



SPRINGFIELD ART GUILD (SAG)

A place for a creative experience

September 2026 Newsletter

Meeting Schedule

Grace Presbyterian Church
Auditorium
7434 Bath St.
Springfield, VA 22150

September 9, 2026 – all are
welcome!

Schedule

6:30: Doors open, set up,
networking
7 pm – Business Meeting
7:10 pm – Speaker
Times are approximate

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Welcome to the Springfield Art Guild 2026-2027 Season!

The SAG Board and many members have been working together to plan a great season. We will start our season on September 9th with a painting demonstration by Liang Wei at our usual meeting location which is Grace Presbyterian Church auditorium (*address and schedule listed above*).

We've got another great line up of demonstrations and guest artists for this season. There's something for everyone and we'll be exploring several new media. We've got a group of locally, nationally, and internationally recognized painters working in watercolor, acrylic, and oil. And we've got artists coming in to talk about new ways of working in glass, enamel, cloisonné, and quilting. There'll be more information about the annual critique later – we're still setting that one up. We have included a summary of what we've got scheduled for the season at the end of this article. Throughout the season we will have information and opportunities about Nature Journaling activities and classes. SAG also sends out information about Gallery exhibits and special art shows our members are in.

Some things SAG is working on are:

- Redesigning our website
- Working on Dates for our next Green Spring Gardens Art show

- Working on a Date for the annual Franconia Supervisor's Open House
- Finding New Locations for Art Shows such as Goodwin House I and II

If you are interested and can help in any way please let us know. You can contact any Board member during a meeting or just email us at springfielddartguild@gmail.com

Springfield Art Guild 2026-2027 Speakers and Guest Artists

	September 9, 2026 – Liang Wei Demonstration of Contemporary Chinese painting and calligraphy. Before coming to the United States, Liang Wei studied Chinese painting at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. His adviser was Professor Fang Chuxiong. Liang Wei is a resident artist in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC. He has won numerous awards including Best in Shows awards. More recently, he also won the Outstanding Work and Honorable Mention awards at the First and Second Overseas Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Exhibitions held in Beijing, China
	October 14, 2026 – Chica Brunsvold Chica Brunsvold was originally trained as an abstract expressionist painter. But from the beginning of her art education, Brunsvold had the ability to perceive animals in the texture or facture of her canvases. Because her training frowned upon seeing "secondary images" in abstract elements, Brunsvold repressed her facility for drawing forth these images. Finally, in 1994, she began at last to explore her instinctive ability to perceive animals in her preexisting work, and let the hidden images come out.
	November 12, 2026 – Allison Sigethy "Full circle" is how sculptor Alison Sigethy describes her life. "I just always made things," says Sigethy. While Sigethy enjoyed drawing as a child, she was compelled by sculpture—particularly kinetic sculpture. In 2001, she started working in glass and was hooked. She now works out of a studio at the Torpedo Factory and has completed glass sculptural commissions, drawing from her love of the ocean, for numerous public and private clients.
	January 13, 2027 – Missy Dunaway Missy Dunaway is an interdisciplinary artist based in Portland, Maine. Her work blends painting with research, investigating connections between art, literature, history, and the natural world. Her projects have explored Anatolian textiles, classical painting techniques, ornithology, and Shakespearean literature. Dunaway is a recipient of a Folger Institute Artistic Research Fellowship She has illustrated book covers for acclaimed authors and she penned 21 articles for the Folger Shakespeare's Library's blog, Shakespeare & Beyond.

	February 10, 2027 – Sandy Applegate Sandy’s artwork deals with shape, color and ideas, definitely with her own version of reality. She works primarily in acrylic or watercolor with pen with ink. Another medium is oil-based ink in which she creates Mono prints on paper or canvas, a method learned from Shy Rabbit’s Michael Coffee – his reductive-ink process. She often incorporates mixed media to create unusual effects.
	March 10, 2027 - Barbara Dove Textile and art quilt collage - I create art quilts for display on the wall. My style is impressionistic whereby I collage fabrics using raw edge applique to create a scene. I specialize in landscapes and incorporate generally accepted art principles and elements. I particularly enjoy working with color. My work has been exhibited internationally and published in books and Quilting Arts magazine. I also belong to Studio Art Quilt Associates and the Alexandria Art League
	April 14, 2027 - Don Viehman Contemporary enamel and cloisonné - Enameling as a medium, and especially the technique of cloisonné, has served me as an art form, an occupation, an intellectual and emotional challenge, and a deep and meaningful means of personal expression. It has always been difficult and always absorbing. Creating cloisonné pieces began as an occupational experiment and an ever widening lifetime involvement when I initially joined with two other artists in 1979 in California to form “The Cloisonné Collection”. Eventually in 2005, I obtained a studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA, where my work and workspace are on exhibit today
	May 12, 2027 - Teresa Oaxaca Contemporary Realist Painter - Teresa Oaxaca is an American born artist based currently in Washington D.C. She is a full time painter whose works can be seen in collections and galleries throughout the US and internationally. Her talent has been recognized and rewarded by museums and institutions such as the American Museum of the Cowboy, The former Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Museu Europeu D’Art Modern in Barcelona. My work is about pleasing the eye. I paint light and the way it falls. Simple observation reveals beauty; often it is found in the unconventional. Because of this I have learned to take particular delight in unusual pairings of subject matter
TBD	June 9, 2027 – SAG’s Annual “Works in Progress” Critique. 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.

- The guest artist schedule is subject to change
- The January and February meetings will take place over Zoom. All others are “in person” and will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church (7434 Bath St, Springfield, VA 22150)
- Meetings start at ~7:00 PM and end by ~9:00 PM EST.
- Meetings are free and open to the public. Guests are most welcome to attend

September Presentation and Demo

Contemporary Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy



Liang Wei is a [N.VA](#) artist known for his contemporary Chinese painting and calligraphy. His calligraphy has appeared on book jackets for works by Yale scholars Jonathan Spence and Helen Siu, and his art has been featured in Chinese magazines.

Trained at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts under Professor Fang Chuxiong, Liang has been a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center since 2002. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries across the East Coast, earning

numerous honors including Torpedo Factory Artist of the Year and multiple Best in Show awards. He has also received national recognition in Beijing at the Overseas Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Exhibitions.

Liang Wei's work reflects deep cultural roots, refined technique, and a vibrant contemporary voice.

<http://www.moxiangting.com/>





Springfield Art Guild **It's Registration Time!**

Springfield Art Guild Registration for our 2026-2027 Season

It's time for members to renew their memberships for the **2026-2027** season, which begins with our first all-member meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church Auditorium in Springfield on September 9th. Now is also a great time for members to encourage their creative friends to join!

As always, the 2026-2027 season will be packed with Guild-run exhibit opportunities, Facebook and Instagram posts to showcase member artwork, a monthly newsletter to keep members informed of all things Guild-related, creative critique sessions, monthly meetings featuring presentations by noted local and national artists, notifications about non-SAG workshops and artistic opportunities, and the much-anticipated, fun-filled Holiday Party!

Please click on the following link, which will take you to SAG's JotForm membership registration form:

<https://pci.jotform.com/sagcurating/2026-2027-sag-membership-form>

Members can pay via credit card (no additional processing fee) or by check. If you are paying by check, please send your check to the Membership Coordinator, Pat Hafkemeyer, **after** registering on Jotform.

Pat Hafkemeyer
5926 Burnside Landing Dr.
Burke, VA 22015

SAG's Green Spring Gardens Show

June 30 – August 23, 2026

<https://www.springfieldartguild.org/green-spring-gardens-2026-art-show/>

Judge: Pattee Hipschen

Awards:

1st Place: Tulip Envy by Deidre Pistoichini

2nd Place: Hollyhocks by Noreen Brunini

3rd Place: My Trail in VA by Blanca Belisario

Founders Award: Hiking Journal – One by Teresa Brunson

Honorable Mention: Sunrise by Danica Arehart

Honorable Mention: Baby Blue by Patricia Hafkemeyer

Honorable Mention: Fish Face by Marni Maree

Honorable Mention: Jungle (Mouse's-Eye View) by John Nicholson

Honorable Mention: Hardy Begonias by Sandy Olszowy

Honorable Mention: Violets by Chris Pankow

People's Choice Award: Sunrise by Danica Arehart

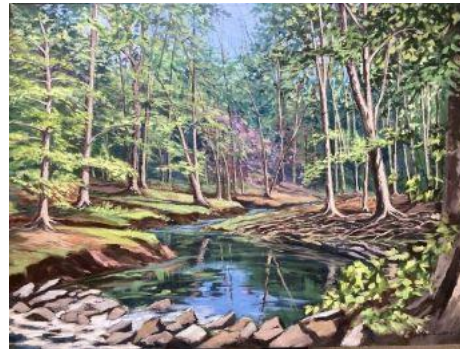
Sales: We had 9 sales!!



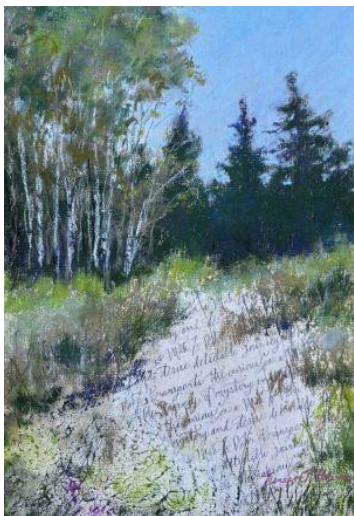
FIRST PLACE: Tulip Envy by Deidre Pistoichini



2nd PLACE: Hollyhocks by Noreen Brunini



THIRD PLACE: My Trail in VA by Blanca Belisario



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE and
HONORABLE MENTION:**
Sunrise by Danica Arehart

HONORABLE MENTION:
Baby Blue by Patricia
Hafkemeyer

FOUNDERS AWARD:
Hiking Journal One by
Teresa Brunson

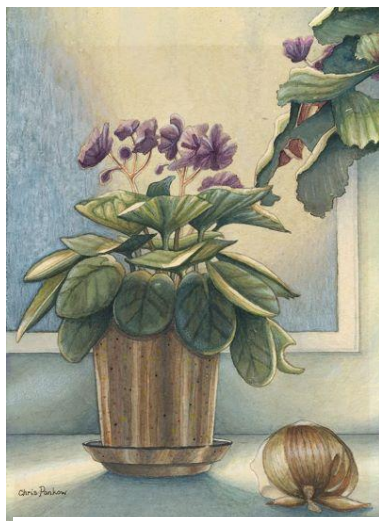


HONORABLE MENTION:
Jungle (Mouse's-Eye View) by
John Nicholson



**HONORABLE
MENTION:** Hardy
Begonias by Sandy Olszowy

**HONORABLE
MENTION:** Fish Face
by Marni Maree



**HONORABLE
MENTION:** Violets by
Chris Pankow

Nature Journaling

By Elaine Sevy



September could be called the “Official Nature Journaling Month!” There are many opportunities in our local parks, a little farther away at the Clifton Institute near Warrenton, and internationally with the Wild Wonder Nature Journaling Conference (wildwonder.org/26).



Fairfax County Park Authority Fall Classes opened for registration o August 11. Below is a listing of nature drawing/journaling classes at our wonderful local parks with links to make it easier to register.

Huntley Meadows Park

Artist Naturalist Margaret Wohler will be teaching six sketch hikes this Fall --Vines (9/5) 10am, Water (9/6) 10am, Ancient Plants (9/26) 10am, Fall Wildflowers ID (10/10) 10 am, Fall Color Snap (10/24) 10am, Lichens (11/28) 10am. Click on the link to register:

<https://fairfax.usedirect.com/.../ACTIVITIES/Search.aspx...>

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Classes include Drawing and Investigating Invasive Plants (10-17) 9:30am, Drawing Autumn Splendor (9/19-9/26) 9:30am, Drawing Nuts, Seeds, Pods and Berries (11/14)

Click on the link to register: <https://fairfax.usedirect.com/.../ACTIVITIES/Search.aspx...>

Riverbend Park

Drawing Songbirds (9/19) 9:30am, Drawing and Learning About Mushrooms (9/20) 9:30, Drawing Beetles and Bugs (10/3) 9:30am, Nature Sketch Hike (10/3) 1:00pm, Drawing and Investigating Owls (10/25) 9am. Click on the link to register: <https://fairfax.usedirect.com/.../ACTIVITIES/Search.aspx...>

Green Spring Gardens Park

[Avery Gunther](#) is teaching **Botanical Journaling** on Wednesdays this Fall at Green Spring Gardens on these dates: September 2 & 16; October 7 & 21; December 2 & 16, at 1:30. Here's the description and link to register: Create your own botanical journal. Practice drawing exercises, take a seasonal walk for inspiration, and learn tips for layout and media options. Start with pencil and move to watercolor or colored pencil. A list of suggested materials will be sent prior to class start. Class meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. \$40 per person. Register online at <https://fairfax.usedirect.com/Fair.../ACTIVITIES/Search.aspx> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Burke Lake Park

On 10/17, 4:30-6:00pm, [Amanda Sharette-Kay](#) will be teaching a program called Sketching Along the Lakeside - Finding Beauty in the Beast where we'll be looking closely at bugs and other creepy crawlies and attempting to capture the intriguing colors and patterns of some of our misunderstood wildlife. There will be live and preserved specimens to view, and I expect it to be an illuminating and memorable class!

[FairfaxFCPA - Session Details: (<https://fairfax.usedirect.com/.../ACTIVITIES/Details.aspx...>)

Lake Accotink Park

Nature journaling is a fun and relaxing way to get to know our native plants better. Join us on a **FREE** two hour nature journaling walk at Lake Accotink Park. We will take a short walk, then settle in for drawing and journaling in your medium of choice. **Jen Brown**, Potowmack Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society Secretary, will host the program. In addition to helping with the chapter, Jen also leads botanical drawing programs for [Nature Forward](#) and has a certificate in botanical illustration.

Space is limited and registration is required. NOTE: This event is offered on the second Friday of every month from April through November at 10am. Register below: <https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/nature-journaling-at-lake-accotink-with-jen-brown-2026-09-11/>



Jen Brown leading a discussion for the nature journaling group at Lake Accotink Park

A poster for The Clifton Institute All-Day Nature Journaling Retreat. The poster has a yellow background with a decorative border of various nature-related icons. At the top, there is a logo for The Clifton Institute featuring a butterfly and a flower. The title "All-Day Nature Journaling Retreat" is in large, bold, orange letters, followed by the date and time "October 17 9:30-5:30". Below this, there is a paragraph of text describing the event. At the bottom, there are four circular portraits of the educators: Stephey Baker, Avery Gunther, Eleanor Harris, and Mary Larson, each with their name written below them.

The Clifton Institute

All-Day Nature Journaling Retreat

October 17 9:30-5:30

Join us for a day-long nature journaling retreat on our beautiful 900-acre nature preserve! You'll explore different ways to nature journal under the guidance of four experienced educators from around Virginia. We'll start the day with a class on the foundations of nature journaling before dividing into smaller groups to rotate through three workshops on different subjects, activities, and strategies to include in your nature journal. Whether you have been nature journaling for years or have never nature journaled before but want to try it out, this event is for you! Learn more and register at cliftoninstitute.org/event/nature-journaling-retreat/



Stephey Baker Avery Gunther Eleanor Harris Mary Larson

I am so excited to share that [The Clifton Institute](#) will be holding an all-day nature journaling retreat October 17. I'll be teaching along with three other wonderful educators, Stephey Baker, Avery Gunther, and Mary Larson. You can learn more and register at :

<https://cliftoninstitute.org/.../nature-journaling-retreat/> I hope we'll see some of you then!



SOCIAL MEDIA

(for SAG this is Instagram & Facebook) is a great way to show off your hard work as an Artist. Weekly posts are getting upwards of 500 views (75% from non-followers), are shared with up to ten other groups and have collaborations with other popular groups increasing visibility. Help SAG get more visibility and share information with artists and people who appreciate art - please send in information and photos to share (nancypatrick@gmail.com) We are hoping to become an even more vibrant community supporting the arts than we are. Send in any or all of the following:

- Your favorite painting
- A painting you're having trouble with, asking for advice
- announcements of any show you are in
- Information about other groups
- Information about any Art Calls
- Your favorite YouTube Artist, art book, museum, store, art teacher... etc
- A great place to paint outdoors or in
- Works in Progress
- Your own photos that would make a great painting
- Thoughts about being an artist
- Museum exhibits and show
- Art shows and activities to attend
- ANYTHING ART RELATED!!!



REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US @:

<https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldArtGuild>

<https://www.instagram.com/springfielddartguild/>

SAG Honors Susan Fay

SAG recently lost a SAG member and Board member – Susan Fay. We lost her to pancreatic cancer in August. Susan was an active member, not only of the Springfield Art Guild but also The League of Reston Artists and the Vienna Art Society. She was on the SAG's Website Team, our Instagram and was involved in other membership activities.

A quote from Susan she had on her website:

“As a student and teacher of literature, I know the importance of stories in our lives – indeed, in all of human experience. Art has allowed me to explore narrative in an entirely different medium. Every painting tells a story, and I love the challenge of representing experience on canvas. Still life, portrait, landscape – even abstraction – allow us to represent, imagine, and reimagine our realities.”



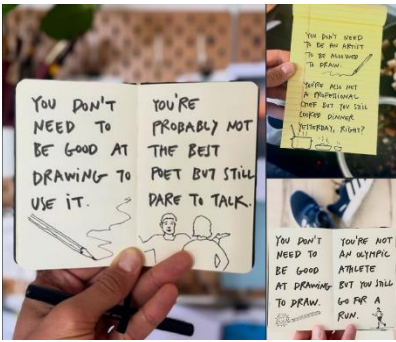
Several SAG members and others will be participating in a 5K Walk/Run to raise money to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. If you are interested in participating or donating, the link is below. The 5K takes place on Saturday Nov. 9 in nearby community (Hayfield Farm Community) and starts at Hayfield Park in Alexandria.

<https://www.filltheshoes.org/>

Article found by Lydia Jechorek.

I discovered **Gašper Habjanič**'s [Facebook](#) page recently. Gašper is an architect and artist in Ljubljana, Slovenia. I'm enjoying his very insightful advice on drawing and demos. Here is one of his posts:

The Advice I Wish Someone Had Given Me



When thinking about how to pass on the drawing knowledge, I often ask myself: if I had to start learning from scratch, how would I do it? What problems would I encounter and how would I overcome them?

Mostly, I'd change the way *I thought* about learning.

Looking back, I think learning to draw is mostly about stacking the deck in your favor. There isn't one magical trick that suddenly makes you a great artist. Instead, there are lots of small decisions that make it much more likely that you'll keep going. And if you keep going, you'll improve. That's (almost) inevitable.



So here are a few things I'd tell my younger self on the beginning of my drawing path (and maybe they'll help you as well:

Mostly, I'd change the way *I thought* about learning.

- 1. Start with a play mindset, not a learning mindset.** This might sound strange coming from someone who teaches drawing, but when you sit down with the goal of *learning*, you run into the danger of judging yourself. How good of a job you've done, how much better than the last time it is. Every drawing becomes a test. *Instead*, try playing :-). Draw strange houses. Invent funny cats. Sketch your coffee mug with coffee. Make ugly drawings on purpose. **Research shows people often learn faster when they stop trying so hard to learn.**
- 2. Don't make "getting better" your goal. Make "not stopping" your goal.** Improvement happens almost automatically if you keep drawing. The real challenge isn't learning perspective or anatomy. The real challenge is still enjoying drawing six months from now. Whenever you feel frustrated, remind yourself that today's drawing isn't the destination. It's simply one more step along the path.
- 3. Learn to enjoy the process.** Drawing is one of those hobbies that can stay with you for the rest of your life. Hopefully you'll still be sketching in ten, twenty, or even fifty years (I hope I will too). When you think about it that way, there's really no rush. Enjoy the slow progress. Enjoy discovering new ideas. Enjoy filling sketchbooks with imperfect drawings. Maybe the activity as enjoyable for you as you can. Drink a tasty cup of coffee when you draw or go visit beautiful places and draw them. Listen to music you like and draw comfortably somewhere in the shadow. *You know which things you enjoy most. Combine them with drawing.*
- 4. Get some accountability.** Learning almost anything becomes easier when other people know you're doing it. Tell a friend you're learning to draw, join a local sketching group, take part in online drawing challenges, or invest in a course. Once we've committed to something, we're much more likely to stick with it.
- 5. Choose tools that make you excited to create.** People often ask me what the "best" drawing pen is. The truth is, there probably really isn't one. *The best tool is the one that makes you want to open your sketchbook.* Whether it's a smooth fountain pen, colorful markers, or a beautiful sketchbook you've been saving for months, those little moments of excitement matter more than most people realize.
- 6. Learn from someone who's walked the same path.** The last thing I'd say to myself is: some artists spend eight hours a day in the studio and or studied art at an academy or university. They're incredible artists, but their journey will look different from yours. Most of us are trying to fit creativity around work, family, studies, and everything else life brings. Enjoy.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals

We are pleased to share that Laura Ramirez-Drain, a board member of the Springfield Art Guild, is the curator of the Hispanic Heritage Month exhibition.

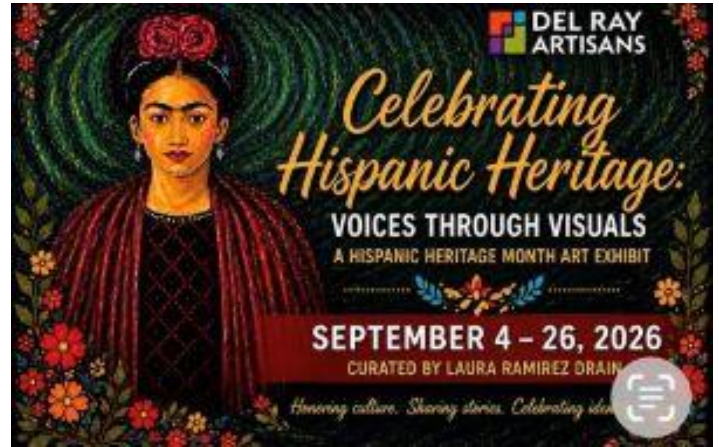
We received approximately 160 artworks, including paintings, photography, and three-dimensional pieces.

Laura Ramirez-Drain and Nancy Patrick, members of the Springfield Art Guild, will present selected works from the exhibition.

Please join us on **September 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans**, located at

Del Ray Artisans Gallery
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

We look forward to celebrating with you!
Laura Ramirez Drain, Cell (202) 250 0887



The Loft Gallery

Talk to Me

Mix Media by
Lynn Martin

Dates of Show

Tuesday, September 8 - Sunday October 4, 2026



Meet-The-Artist Reception

Saturday, September 12
1:00-4:00 pm

The Loft Gallery (Upstairs)
Entire Top Floor Filled with Fine Art by 23 Local Artists

www.loftgallery.org
www.instagram.com/theloftgalleryatoccoquan/
www.facebook.com/loftgalleryoccoquan

Talk to Me

Artwork by Lynn Martin at the Loft Gallery in Occoquan

Lynn Martin is this month's featured artist at The Loft Gallery in Occoquan VA. Her show, titled "Talk to Me," starts September 8th, and runs through October 4th.

Starting with inspiration from a scene, image or idea that "speaks to her," each painting develops its personality as it progresses, with each being a product of evolving dialogues between the artist and her work.

Come view her new work to see how these pieces "talk to you!" There will be a meet the artist reception September 12, 1-4pm.