



# Springfield Art Guild (SAG)

*A place for a creative experience*

January 2017 Newsletter

## Meeting Schedule

Wed. January 11, 2016,

6:00-9pm

Grace Church  
Springfield, VA 22150

6:00 pm – Set up and socializing  
7:00-7:30 pm – Business meeting  
7:45 – 8:30 pm - Art Critique  
8:30 – 9:00pm – Clean up  
*Note: Schedule may vary*

[www.springfieldartguild.org](http://www.springfieldartguild.org)

[www.facebook.com/springfieldartguild/](http://www.facebook.com/springfieldartguild/)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- **SAG's Art Critique by Chica Brunsvold**
- **BIG ANOUNCEMENT**
- **Franconia Gov. Ctr. SAG Art Show & Raffle**
- **UpCycle – Creative Resource Center**
- **Need Help**
- **Successful Goodwin House Show**
- **Exciting Member News**
- **Art Opportunities**

**\*\*SAG's January meeting is being held at Grace Church in Springfield \*\***

## SAG's Annual “Works in Progress” Critique

Every year at our January meeting we hold a “Works in Progress” critique. We are fortunate to have professional artist, Chica Brunsvold, to facilitate our critique this year. This is not a judging of a final piece of artwork. This critique is meant to assist each artist in completing their artwork through helpful constructive comments. Many times while we are creating our “master pieces” we get stuck and are unsure how to complete it. We work and rework our artwork but still can't get it the way we want. Critiques from fellow artists can be very helpful and offer a huge insight and learning tool. This year we are lucky to have Chica Brunsvold to critique our unfinished artwork and help us get “unstuck”.

Any SAG member who would like to participate can bring in one piece of unfinished artwork to be professionally critiqued. The January meeting is Wednesday Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Chica Brunsvold

Chica's area of expertise is her Imaginative and whimsical paintings of birds and animals which she calls Zooillogicals®. She paints almost exclusively on Yupo, a slick, plastic surface that lets watercolor run wild instead of sinking into the paper. The paint stays bright and is readily textured by using stencils, stamps, scrapping, wiping, spraying etc. Chica starts with an open mind, creating all sorts of textures and patterns, but always with an eye for composition. Then she lets the painting dry and sees what she can "see," - turning the image all around, viewing it in a mirror and in varying degrees of light. Surprising images begin to appear. Chica then sets about defining them so they are visible to others. She puts the paint on, takes it off, and re-applies it sometimes endlessly. This process of tweaking can go on for days and days as she see more and more images develop. This way of working is always a challenge for her, but one she finds to be so much fun.



## About My Art Background and History

*By Chica Brunsvold*

I was born on Michelangelo's birthday (March 6) so I feel I was destined to a life of creating art!

I grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, (Go Blue!) with loving, supportive parents and an older brother who could have made my life miserable but didn't. My parents encouraged my artistic efforts, urging me to copy images of what interested me. I got to be pretty good at that so they hired an artist to give me art lessons when I was in high school. I also took the "Famous Artists" correspondence course and enrolled in a night-school life painting class

at the University of Michigan while in high school. But when it came time for college, my father, a Professor of Germanic Languages at the U of Mich. nixed the Art School idea and told me I must enter the College of Literature, Sciences and Arts to get a decent education. I did, but took all my electives in the Art School. My father died when I was a sophomore so I transferred to the Art School for my junior and senior years, graduating on time

because of my accumulated elective credits.

I realized I could not possibly support myself on my painting so stayed an additional year at the University getting an MA in Art and a secondary teaching certificate. I soon realized full days of teaching were not for me. By the end of each day, I was too exhausted to create anything of my own, so I visited the University's employment bureau. I was offered a position at Hallmark Cards but instead accepted an offer to work at the Central Intelligence Agency as an Illustrator General. I enjoyed the work for five years until our unit of artists was merged with a larger unit of cartographers and a cartographer was put in charge. That was time for me to retire! At that point, I thought I would just paint but instead took a position at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. I was there about a year when I became pregnant and my husband, a hard working lawyer and associate in a new patent law firm in DC, agreed that it was then time for me to truly retire.

I so enjoyed motherhood! It gave me an excuse to do lots of fun things with our daughter, plus time to take up watercolor. Watercolor is truly my medium of choice, although I do enjoy acrylics too. When our daughter left for college, I immersed myself in my painting and have loved taking workshops, painting, entering shows and volunteering in art activities. For the last 20 years, I have been painting simply what comes to mind rather than what exists in the real world. This has been the most

challenging, rewarding and fun painting I've ever done.

My studio is basically a mess! Paintings are stacked all around...but I have to admit, I seem to thrive in the chaos. I do not need north light as I am not trying to duplicate the particular shapes and colors of nature. While I admire beautiful paintings of nature, my inspiration comes not from the real world, but from what I can see within my own paintings. I paint flat on a pool table covered with plywood. My



palette is a mess too. I used to clean it but realized I was basically washing money down the drain. I do put out fresh paint once in a while, but mainly use what's on the palette - palette dirt! Palette dirt can result in some lovely colors! Probably the best thing about my studio is the view outside - Lake Barcroft, a fabulous small lake in Fairfax, Virginia. Although it's beautiful, it doesn't make me want to paint it. Others can do that. I want to paint what nobody has yet seen. That way, for better or worse, it is completely original~ uniquely and totally mine.



## Developing My Style

I was a realist when I entered art school, but it was the early 60's when Abstract Expressionism was all the rage. So, I got with the program and splashed on the paint. I didn't like it, but did it because it was required. When I finished art school I was still a realist at heart and that was also what was taught in the various watercolor workshops I took. Then at the end of 1989, I took an acrylic workshop which brought the splashing back into play. This time it was fun! After years of careful planning with watercolors, I felt as though I was given free rein. I loved the bright colors of acrylics and painted with them for about 10 years.

In the early 90's I applied for a local one person show but was rejected because I didn't have a center of interest in my



paintings. That annoyed me so much that I furiously repainted the works, noticing that animals and birds were emerging from my wild activity. I became enchanted with them and proceeded to repaint nearly all my existing acrylics, even taking them out of the frames. What a freeing experience that was! When I ran out of existing paintings to redo, I was a bit uneasy-concerned that since I don't see visions, I might not be able to create any fanciful images on blank paper/canvas. But as soon as I began splashing the paint, I was able to perceive fascinating shapes. If I couldn't, I would place the painting at the foot of my bed at night and check it in the early morning light when things could be wild. That was a breakthrough experience. When I saw shapes, I would outline them in chalk so they would be visible in the light and then enthusiastically paint the revealed images. I sometimes still look at my work in the half light, when only the strongest values are revealed and different shapes become apparent.

In 1995, I was accepted by that same local gallery for a one person show of my Zooillogicals®. About 10 years ago, I was introduced to Yupo, a maddeningly slick plastic surface. I actually went back to watercolors which Yupo makes so easy to remove and repaint. Magically, watercolors stayed bright and exciting and it made sense to me to splash them around as well.

I continue to enjoy painting but have mostly retired from national shows which

require a fair amount of time and effort to enter. Old Town Editions has made top

quality giclee prints of many of my paintings, some of which are on my website. If you email me, I will be happy to add you to my mailing list which I use only to announce upcoming shows.

**Chica Brunsvold**

[www.ChicaBrunsvold.com](http://www.ChicaBrunsvold.com)

[artbychica@gmail.com](mailto:artbychica@gmail.com)

[703.256.1985](tel:703.256.1985)

**GALLERY UNDERGROUND**

[www.galleryunderground.org](http://www.galleryunderground.org)

# BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

**Grace Presbyterian Church is SAG's new meeting place from January through June 2017**

**Grace Presbyterian Church  
7434 Bath Street  
Springfield, VA 22150**

**Our next meeting is  
Wednesday Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 pm: Set up socialize  
6:45 pm: Business meeting  
7:15 pm: Art Critique  
9:00 pm: Clean up**



# Art Opportunity For SAG Members...



## The 2017 Franconia Government Center Show and Raffle

**Franconia Government Center • 6121 Franconia Road • Alexandria, VA • 22310**

### The Art Show

- **Who:** Open to all SAG members (1-3 artworks each, not juried, no theme)
- **What:** The 2017 Franconia Government Center Art Show
- **When:** Show is January 14 to February 25th ; Reception date January 28 – Time TBD
- **Where:** 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310
- **Why:** Service to community, exposure of our artwork, Peoples' Choice Awards

### How to Enter

**Submittal:** The following information must be submitted for each artwork via email to Lynn Martin not later than **January 3, 2016** ←

Email Address = [singleymartin@cox.net](mailto:singleymartin@cox.net)

Subject Line = "[SAG Franconia Show Entries + your name](#)"

- **Your Name:** (first and last)
- **Artwork Title:**
- **Medium:**
- **Dimensions:** (overall width and height in inches, including frame)
- **Telephone:** \*\*
- **Email:** \*\*
- **Price:** (if for sale, otherwise use "NFS")

\*\* NOTE: this year we will put the price and contact info on the labels.

- Sales will be handled directly by the artist via the contact information they provide on their label.
- You can leave the email address fields blank if your art is marked as not for sale (NFS), but please DO provide your cell phone number so that we can contact you if we need to during the show.

[A label will be printed with the above information for each artwork; substitutions and changes will not be permitted.]

**Acceptance:** At least one artwork per member will be accepted (if entered on or before Jan 3th); all artwork will be accepted and hung as space allows; assume all of your entries will be hung unless you hear from us prior to the delivery date.

**Delivery:** All accepted artwork must be delivered, ready to be hung (framed and wired), to the Franconia Government Center on Saturday, Jan 17 between 10:00 and 10:30am; all entrants are expected to assist with hanging (approx 10:30 until noon); 3D artist are expected to tag each accepted artwork with the label information listed above and arrange their artwork in the show case provided, which limits each artwork to 12" (H) by 12" (W) by 8" (D).

**Pick Up:** All entrants are expected to pick up their artwork on February 25 between 10:00 and 10:30am.

## Raffle Donations

Donations of small artwork are needed from SAG members for the free raffle to be held during the reception on (Saturday, January 28th). Please donate what you can: Contact Lydia Jechorek via email ( [raylyd@verizon.net](mailto:raylyd@verizon.net) ) to indicate what donation(s) you intend to bring when artwork is delivered on **January 14th**. Donations can be small works, cards, prints or other art.

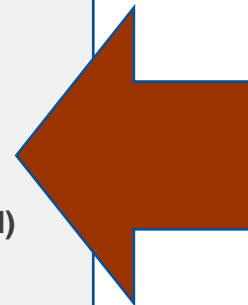


## Community Service

SAG is honored once again to have this art show at the invitation of Lee District Supervisor, Jeff McKay. Supervisor McKay, a longtime supporter and friend of SAG, will award the raffle prizes at the open house reception. Voting for Peoples' Choice Awards will occur during the reception and the winners will be announced by SAG in its February newsletter. The Government Center is the location of the Franconia Police Station and Museum, as well as the Supervisor's offices. As such it gets a lot of visitors, who will have an opportunity to view your art.

## Schedule Recap

- Jan 03:** Deadline for submission of entry information via email
- Jan 14:** Delivery (10am) and hanging (10:30am-noon)
- Jan 28:** Supervisor's Reception and Raffle (Time to be determined)
- Feb 25:** Take down and pick up artwork (10-11:00am)



## SAG Contacts

**About Raffle:** Lydia Jechorek, [raylyd@verizon.net](mailto:raylyd@verizon.net)

**About All Else:** Lynn Martin, [singleymartin@cox.net](mailto:singleymartin@cox.net)





## Creative Resource Center

Do you love high quality art supplies, sold at discount prices? Come visit our reuse center to see what we have in stock today. Our inventory is always changing. You just might find a treasure behind our doors!

Participate as a Daily Member of UpCycle and fill a bag for \$5-\$25, depending on the size of the bag. Check out our Annual Materials Memberships to enjoy unlimited access to our reuse collection! [www.UpCycleCRC.org](http://www.UpCycleCRC.org)

Located in the Durants Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

## I need help please!

To all SAG members.



I am always in need of any kind of art news to put in our monthly newsletter. This is your newsletter and I want to include topics you are interested in. The most difficult part of doing the newsletter is getting the content. I don't write the content, I just put it all together to layout the newsletter. Help me out by sending some articles or even just a few lines about some art news. I would really like to have articles about art workshops or classes you have attended, reviews or summaries of museum shows, any art tips, upcoming art shows to enter, awards you have received and things like that.

Just email any newsletter information to [teresatindlebrunson@gmail.com](mailto:teresatindlebrunson@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
Teresa



# Congratulations on a Great Show at Goodwin House

Goodwin House is a terrific place to have exhibits and SAG is honored to have their continuing support. Our December show is a great success due to our chairperson Donnalynne LeFever and participating members. Thank you to



everyone who helped with the installation and a special thanks our members who were able to attend the reception.

At the reception, the residents enjoyed talking to the artists and of course partaking in the treats provided by SAG members. It is a tough time of the year for receptions and SAG was “competing” with all of the Goodwin House holiday parties, but it was a fun evening.

Everyone we talked to was very complimentary about our show and how much they have admired the work since its installation. People mentioned even though they walk by it three times a day on their way to the café they still enjoy stopping and looking at the art every day. They all loved the diversity of



the show and said it was one of the best shows they'd had in a long time. They were all eager to point out their favorites to our SAG members. What was fun was everyone we talked to had a different favorite painting.

Many thanks to Donnalynne for all of her hard work to make these shows happen.

# Exciting SAG Member News

**SAG Member, Ruth Ensley, will be having an art show at Art A La Carte Gallery in Occoquan, VA**

**“Chocolate Walk” at Art A La Carte Gallery during February 2017**

**OPENING RECEPTION – Meet the Artist – *Ruth Ensley*  
Saturday February 7, 2016, 12:00-4:30, 12:00-4:30 pm**



Fire up your passion for art, and get ready for Valentine’s day with some amazing handmade art. Our featured artist, **Ruth Ensley** will host a reception on Saturday, February 7 from 1-5 pm with wine, and refreshments.

## RUTH ENSLEY

Ruth is an award winning artist, creating art professionally since 1966 in a broad range of media including collage, batik, mixed media, photography, jewelry, and currently watercolor. She has been featured in numerous solo and group shows in Binational Centers, galleries, private collections and exhibits in the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Madagascar, Mexico, Honduras, Paraguay and Costa Rica. In 2010 Ruth began once again to exhibit in group and solo shows in Virginia and Maryland.

## ARTIST’S STATEMENT

My subjects have ranged from non-objective designs, people, landscapes, birds of different colors including birds and chickens with an attitude, to flora and fauna with an exotic flavor. I have spent over 12 years in tropical countries five of which were in Costa Rica. I became enthralled with the lush greens of tropical foliage and the vibrant colors of exotic birds and flowers. The media of watercolor allows me to show the beautiful transparencies, textures and the luxuriant color that one might see in a cloud forest or a rain forest. I have always been inspired by birds exotic or otherwise. They make my heart sing. I hold the hope that my paintings aid in focusing on what would be lost because of the shrinking forests of the world and the unique creatures that live within these forests. I strive to show my interpretations of what I see and feel as I view these tropical treasures.

Ruth is a member of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists, the Springfield Art Guild, the Vienna Arts Society, the Virginia Watercolor Society and part of the Art A La Carte Gallery in Occoquan, VA.

ART A La Carte, an artist-owned cooperative gallery and gift boutique, opened August 1, 2010. It showcases the work of 28 top artists producing a kaleidoscope of gift items including photography, original fine art and prints, one-of-a-kind glass items, jewelry, wood work and textiles. Artists are juried and selected for their edgy vision that compliments the personality of the gallery.



SAG Member, **Jo Ellen Walker**, has her neon artwork in the show “CONSIDER YOURSELF ILLUMINATED “ at the Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery in D.C. The show was reviewed in the Washington Post and is below:

## Consider Yourself Illuminated

*By Washington Post*



Best experienced when the sun is setting outside the darkened space, “Consider Yourself Illuminated,” at the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, spotlights work that pulses, shines and casts dynamic shadows. Lighting is more integral to some pieces than others, but all six participants use lamps, lightboxes or neon tubing to switch on their art.

Ani Bradberry’s “Flex” is a chain of hanging rings that dangles from a red-

neon loop. **Neon represents fire in Jo Ellen Walker’s “Sacred Spaces,” whose red-painted logs appear to burn inside a crib.** Robin Schaefer places wax-layered prints atop lightboxes, evoking the dwindling flickers of remembrance.

Melissa Burley’s found-object collages glow from inside, using LED or halogen light whose ephemerality contrasts the mostly metallic ingredients. Her largest piece, “Bending Time,” is a seven-foot tower made of bicycle gears, piano strings and backlit glass blocks.

The show’s other magnum opus is Fabiola Alvarez Yurcisin’s “Saturated Fish Net,” a wall-filling installation made mostly of hand-stitched VHS tape, a symbol of obsolescence. A bucket filled with water is a miniature sea, while small silhouettes of Mexico and the United States represent the countries of the artist’s birth and current home, respectively. In a show dedicated to the light, this assemblage is a potent black whole.

## ART Opportunities

# Highly Recommended Art Class

SAG member, Teresa Greenly, says *"I enjoyed Rebecca's first class and hope to take the second one. Highly recommended"*

Below is a copy of an email Teresa received from the instructor, Rebecca Solow. Last March Rebecca gave a wonderful presentation to SAG and introduced us to her world of children's book illustration.

Email Message:

Hello fellow artists and art appreciators!

I am offering two courses this winter in Children's Book Illustration at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA, and am hoping you will help me spread the word.



### **Illustrate a Children's Book I** (*only 2 spots left!*)

This intro class is for anyone who has ever wondered what is involved in illustrating a children's book. It will be a fun and informative class for adults and young adults of all skill levels. Students may work with a text that they have written, or with an already existing text (like a classic fairy tale).

Sundays from 10am-1pm starting January 22nd (6 weeks)

### **Illustrate a Children's Book II** (*for students who have already taken the intro class*)

The advanced class is for students who have taken the intro class and wish to continue their work, and continue learning about children's books and the world

of children's publishing. I only offer the advanced class once a year.

Sundays from 2pm-5pm starting January 22nd (8 weeks)

I would greatly appreciate if you would share this message with anyone (or any list serve) in the DC/NoVA area who might be interested.

If you have taken the intro course and have been considering the advanced class, I'd love to see you in class again! As always feel free to ask me any questions you may have about these classes.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find the course listings, or visit <http://www.workhousearts.org/> and under "Register for Classes" select the "Drawing & Design" category.

Thank you, and happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Rebecca

Rebecca Solow Illustration [www.rebeccasolow.com](http://www.rebeccasolow.com)



# The 83rd Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature

## The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike

North Bethesda, MD 20852-3224

Strathmore is easy to get to by Metro or by car. We're located just 1/2 mile north of the Capital Beltway (I-495) on Rockville Pike. Take Metro's Red Line to Grosvenor/Strathmore or drive and park for free at most events.

Curated by

The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society  
of Washington, DC

Sat, Nov 19–Sat, Dec 31

It's the little things! More than 600 tiny treasures in stone, oil, pastel, and print travel to the Mansion from around the world for this ever-popular juried exhibition. From the size of a postcard down to a postage stamp, petite portraiture, still life, sculpture, and collage capture the world in miniature. And these mini marvels aren't just about making small art—they are about the ability of the miniaturist to captivate and enchant the viewer with a refined object that doesn't disappoint when you move in for a closer look.

Active for 83 years now, The Miniature Painter, Sculptor & Gravers Society of Washington, DC, was sponsored by the renowned miniaturist Alyn Williams. He first established the Royal Miniature Society in England in 1895 and came to Washington to teach in the Corcoran School of Art.