



Calendar

Member Meeting (Zoom)

January 9, 2026

Stephie Clark - "Paint a Magnolia"

[Get more information](#)

Upcoming Workshop (Zoom)

Feb 7 - Feb 8, 2026

Terrilynn Dubreuil - "Transform Your Images"

[Get more information](#)

Upcoming Workshop (In-Person)

May 8-10, 2026

*Barbara Jaenicke
"Painting the Poetic Landscape"*

[Get more information](#)

Upcoming Exhibition

Apr. 16 - May 29, 2026

Stryker Center - Williamsburg VA

Reception: April 17, 3 to 5 pm

[Get more information](#)

Expressions newsletter will feature member's pastels each issue. Artwork for this issue is by **Elizabeth Hood**, *Marsh Morning*.

■ From the President

A New Year, A New Opportunity to Lead

Happy New Year to you all.

As we welcome a new year, we also look ahead. After six years serving as President, I feel it is healthy and timely for our organization to welcome new leadership and a fresh perspective at the helm. With that in mind, we are seeking a member who is willing to serve as President for the upcoming term.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help guide a very active community of artists and to support the continued growth of our society. We are particularly hoping to find a President who lives within a reasonable distance of Richmond, making it possible to attend events, in-person member meetings, and ideally board meetings.

To make this transition as smooth as possible, I have spoken to most of the current board members— and including myself continuing as Workshop Chair—those members have agreed to remain in their supporting roles for the upcoming term. This is, of course, provided the incoming President is comfortable with that arrangement. I will also work closely with the new President to help with the transition, share knowledge, and provide support as needed. This continuity will allow the incoming President to step into the role with confidence. Dare I say, we are a great group of ladies to work with. :)

If you appreciate being a part of our society, support its value and would like to learn more about this role—or if you'd like to nominate

March Program

**Saturday, Mar. 14, 2026 - Zoom
Time: 12:30
Michele Ashby
"Whispers in Pastel"**

Join artist **Michele Ashby** for an online pastel portrait demonstration that invites you to slow down and watch as a face gently emerges through colour.

Michele Ashby is an artist whose work spans both portraiture and still life, celebrated for its quiet intensity and emotional clarity. With a refined sense of composition and a deep sensitivity to gesture, light and space.

Michele is a Member and Council Member of The Pastel Society, Master Pastel Member with the Pastel Society of America, Master Circle Member with The International Association of Pastel Societies, a Member and Council Member with the Society of Women Artists, Member of The Society of Graphic Fine Arts and a Unison Colour Pastels Associate Artist. For more info visit www.micheleashby.co.uk.



yourself or another member—I encourage you to reach out. Please contact me at jdreicer54@gmail.com. Even an initial conversation could be the start of something.

Here's to a new year filled with creativity and connections.

Fondly,
Joan Dreicer
MAPS President and Workshop Chair

■ Upcoming Program

**Friday, Jan. 9, 2026 Zoom
Time: 12:30
Stephie Clark - "Paint a
Magnolia"**



Join acclaimed artist **Stephie Clark** in a Zoom class that explores the captivating world of soft pastels. Known for her luminous florals and light-filled compositions, Stephie brings years of expertise and a passion for creative expression to her teaching. Her workshops focus on colour harmony, value mapping, and layering techniques, all delivered with an approachable and encouraging style. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned artist, Stephie's classes provide clear guidance, inspiring demonstrations, and tips to elevate your work. Dive into her process and discover the joy of creating expressive, textured pastels in this engaging online session! For more information visit her website at www.stephieclark.net.

"I can't resist a magnolia moment! Join us on Zoom, we'll be painting these gorgeous buds just as they start to bloom—those soft pinks against the blue sky are pure magic. I'll show you how to build up velvety petals with gentle layers, catch that beautiful light, and weave in those twisty branches without losing the softness. It's going to be a dreamy little session—hope you can join me!"

2026-2027 Workshops

Terrilynn Dubreuil

February 7-8, 2026
Virtual

Barbara Jaenicke

May 8-10, 2026
In person

Liz Haywood-Sullivan

November 6-8, 2026
In person



Loriann Signori

May, 2027



Upcoming Workshops

Our next workshop, titled "Transform Your Images" is **February 7 and 8, 2026** and will be via Zoom. Our instructor is **Terrilynn Dubreuil** who is not only a Master Pastelist with IAPS, but a very thoughtful and encouraging instructor.



You can find additional information about workshops here at **[MidAtlantic Pastel Society Workshops](#)**



Our **May 8-10, 2026** workshop will be in-person with **Barbara Jaenicke** and is titled "Painting the Poetic Landscape." She will also be our featured artist for the May Program with a demo and reception planned for the evening. More details to come.



Paintings by Elizabeth Hood



Marsh Morning



Would You Rather Be A Mule?



Afternoon in Lyon

Member Spotlight

Elizabeth Hood

After retiring, I happened to see an ad in the Goochland weekly newspaper for a watercolor and pastel class



Break of Day

in Crozier and taught by Nancy Tucker. Although I took art classes all through school, I had not done much with painting since then. Taking this class changed everything. I couldn't have had a better teacher than Nancy to re-introduce me to art and painting. After an initial struggle with watercolor, I decided to try pastels even though I was convinced I would not like the messiness. Of course I fell in love with them. The gestures felt very much like drawing, which was my art comfort zone, but with color!

After that, I joined a studio class at For Art's Sake Studio where I was one of just a few using pastels, so most of my learning came from the Pastel Journal and pastel books. Then I discovered the **Pastel Society of Virginia (PSV)** which had a local chapter led by Carol Cullinan and Linda Wolitz. Boom – I had another leapfrog step in my pastel journey by finding an accessible community of pastel painters.

After a while, a few of us here in Richmond decided we wanted a different approach to a pastel society, and we broke off from **PSV** to give birth to the **MidAtlantic Pastel Society**. Our little band of rebels had a deadline – announce the new organization before annual dues were due to **PSV**. Most of that originating group is still active in **MAPS**, and we very quickly grew our new society. Our **MAPS** group has provided me with even more opportunities to learn by attending workshops with some of the best pastelists in the country, enjoying programs both art and pastel oriented, and meeting/learning from other pastelists.

I work in other mediums (acrylic, colored pencil, and graphite) but pastel painting always gives me a fast and satisfying path to direct expression. No color mixing, drying time, color changes, application tools like brushes, fussy wet mediums, or dangerous solvents needed. It's just fast, pure, immediate color and form, which is perfect for me.

Tips from Sarah Frances Art

Think Values First

Before color comes clarity. When the light makes sense everything else settles into place.

Slow Down Your Eyes

Rushing is what blurs accuracy. Seeing is a skill-not a reflex.

Edges are Emotion

Soft, lost, sharp, broken - the way you handle edges describes the mood long before the palette does.

Color is Light, Not Names

Stop thinking "brown." Think: warm or cool? Transparent or opaque? This is where realism unlocks.

Simplify to Strengthen

The more you reduce, the more the essential becomes visible.

Shapes Over Lines

Forms aren't built with outlines - they're built with the relationship between shapes.

Your Reference Isn't a Prison

It's a guide, not a law. Shift what serves the feeling. Remove what doesn't.

Color Harmony is a Mood

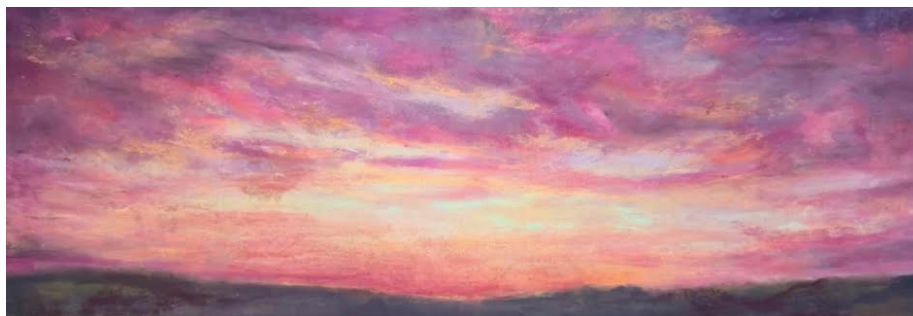
Your palette decides the atmosphere long before the subject does.

www.instagram.com/sarahfrances_art

Member News

Tricia Shands was awarded the **Member of Excellence** by the **Southeastern Pastel Society** for participating in 3 National or International exhibitions. Her painting *Shades of Summer Sunsets* was accepted into the *SPS "Luminosity" 2025 Juried Virtual International Open Exhibition*.

In addition to her two paintings "*Golden Light On A Summer Breeze*" and "*Where The Wind Whispers*" in the 2025 MAPS Exhibit at **Montpelier Center for the Arts**, her painting titled "*Sunset on the Atlantic Coastal Plain*" was accepted into Montpelier's judged exhibit "*Grand Local Art Show*" running from Nov 24-Jan 22, 2026.



Sunset on the Atlantic Coastal Plain

Maria Andrade's painting (right) was accepted into **Montpelier's** judged exhibit "*Grand Local Art Show*" that will be open from Nov 24-Jan 22, 2026.



2026 Judged Exhibit

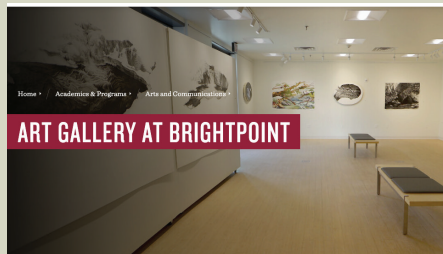
**MAPS 10th Annual
Members Judged Exhibit
Brightpoint Community
College - Midlothian VA
Oct. 27 - Dec. 5, 2026**

13101 U.S. Rte 1,
Chester, VA 23831
(804) 796-4000

Our annual members judged exhibit will be held at **The Art Gallery at Brightpoint Community College**. The college hosts exhibitions from professional artists and Brightpoint students. Exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Location: Midlothian Campus,
Eliades Hall, E107

Hours: Open Monday – Friday,
12:00 – 4:00 p.m., and by
appointment.



For more about our exhibits for 2026 go to our **web page**.

■ Upcoming Exhibits



Spring Exhibit

WRL at the Stryker Center - Williamsburg VA

Apr. 16 - May 29, 2026

Reception: April 17, 3 to 5 pm

412 N Boundary St, Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 259-4070

Our spring exhibit will be held at the **Williamsburg Regional Library Gallery at the Stryker Center**. The library is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Summer Exhibit

Charles H. Tayler Visual Arts Center

Hampton VA

Jul. 11 - Aug. 29, 2026

4205 Victoria Blvd, Hampton, VA 23669
(757) 727-1490

The **Charles H. Taylor Visual Arts Center** is focused on the creations of artists living and working in Coastal Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia. We promote contemporary art makers and provide an opportunity for our visitors to interact with the art and artists.



2025-2026 Executive Board Members

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Patti Jeffries

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MAPS History Continues

As MAPS 10th Anniversary celebration continues, we look back to our second exhibit in 2016 held at **For Arts Sake**. In that same year, we had a fall plein air workshop with local pastel artist **Maria Reardon**. In February of 2017, the group enjoyed a workshop with nationally recognized pastelist **Liz Haywood Sullivan** who later judged our first judged exhibit at the **Cultural Arts Center**.



Exhibit at
For Arts Sake



Maria Reardon's
Plein Air Workshop



Workshop with Liz Haywood Sullivan