



McLean Art Society

Palette

December 2024

From the president

Dear Artists,

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Friday, January 24th. After the General meeting and a social break, we will welcome a watercolorist Judith Gray, who will examine some of her paintings by discussing how she sees “light upon an object” and what captures her attention. Judith will explore the challenges faced in creating her compositions.

Our new website is live (thank you, Larry!), both with the new technology behind it and the new features, including the ability for artists to manage their own page and access Meeting notes and other useful info.

Our Valentine Sweetheart Deals Show 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. The registration is open till January 30th.

We are still looking for a new venue for our Spring show in May. Let me know, if you have any ideas!

Stay warm and healthy!

Looking forward to seeing you this Friday,

Julia

Julia Bezgacheva
President of MAS
www.artbjuliab.com



Dates & Notes

MAS Program Presenters

Watercolorist Judith Gray for January 24th

Spring Hill and Oakmont Recreation Centers

Springhill Rec Center: 11 am

Oakmont Rec Center : 12 pm

March 4, 2025 — Changeover

Apr 15, 2025 — Changeover

May 27, 2024—Take down for summer

Please contact Carol Higgs (Springhill) or Larry Danforth (Oakmont) if you have any questions

“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. Registration is open till the end of January, check your email for details.

Spring Show & Sale

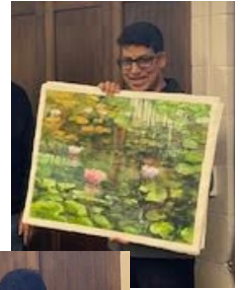
Tentative dates are May 2-4, details upcoming



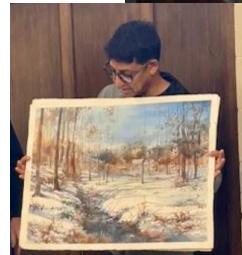
McLean Art Society - December 2024

November 22nd Demo Recap (Rajendra KC)

During our November meeting, we enjoyed the demonstration by the award-winning watercolorist Rajendra KC. Originally from Nepal, Raj now lives and teaches in Virginia. His watercolor demonstration provided valuable insights into creating dynamic and harmonious paintings. We were also treated to seeing several finished paintings Raj brought to the meeting. To see more of Raj's paintings and find the classes he teaches in the area, visit <https://kcfineart.net/>



Raj used 140 lb. cold press Arches watercolor paper (18x24) and large Neptune Princeton brushes. He usually works on full sheets of that paper. Raj emphasized not mixing color on paper but on your palette, and not going over the same area multiple times. If you go back and forth over the same area, cotton paper loses texture, you lose freshness, and colors become muddy. It's especially important when working on 140 lb paper.

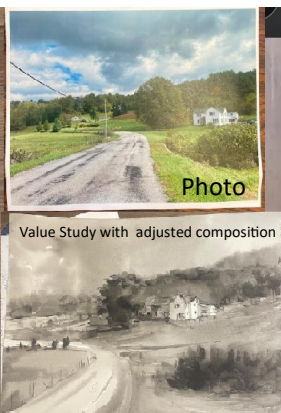
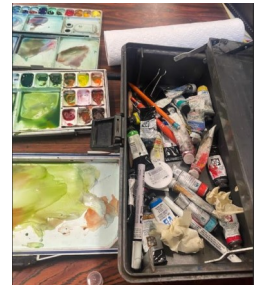


Raj starts with the sky, the most distant part of the scene. He began by taping the horizon line to protect the rest of the painting and applied a light wash of cobalt and ultramarine blue between stormy clouds and the horizon. He demonstrated tilting the paper to let water run, creating the illusion of moving clouds, and carefully removed the tape before the paint dried to avoid hard edges. Raj highlighted the importance of working wet-into-wet, particularly for atmospheric effects like stormy or colorful clouds during sunrise or sunset. Layers of Payne's grey mixed with ultramarine or burnt sienna were added to storm clouds, softening hard edges with a clean brush or spray when necessary. Raj explained that artists do not need to worry if in the first wash colors are running and mixing, and shouldn't try to clean those areas up as it will make them muddy.



Warm colors and a progression of increasingly warmer tones were introduced as the painting moved from the background to the foreground, with sap green and cobalt blue adding depth to the midground. Raj demonstrated restraint when adding details, switching to a slightly smaller brush and avoiding excessive sharpness that could distract from the focal point. He also discussed using reflected light to create unity and a cohesive composition. Raj avoided using masking fluid, opting for soft, natural edges, and discouraged revisiting areas too frequently to preserve the paper's texture and the painting's freshness. Shadows were subtly enhanced with burnt sienna and cobalt blue, as Payne's grey alone felt too overpowering. Throughout this demo, Raj reminded that values are crucial in watercolor painting.

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We are very grateful to Raj for the excellent demo and the donation of the demo painting. His unique watercolor technique and style exemplify how deliberate layering, mindful composition adjustments, and a balance between softness and clarity create a compelling and harmonious artwork. We also thank watercolorist and one of our Program Chairs Tony Neville for providing participants with a handout describing Raj's process .



McLean Art Society ~ December 2024

Our Valentine Sweetheart Deals show is back! This year it takes place at the Church of the Covenant on February 7-9.

This is not a juried show; registration is open to all MAS members. There is no limit on the number of items each artist can bring, but each item should be priced at **\$150 or less**. The registration fee is \$30. MAS will take 10% commission on sales.

Receiving: Friday, 2/7, 12:30-1:30 pm

Opening Reception: Friday, 2/7, 5pm - 8 pm

Sale Times: Friday, 2/7, 5-8 pm

Saturday, 2/8, 10-4

Sunday, 2/9, 12-4

Registration is open till January 30th. For registration info and other details, check your email or this temporary website page: <https://mcleanartsociety.org/members/valentine-sweetheart-deals-show-2025/>

Contact Julia Bezgacheva with any questions about the show.



MAS is now set up to securely accept your show registration fees through the online payment system. MAS members can choose between sending their checks by mail or paying online when registering for a show. Online membership renewal is coming later this year. Stay tuned!

We are also now set up to accept [donations](#) through online payments.

McLean Art Society is a nonprofit 501C(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible. All MAS officers are unpaid volunteers; donations are used to fund demonstrations and exhibits free to the public.



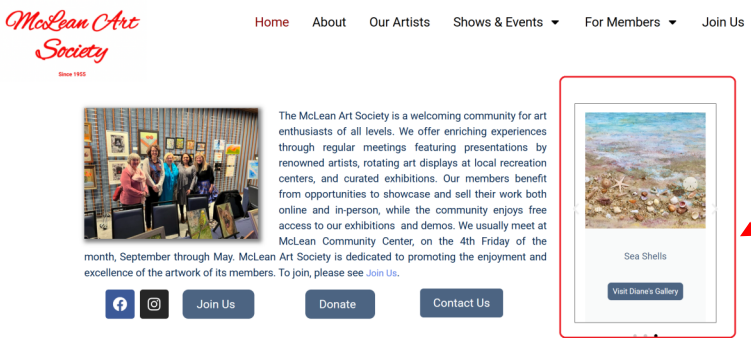
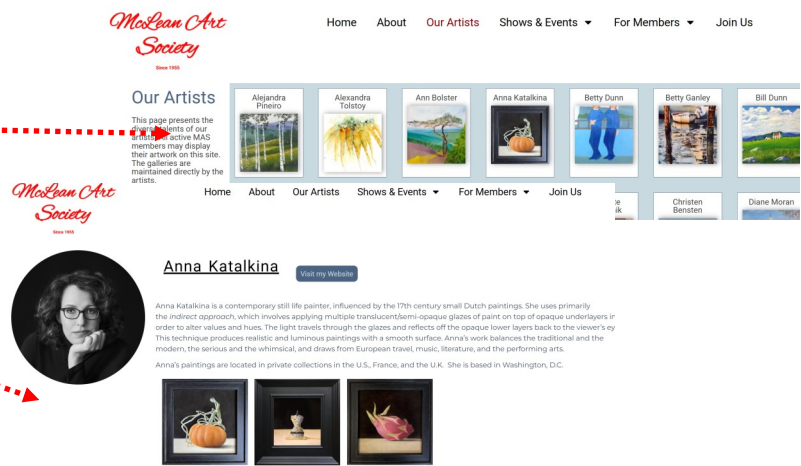
McLean Art Society - December 2024

MAS website updates

Our new website is up and running (thank you for all your creativity and hard work, Larry!)

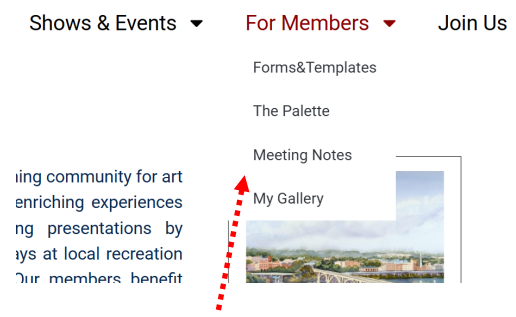
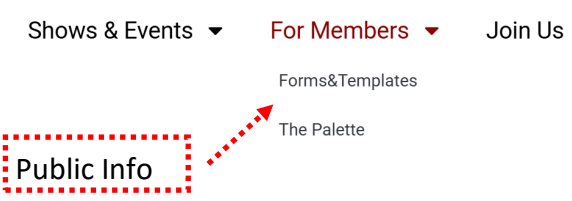
The address is the same, <https://mcleanartsociety.org/>. Make sure to explore the site and update your artist page! Below is a brief overview of some new features, but look out for more details from Larry coming soon.

Each MAS Artist has a personal page on the site. The pages are maintained directly by the artists.



Three artist pages are featured each month. Make sure to keep your personal page on MAS website up-to-date!

MAS members can login to access additional pages and manage their galleries. Login button is located at the bottom right corner (instructions were sent by email).



MAS Member access with additional pages



McLean Art Society ~ December 2024

From Mike Potashnik

I've had an interesting and productive year. Most notably, I have developed a series of modern abstract paintings inspired by the paintings of: Kandinsky, Delauney, Gorky, Klee, Ellsworth Kelly and other artists. Two of these paintings have been selected for exhibits, the most recent "Bodies in Motion" by the Falls Church Arts Gallery for their upcoming exhibit "Full Circle" Two others are being sold by the Hermitage Gallery.



Earlier this year I became the Area Representative for Arlington and Alexandria of the Virginia Watercolor Society.

Tony Neville and I organized three successful programs for the meetings of the McLean Art Society in 2024 and have identified four prospective programs for 2025.

My wife, Charlotte, and I hosted the annual MAS Holiday Party for the second year in a row. There was good attendance and we had lots of fun.



From Alex Tolstoy

Alex was a winner (3 images) in Reader's Competition for The Art of Watercolor magazine Vol 56. Also, her painting "Berries Snowed Under" was selected for the January Art League exhibit.



McLean Art Society ~ December 2024

From Yvonne Leung

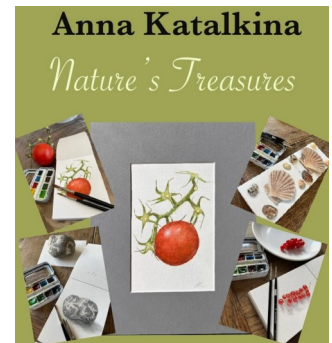


I sold two paintings in Dec at Spring Hill Rec Center. Thanks both Carols for hanging!!! Here are the two paintings: "Autumn Walk" 11x14, acrylics, and "Beer vs Wine" 8x10, oil. Nice to know someone share the same thoughts as I do ... beer vs wine??? We have that conversations all the time and this one was with friends in a ski trip.



From Anna Katalina

2024 brought me two artistic firsts. One was participating in Artomatic in DC. It proved to be a new, out of the comfort zone, exhilarating, and fun experience. The second — creating a series of watercolors during my summer travels to Europe and Armenia, which started off as a visual journal, but ended up as a lovely feature artist exhibition at the Arts club in Washington in December.



From Ginnie Luster

In my opinion the state of Maine is one of the best places for *plein air* painting. This one is called "The Lake Through the Woods," a typical scene there, and fortunately, someone liked it and bought it at the Arlington Artist's Ft. Smith show. But, I painted it sitting on a rolling log under the trees in the forest, with sap dripping down on my palette, so I recommend finding a better location than I did!



McLean Art Society ~ December 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 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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