up in your work?

E - Emotions....

What do others say about how your work makes them feel?
What have you observed as people look at your work? Are they curious? Comfortable? Uncomfortable?

What is their body language telling you?
How does your work make you feel?
Do you read for inspiration? If so, what do you read for inspiration?
Are you spiritual? Does that spirituality work its way into your art?

A - Aesthetics....

Describe your work in terms of color/palette, texture, subject, composition, themes
What do you like about your art?
Is there an artist that your work is closely aligned with/familiar to?
What is your primary subject(s) (think in terms of a body(ies) of work)?
Is there a theme(s) to your art?
How does one piece of your work relate to another?

R - Reasons....

What drives you to make art?
What inspires you to make art?
What bogs you down?
Why do you make art?

T - Technique(s) / Process....

How did you make this?
What tools did you use?
What materials did you use?
Do you work in series/multiples/one-of-a-kind/limited editions?

Other Questions to Ponder....

If you were a collector, would you buy your art? Why?
Do you collect art?
How much time do you spend making art? Is that sufficient?

The Professional Tip of the Month is a resource provided by the Arizona Art Alliance and is written by the president, Tess Mosko Scherer. Email Tess with your feedback, comments or interests at info@AzArtAlliance.com or call her directly at 928-300-7185. For more information about Arizona Art Alliance go to <https://azartalliance.com>.

"You can't cross the sea by standing and staring at the water."

~ Rabindranath Tagore

Calling All Artists

Arizona Art Alliance 2023 - 2024 Season

AzAA will be hosting the following shows for the 2023-2024 seasons. All AAG members are welcome to enter.

Interpretations IX WHAM

Exhibition: March 1 - March 31, 2024

The Heat is On Arizona Art Alliance

Exhibition: Summer 2024

Online Exhibition

For more information on Arizona Art Alliance exhibitions visit <https://azartalliance.com/calls-for-art/>

Arizona Artists Guild 2024 Spring Abstract/Non-Objective Exhibition

Exhibition: April 15 - May 14, 2024

Entry: February 17 - March 17, 2024

Contact: Melanie Harman at aagimages3@gmail.com or 602-

Welcome New AAG Members

Members

Shari Auston	Myja Lark
Erika Bond	Kristen Roskob
Donna England	Linda Ruffe
Gwen Gruber	Debra Tumbach
Alfred Jimenez	Madeline Vicari

Juried Members

Roger Fowler

Art Supply & Exchange

The Art Supply Exchange is one of AAG's most popular programs due to its gently used supplies and books available at reasonable prices.

Features:

Beautiful selection of floating frames

Expansive selection of 40 x 60 Crescent rag mat board

High quality easels

32 x 40 inch foam core

Half inch canvas

Stop by during open studios and the general meeting. If you find gently used supplies while cleaning, AAG would welcome your donations!

Contact: Carol Matthews at 630-319-5737



Thank You For Your Support!



Arizona Art Supply we appreciate your continued generosity to AAG. Monthly donations support the raffle which in turn supports Outreach and Scholarship Programs. Artists, be sure to visit Arizona Art Supply for all of your art materials.

4025 N 16th Street, Phoenix 602-264-9514



Thank you **Scottsdale Printing** for your beautiful work on the newsletter and tending to our printing projects. We appreciate your excellent service and attention to detail. Artists, be sure to visit Scottsdale Printing for all of your printing needs.

13901 N 73rd Street, Suite 218, Scottsdale 480-443-1122



	Loop 101
7th Avenue	Union Hills Drive
	 Arizona Artists Guild



PO Box 41534 Phoenix, AZ 85080