



McLean Art Society

Palette

November 2024

From the president

Dear Artists,

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting this Friday, November 22nd. After the General meeting and a social break, we will welcome an award-winning watercolorist Rajendra KC , who will demonstrate his plein air painting technique.

Our new website will be going live this month (thank you, Larry!), providing artists with control over their own page and access to *Members only* area.

The November meeting will be our last for 2024, but Charlotte and Mike graciously agreed to host us again this year for the McLean Art Society Holiday Party. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14th, 12pm-3pm. More details will be coming via email.

The dates and location for our Valentine Sweetheart Deals Show are confirmed. It will take place on February 7-9 at the Church of the Covenant. Similar to last year, the show will feature the original art priced \$150 or under. Expect more details and the sign up to come in December via email (and, let me know, if you would like a co-chair the show with me!).

Stay warm and enjoy the season!

Looking forward to seeing you this Friday,

Julia

Julia Bezgacheva
President of MAS
www.artbjuliab.com



MAS News & Notes

MAS Program Presenters

Rajendra KC (watercolor) for November 22

Spring Hill and Oakmont Recreation Centers

Springhill Rec Center: 11 am

Oakmont Rec Center : 12 pm

Dec 10, 2024 —

Changeover

Jan 21, 2025 — Changeover Please contact

March 4, 2025 — Carol Higgs
Changeover (Springhill) or Larry
Danforth

Apr 15, 2025 — (Oakmont) if you
Changeover have any questions

May 27, 2024—Take down
for summer

“Small Treasures” exhibit, Nov 1-Nov 30 Dolley Madison Library

The exhibit will come down on Saturday, November 30th, probably at noon.

“Valentine Sweetheart Deals” Show & Sale Feb 7-9, Church of the Covenant

Our Valentine’s show will be back in February, featuring the artworks priced \$150 or less. More details and sign up are coming in December.

MAS Holiday Party, Dec 14th, 12-3 pm

The party will take place at Charlotte’s and Mike’s house.



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Oct 25th Demo Recap (Kurt Andersen)

Kurt's artistic journey began at age 12 with a painting class at a local recreation center in Iowa, where he learned foundational principles he still applies. Over time, his experiences—atelier training, academic studies, and professional practice—have informed a balanced approach that values both structure and spontaneity in painting.

Kurt started the demo by emphasizing the importance of lighting your subject in painting, particularly the role of strong shadows in creating depth and drama. He explained that his approach often involves working with a limited palette of four colors plus one: Titanium White, Cadmium Lemon, Cadmium Orange, Ivory Black (premixed with Raw Umber), and Ultramarine Blue. He uses *Winsor & Newton* paints and now opts for Permanent Alizarin Crimson instead of traditional Alizarin, which tends to turn brown with age. For his demos, Kurt works on a canvas taped to a board, typically 12x16 inches, and begins with the largest brush he can manage, often a filbert bristle brush from Rosemary &



Co. He starts by mixing the darkest tones without any medium, relying solely on paint straight from the tube and mineral spirits. The dark values are established quickly to provide a framework for judging the rest of the painting.



Kurt stressed the importance of not “starving the palette,” encouraging freedom and experimentation with paint. Quoting Sergei Bongart, he highlighted how using inexpensive materials can liberate artists to paint more boldly and broadly, contrasting this with the atelier philosophy of conserving high-quality materials.

Kurt prefers to build his paintings from the outside in, focusing on large shapes and masses before refining details. He avoids committing heavily to the initial drawing, allowing flexibility and adjustments as the work progresses. This approach aligns with his belief in treating nothing as too precious, fostering a mindset where every element can be reworked. In his process, the first stage involves blocking in dark values and large shapes to establish the painting's structure. As he progresses, he transitions to deeper, richer colors and thicker paint, working toward chromatic unity with his limited palette. He avoids ultramarine in flesh tones early on, keeping the color choices simple. As detail is added, he gradually shifts to smaller brushes, refining the forms and textures.



Kurt talked about his atelier education in Minneapolis, where he spent 4 years mastering drawing and understanding values through prolonged studies of plaster casts and live models. This rigorous training emphasized precision and detail, but Kurt's post-atelier exploration has leaned toward greater freedom and expression. Kurt's three pillars of painting—Conceptual (the big idea and visualization), Visual (seeing shapes and colors), and Technical (tools and techniques)—guide his practice. He believes technical skills serve both the conceptual and visual aspects, and even just observing technical demonstrations (and that's what you usually get in a demo) can lead to breakthroughs in understanding.



During the demo, Kurt also discussed techniques like using a viewfinder to frame compositions, lightly sketching to start, and employing methods such as unfocusing his eyes or glancing to the side to capture a broad impression of the subject. These tools help him maintain focus on the overall composition rather than getting lost in details too early. He concluded by adding vibrant highlights and richer colors, sculpting the paint on the canvas until it achieved the desired effect.



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From Anna Katalkina

Anna's show «Nature's Treasures, Watercolors» at the Arts Club of Washington has been a success.



People made great comments and bought work. The show is on view at the Spilsbury Gallery, Arts Club of Washington, until November 30.



From Mickie Timmons

Mickie Timmons is participating in the one day Christmas Bazaar event on November 23 from 10-4. She will be displaying her oyster shell ornaments along with paintings, cards and coasters.



45TH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SAT. NOV 23
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Indoor shopping and family event
FREE ENTRANCE

The School Gymnasium at
St John the Beloved McLean Parish
6428 Linway Terrace
McLean, VA 22101

40+ Vendors, Bake Sale
Visit from Santa 11-1
Live Magic Show at 3:00 PM
Raffle, Hourly Live music
Food truck & Knight's Bar

DONATIONS PLEASE AT
CHRISTMASBAZAAR2024.EVENTBRITE.COM



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From Asmita Upadhyay

"In Indian symbolism, the umbrella is seen as a shade that protects against the "heat" of suffering problems, challenges, and harm."



"The umbrella symbol is also associated with the power that we hold within."

Asmita sold paintings at both Rec Centers, "Tree" at Springhill, and "Red Umbrella" at Oakmont. The girl with red umbrella is a believer, on this journey of life she walks all alone with spirit guides / faith in God almighty keeping her head high and under protection of red umbrella . The red umbrella symbolizes passions and focuses on life, and can also can indicate happiness.

Additionally, this symbol is connected to being royal and protected. In ancient times , the parasol was carried as a sign of wealth and held above the head to make people feel honor and respect for the family.



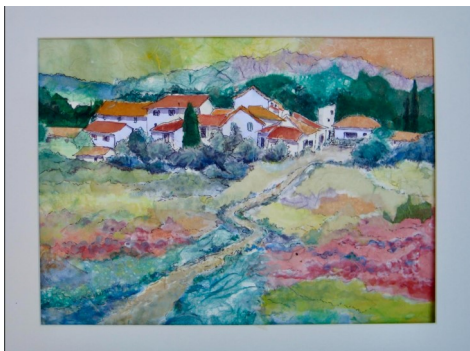
From Gabriela Natiello

Gabriela sold another photograph at Spring Hill. And, the father of the boy who wanted this piece wrote a poem about the bubble .



From Ginnie Luster

This is a watercolor collage that sold at Spring Hill recently. It is one of a number of pieces I have done after taking a workshop with the late artist Gerald Brommer. He painted sheets of rice paper with various watercolor hues before tearing them into smaller pieces to glue onto 300 lb. wc paper, which gives a very interesting effect. For this work I also cut out little houses from plain white paper and used pen and ink for more detail. The scene is based on a photo I took in Provence.





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From Larry Danforth:
Oakmont Rec Center



Exciting news for the McLean Art Society! The Oakmont Recreation Center in Fairfax County is buzzing with opportunity, featuring two floors of prime display space for our talented artists. With the recent installation of a sleek new lobby hanging system, our artwork will soon have an even greater impact as visitors are greeted by stunning pieces right as they enter.

The lower-level display is already making waves—congratulations to Asmita on selling her painting! This is proof that our work is not only admired but also sought after by buyers.

Now is the time to showcase your creativity! With both display areas fully operational and a steady stream of art enthusiasts passing through, this is your chance to shine, connect with potential buyers, and be part of a vibrant artistic community. Let's make this exhibit a standout success—submit your pieces at the next changeout scheduled for December 10th at noon!

MAS Holiday Party is coming soon!

Thank you, Charlotte and Mike, for hosting us again!

Mark your calendars: the party will take place on

Saturday, December 14th, from 12 pm to 3 pm.



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Our Board

MAS Executive Board

2024-2025

President – Julia Bezgacheva
Vice President – Anna Katalina
Vice President – Judith Landry
Secretary – Lori Lisiecki
Treasurer – Hanna Emrich

Chairs

Directory – Hanna Emrich and Asmita Upadhyay
Email distribution – Asmita Upadhyay
Facebook – Anna Katalina
Hospitality – Charlotte Potashnik, **co-chair needed**
Instagram – Julia Bezgacheva
Membership – Asmita Upadhyay
Name Tags – Diane Moran
Newsletter – Julia Bezgacheva
Parliamentarian – Mary Jeanne Martz
Patron's List – Judith Landry, Yvonne Leung
Program Coordinators – Mike Potashnik, Tony Neville
Publicity – Gabriela Natiello, **co-chair needed**
State Agent – Ginger Sanaie

Venues

Oakmont – Larry Danforth
Spring Hill – Carol Higgs and Carol Milton
Dolley Madison Library and Pimmit Regional Library – Olga Martin
Volunteer Coordinator – Jane Coonce
Webmaster – Larry Danforth
At Large Members – Ginnie Luster and Vicky Wilken

INSTAGRAM PAGE:

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

You should be able to view it from any browser, but to see our page fully, you may need to have an Instagram account. Go to www.instagram.com to sign up. Please tag @mcleanartsociety, when you share your news on Instagram! Contact Julia Bezgacheva, if you have questions.

FACEBOOK PAGE:

The page is called *McLean Art Society*.

Click [HERE](#) to view the page.

To sign up with a new account, go to facebook.com and click on **Create New Account**. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender. Then click on **Sign Up**. To finish creating your account, you need to confirm your email or mobile phone number.

The Mclean Art Society Palette

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