



McLean Art Society

Palette

October 2024

From the president

Dear Artists,

Fall is here, and the weather has been beautiful. If you find yourself in DC, I highly recommend visiting "Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment" exhibit at the NGA (on view till Jan 19, 2025), which includes both the works from the official Salon of 1874 along with the ones from the Societe Anonyme 1874.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our meeting this Friday, October 25. For the rest of the year we will be meeting in the Stedman room, which is just a few doors away from our usual meeting room. After the General meeting and a social break, we will welcome an acclaimed oil painter Kurt Anderson, who will work on a portrait. Rajendra KC will give a demo at our November meeting, but we are still looking for the presenters for the rest of the year. If you have any suggestions or ideas on what you would like to see, please contact Mike and Tony, our Program Coordinators.

Our social media presence is growing and allowing to find new connections. Make sure to read a story by Diane Moran in the Member Updates section!

Starting this week, Asmita Upadhyay will take over Membership Chair duties. Thank you for stepping up, Asmita! We are still looking for co-chairs for Publicity (can be done remotely) and Hospitality—let me know if you can help.

Looking forward to seeing you this Friday,

Julia

Julia Bezgacheva
President of MAS
www.artbjuliab.com



MAS News & Notes

MAS Program Presenters

Kurt Anderson (oil portrait) for October 25
Rajendra KC (watercolor) for November 15

Spring Hill and Oakmont Recreation Centers

Changeover of paintings at Spring Hill and Oakmont Rec Centers is happening on the designated Tuesdays.

Springhill Rec Center: 11 am

Oakmont Rec Center : 12 pm

Oct 29, 2024 —

Changeover

Dec 10, 2024 —

Changeover

Please contact

Jan 21, 2025 — Changeover

Carol Higgs

(Springhill) or Larry

March 4, 2025 —

Changeover

Danforth

(Oakmont) if you

Apr 15, 2025 —

Changeover

have any questions

May 27, 2024—Take down

for summer

"Small Treasures" exhibit, Nov 1-Nov30
Dolley Madison Library

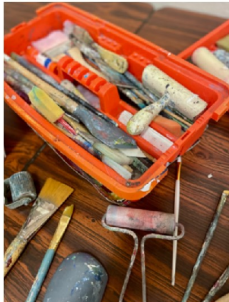
Please contact Olga Martin if interested in participating. Largest size accepted is 10x12".



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Sept 27th Demo by Bryan Jernigan

300g Watercolor paper from Dick Blick,
(go on Sunday, no parking restrictions!)



Bryan started by talking about two sides of his art, abstract art and more representational landscapes (even his website reflects offers a separate entry points for each style). Then he showed us various tools including wide brushes, painting knives, a catalyst wedge, silicone blades, a window screen tool, and more unconventional items that can be found in a kitchen, bathroom, or a child's playbox. We learned that with a silicon blade one stroke can put paint on, but another take the paint off, and that we need to stay judicious with "interesting marks." Bryan noted that critiquing abstract art can be challenging, but the focus should



be on elements like composition, value modulation, and color harmony. Bryan emphasized the benefits of being a part of a critique group, especially for abstract artists, as it provides valuable perspectives.

Bryan divided a 18x24 Cold Press watercolor paper into six sections using tape. Instead of treating

them as individual pieces, he painted over the tape to allow for larger, more expressive strokes across the entire surface. The tape was removed at the end to reveal the underlying composition, creating distinct "cells."



Bryan used a limited palette of three primary colors plus black and white, stressing the importance of mixing colors rather than simply adding more. Bryan also discussed the role of black in abstract art. He explained that paint straight from the tube tends to be a middle value, so additional techniques are needed to push the contrast. Instead of underpainting, Bryan worked starting with color and refining the composition as he progressed, paying attention to the value range.



He demonstrated how a foam roller delivers more paint than a brayer, and used his whole body to create marks, enhancing the physicality of the process. Techniques like subtractive painting, where wet paint is scraped away to reveal underlying layers, and making connections between color areas were also explored. After removing the tape, the sections are cut out individually and evaluated as separate pieces. Bryan suggested viewing them in different orientations and imagining them on a larger scale. He also discussed the mounting process, using acid-free materials for longevity, and shared insights on "float mounting" techniques.



The demo concluded with Bryan's reflections on abstraction as a dialogue between the artist and the painting. He noted two entry points into abstract art: reacting to something tangible or expressing how one feels. Bryan encouraged flexibility, saying, "If it's not coming out as planned, you can wrestle with it or go with the flow." He also advocated for stepping away from a painting after a set time and working on multiple pieces simultaneously to maintain fresh energy. Bryan closed by highlighting the freedom to make changes: "If you don't like it, change it. If you like it, leave it."



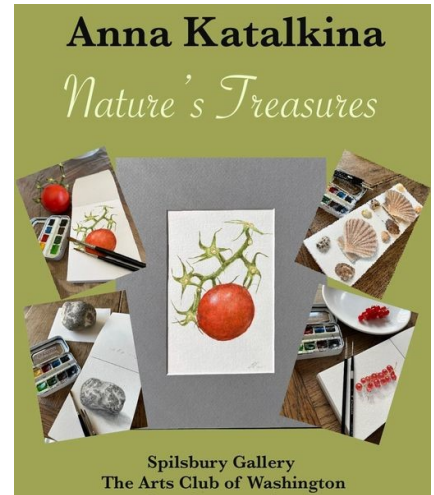
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From Anna Katalina



Anna Katalina participated in the invitational show at the Union Market District, called SQFT (Square Foot). Artists were asked to produce two 12x12 pieces. The show was fun, urban, and dynamic. Both paintings were sold and moved to a new home in Middleburg, VA.

Anna is also exhibiting her watercolors, "Nature's Treasures," at the Art Club of Washington all month of November. To come to a reception on November 1, 5-7pm, please register at the Art Club website under "events."



From Jane Coonce



Jane McElvany Coonce's watercolor "Resting Among Kindred Spirits" was accepted in the Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid-Atlantic Exhibition. Her piece won the Denny Bond Memorial Award. The show is at the Arts Barn and Kentlands Mansion Galleries in Gaithersburg, MD. The show runs from October 11 through January 5, 2025.

Jane also won an Honorable Mention for her watercolor "Early Morning Crew" at the Arlington Artists Alliance Regional Juried Show, "Altered States," in *The Alliance Gallery* in Clarendon. The judge was Rosemary Feit Covey.



Do you like to draw the human figure from life? If so, you are in luck. Life drawing sessions have resumed at the McLean Community Center. Sessions take place on Saturdays from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM in the Duval art studio located in the McLean Community Center (main floor). Fall sessions with a professional model will continue until November 23. The drop-in fee is \$20 cash. You do not have to pre-register and you do not have to go for the full three hours. I.e., you can come late or leave early. There is no instructor. This series is sponsored by the McLean Project For the Arts. Their website is mpaarts.org.



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From Diane Moraine

“Yes, it is such a small world! A Vancouver, Canada gentleman contacted Julia & Anna through MAS Facebook page that he bought an oil painting on canvas of a Costa Rican beach scene, done 50 years ago, from an antique dealer. (My family lived there 4 years.) "Via the ol’interweb" he wrote that he traced me as the artist. The painting has "Diane Moran 1975" on the back. "I love tropical paintings and decor, especially south seas.

Our living room is decorated Tiki style in fact! I found your painting at a antique show in Cloverdale, British Columbia. Thanks for the beautiful addition to our home!” He asked more questions about the painting, which I welcomed.



From Yvonne Leung

Yvonne Leung received an Honorable mention at the Falls Church Plein Air Festival for her painting ‘Concert in State Theater.’ She also participated in Quick Draw at the final day of event.



From Gabriela Natiello

The pumpkin photograph by Gabriela Natiello found a new home through our Spring Hill Rec Center exhibit.





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From Ginnie Luster

“Two of my paintings done in Italy were sold at Spring Hill in September. It makes me eager to go back to that beautiful country again. “



From Asmita Upadhyay

“The more I know, the more I realize I know nothing” - Socrates

I made 2 painting at Plein air painting event organized by Falls Church Arts. Artists were supposed to pick any subject from Falls Church only. I picked Cafe Zevian and a meeting house as my subjects. Cafe Zevian is close to Falls Church Arts gallery, I especially like the ambience of the place. While driving past meeting house at night time I saw the lights at top floor and got inspired to paint the same. This was my first attempt at Plein air, and it was so enriching, with so much talent around, it was breathtaking. I am inspired, learnt new techniques and got motivated too. I also participated in Quick Draw. I was so glad I was a part of the event.



Potomac Valley Watercolorists
2024 Fall Art Show & Sale

Saturday, November 9, 1-6pm
Sunday, November 10, 1-5pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA 22207

Over 500 Original Paintings for Sale!
Accepting Cash, Check or Credit Card

Awards Presentation: Saturday, Nov. 9, 2:30pm
Painting Raffle: Sunday, Nov. 10, 2:30pm

www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org



A fall exhibit of works by Potomac Valley Watercolorists will take place at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, 400 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, Virginia, on November 9 and 10, 2024. Both framed and unframed watermedia works will be on sale. The exhibit is free and open to the public.



McLean Art Society ~ October 2024

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 Lori Lisiecki
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 – 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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