



Calendar

Next Member Program

VMFA - Guided tour of Pastel Paintings

March 9, 2024 (In-Person)

[Get more information](#)

Laura Pollack Workshop

Fri-Sun, May 17-19, 2024

(In-Person, Richmond)

[Get more information](#)

Cedarfield Retirement

Community, Members Exhibit

May 1 - August 30, 2024

[Get more information](#)

Expressions newsletter will feature member's pastels each issue. Artwork for this issue is by Shavon Peacock, *Maymont Shadows*.

■ From the President

Dear Members,

As we happily say goodbye to the winter chill and eagerly anticipate the warmth of spring, it's a reminder that with the change of seasons comes an opportunity for renewal and rejuvenation, especially in our artistic endeavors. It's the perfect time to reconnect with the basics of drawing and painting, refreshing our creativity as we delve deeper into the diversity of pastels. With this in mind, I am thrilled to share with you some exciting events and programs lined up for the coming months.

Our program chair, Shavon Peacock, has arranged a special tour of pastel paintings at the **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA)**. This is a chance for us to explore the history and diverse techniques of pastel artists over the years.

Additionally, we are organizing a **community outreach event** aimed at introducing middle school children to the wonders of pastel. This opportunity gives us time to share our love for pastels with the younger generation and our hopes to promote a love for art and creativity in our community.

Looking ahead to May, we have an exciting end of year program featuring the talented **Laura Pollak**. After meeting and visiting with Laura during our appetizer and beverage reception, she will demonstrate for us. In her demo she will isolate the light masses from the dark masses in her image and then proceed to do a block-in painting quickly with large shapes and a focus on values.

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Member News

Mel Neale, Rappahannock Art League Art Center, Kilmarnock, Exhibiting Artist and frequent award winner, recently had the honor of having one of her paintings accepted into the *American Impressionist Society (AIS) 8th Annual Small Works Showcase, 2024*. "Green Pears Reflected" is one of 160 paintings (160 artists) out of 1,806 entries, and one of only 16 pastel paintings to be chosen. The digital catalogue is available [here](#), Mel's painting is on page 120.

AIS sponsors four shows per year. Two are online only and two, Small Works and their Annual National Juried Exhibition, are actual "in person" shows. Mel previously has been accepted into an AIS online show.

The AIS Small Works Showcase will take place at the **Anderson Fine Art Gallery**, St Simons, GA, April 25-May 28.



Green Pears Reflected

The following day, workshop registrants will have the privilege of seeing Laura teach. She will be sharing her insights on the fundamentals of a good painting, guiding us from the basics to more abstract ideas. We will have three days of painting to put her teachings into practice and further refine our skills.

As these upcoming events and programs approach, I encourage you to consider participating. We can learn from each other and continue to grow as artists.

I am hopeful you are free to come to one or all our upcoming events.

Warmest regards,

Joan Dreicer

MAPS President and Workshop Chair

Art Tips

Review of ArtWork Paper

By Judy Leasure

Dakota Pastels recently began carrying a new paper from Italy called **ArtWork**.

The description describes it as smooth, holding lots of pastels, and accepting all wet techniques. It sounded like a new version of PastelMat and something I needed to have in my studio.

ArtWork is sold in pads of 16 sheets for \$39.95. The paper size is 9.4x12.9 with a perforation at the top so you are not fighting the wire binding and bending or tearing the paper. There are 3 color assortments—all dark grey, light assortment and dark assortment. In each of the assortments there are 4 sheets each of 4 colors. In addition, there are 6 different covers each with a well-known painting. I purchased the Dark Grey and the Light Assortment.



Continued on page 3

Upcoming Workshops



Laura Pollak - Richmond, VA
(May 2024)



Colette Ody Smith - Richmond, VA
(Fall 2024)

For more information about our upcoming workshops go to www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/workshops.html

Welcome New Members!

Mary Breshike
Susan Quader
Kathryn Wood

Initial Observations

When you open the paper, the first thing you notice is a sheet of tissue paper on top of each sheet. This is a nice feature and shows a bit of extra care on the part of the manufacturer. The paper itself has nice weight. When you fold it along the perforation, it snaps out of the tablet cleanly, no bending, no tearing.

The paper feels smooth, but more textured than PastelMat. The label on the back of the package states that it has a very rough surface. When you look at the surface under a work lamp, you will notice that it has a slight shine unlike PastelMat which is matte. The description on the label describes it as PastelSilk.

I wanted to see how this paper performed with an alcohol wash. Using the light grey paper, I applied several different colors lightly in vertical strokes, then applied alcohol with a soft brush in the same vertical direction. This worked well, but you need to be careful not to over brush as it will lift the color back to the paper.



I tested the paper by doing several paintings of different types including an alcohol wash. I also used different pastels including Blue Earth, Girault, and pastel pencils as well as different techniques including layered strokes and finger blending.

Conclusions

This is an interesting paper. The colors are very nice and the packaging is well thought out. The price point is attractive. While working on it there was a good bit of pastel dust and crumbs, but once you tap it off, there is no discernable dust-off—it does seem to hold on to the pastel once it is on the paper. It does not respond like any other paper I have encountered. While it is advertised as accepting many layers, my experience did not support that statement. If your style is loose, not highly detailed, and you can work without blending or a lot of layering, this paper could work well.

Would I recommend it to others? I think that depends on how you work. This paper has more texture than I expected but it does not respond like UArt, ArtSpectrum, or even LaCarte and it is not a substitute for PastelMat. I would love to hear what others have experienced with this paper.

Member Spotlight



First Painting



First Pastel



Recent Workshop Pastel

Member Spotlight

Marietta Klausmeier

As a very young girl, I would sit and watch my mom paint. She was a natural, self-taught, talented oil painter so there were always art supplies at home.

My off and on attempts with art efforts through the years have been sporadic and until recently, I was convinced my loved medium was watercolor. The light, transparency and loose effects that can be achieved by those who master it are what I am drawn to...most of the time, even with many workshops, my results in watercolor left some frustration. But fortunately, a friend encouraged me to give pastels a try.

What a wonderful medium! More control, (you all know what I mean). Now, I'm taking as many workshops and learning opportunities as affordable, and meeting some great people along the way. The artists' community I have found is truly supportive.

My husband and I have raised three sons. I retired from a career as a dental hygienist. I'm enjoying this next phase and the intentionality for improvement. I've learned along the years that expressing art as best I can comes not from natural talent, but a commitment to habits of learning; from motivating workshops, books and experimentation.

There is real joy in just seeing progress!



Watercolor of me and grandma

Member News

Joan Dreicer's painting is a finalist in the *Richeson75 International Small Works Exhibit* for her painting "Things are Looking Up." This piece is hanging at the **Richeson School of Art and Gallery** in Kimberly WI.

In the same competition, she also received an Award of Merit for her painting, "Snow Day".



Things are Looking Up



Snow Day

Upcoming Programs

SATURDAY MARCH 9 2024

1:00 pm - Tour of the Pastel Paintings at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art (In-Person)

We will view the pastel collection in the James and Frances McGlothlin exhibit and pastels in storage at the **Virginia Museum of Fine Art (VMFA)**. This will be an in-person event. Christopher C. Oliver, Ph.D., Bev Perdue Jennings Associate Curator of American Art, will be our guide.

If you wish, join members for lunch in the **Best Café at 12 pm** and then meet in the **lobby outside the café at 1 pm** for the tour. Please notify Shavon Peacock at shavonandrew@verizon.net if you are going to attend and have not already done so. Two \$37.50 door prizes for VMFA gift shop certificates will be given away.



THURSDAY, MAY 16 2024

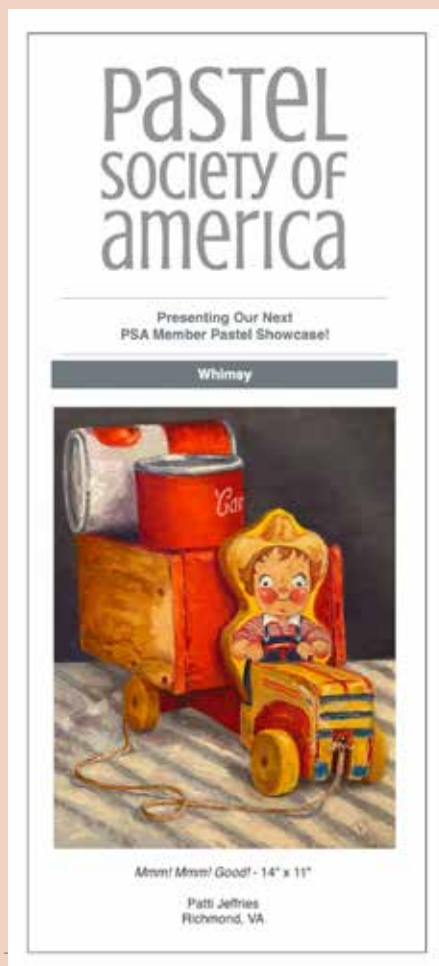
Live Evening Reception with Laura Pollak
(Demo) *Rock Paper Scissors*



During this demo, we will look at a landscape from 'Out West' and look at the lights and darks on the rocks and landforms. **Laura** will do an exercise to isolate and group the lights from the darks, sort of cutting them apart. She will then proceed to do a quick block in painting quickly with large shapes, focusing on values. Learn more about Laura Pollak at [Laura Pollak Fine Art](http://LauraPollakFineArt.com).

Member News

Patti Jeffries's painting "Mmm! Mmm! Good!" was selected to be part of the **PSA February Member Pastel Showcase** themed "Whimsy."



"My goal as an artist is to find those times and places where beauty is not only evident, but startling and suddenly present."

- Aline Ordman

Upcoming Programs continued

Laura Pollack Reception and Demo

Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

Fee: \$20 (Members Only)

Each member can also invite a guest for an additional \$20 fee. Registration will open on the MAPS website on March 18th at 10 am. There is a 50 person limit so sign up early if you want a spot!

Location: Hampton Inn & Suites/Richmond/Virginia Center
1101 Technology Park Dr, Glen Allen, VA 23059.



MAPS Members Make Art Facebook Page

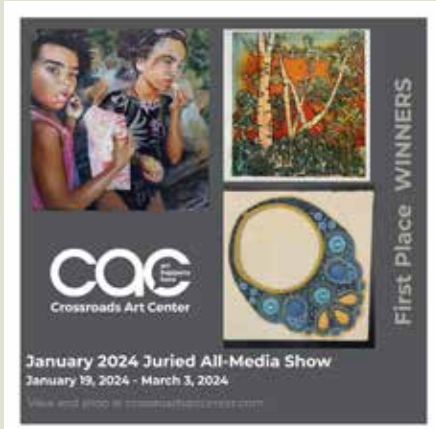
Our January winner was **Regina Tune** and our February winner is **Roxana Genovese**. Congratulations!!!

If you haven't joined our private Facebook page **MAPS Members Make Art**, please do so. You can post a painting each month for a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Dakota Pastels. We also encourage you to post workshop, books, material reviews, etc. If you are not a member of the FB page, request to join and one of the admins will approve you. You must be a MAPS member to participate on this page.



We also have our MidAtlantic Pastel Society page featuring artists, tips, art news and is a great tool for gathering information about pastel happenings outside our own society.

Member News



Diane Wilkin was awarded the First Place 2-D award for her etching "*Natures Light*" at the **Crossroads Art Center** January All-Media show.



Joy

Elizabeth Rice's painting entitled "*Joy*" has been accepted into the exhibition at the **Fredericksburg Cultural Center for Arts** . The theme is *Faces and Figures* and will be exhibited the month of March.

Member News

Julia Lesnichy is currently giving a four class pastel workshop in **Lynchburg Arts Club**. The website is lynchburgartclub.org/classes. In these classes Julia will demonstrate to students how to paint a landscape, still life, floral and animal portrait with pastels.

Julia will also do a floral demo for **Pastel Society of Southeast Texas** in March.

Julia was an artist of the month on the **Southeastern Pastel Society Facebook** page. She uploaded a winter landscape painting demo and she will host a follow-up zoom session of Q&A with interested students. Julia's website is julialesnichy.com



Snow Shadows



Member News



Maymont Shadows

Shavon Peacock will be selling 12 paintings in the 3/16-17/24 **Bon Air Artist Association (BAAA) Annual Art Show** to benefit Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. The reception, show and sale opens March 16 from 5-9 pm. Tickets are \$50 and include champagne as you enter, one additional drink, amazing heavy hors d'oeuvres, a violinist, and great art! Admission to the show is free on Sunday 3/17 from 12-5 pm. Independence Golf Club at 600 Founders Bridge Blvd.



Upcoming Exhibits

SPRING/SUMMER EXHIBIT

Registration is now open for the spring/summer exhibit at **Cedarfield**

Cedarfield

Retirement Community in Richmond, which runs from May 1 through Aug. 31, 2024. The Cedarfield gallery will hold 35 paintings, and spaces are filling quickly. There is no registration fee for this exhibit; **a paid MAPS membership is required**. There is also no commission on sales, which are directly between the artist and the purchaser, making it an ideal exhibit for those new to exhibiting as well as those who like to avoid paying fees and commissions. This exhibit, while not open to the public, is open to the Cedarfield residents as well as to all their guests, and there have been sales during recent exhibits.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW FOR UP TO TWO PAINTINGS BY REGISTERING FOR THE EXHIBIT.

Click here for the prospectus and registration form.

FALL JUDGED EXHIBIT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! The annual judged MAPS exhibit, *Expressions in Pastels*, will be held from Sept 27, 2024 (with drop-off Sept. 21) through November 23, 2024, in the **Purcell**



Gallery at the Louisa Arts Center. The judge for this exhibit will be Colette Ody Smith, who will also be in Richmond to teach a MAPS Workshop. The opening reception and awards ceremony will be held on **Sept. 27 from 6-8 PM** at the Louisa Arts Center.

The prospectus for this exhibit is under development and will be available in late March. This exhibit will have the added benefit of a virtual exhibit, using **artcall.org**, in addition to the physical exhibit in the Purcell Gallery. Artists will be asked to submit photos of the paintings they will enter in the exhibit, along with all pertinent information about the paintings (size, price, title). Detailed instructions for how to register will be included in the prospectus.

Any questions about either of these exhibits may be sent to Carol Cullinan, Exhibit Chair, at **chcullinan@gmail.com**.

2023-2024 Executive Board Members

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Sheila Chandler

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MEMBER RESOURCES

MAPS has compiled links for pastel and art resources on our [website](#).



Board Happenings

The board had their bimonthly meeting on February 8th. The highlights of what we discussed is written below.

EXHIBITS - The Cedarfield exhibit is currently accepting registrations. Chair, Carol Cullinan will need help at drop off to check the paintings in and to assess them for proper hanging hardware, identification labels and general appearance of the framing.

Our annual judged exhibit will be in September 2024. The title will be "Expressions in Pastels" and will be held at the Purcell Gallery in the Louisa Art Center. It's time to start thinking about entering!

TECHNOLOGY - Chair, Sheila Chandler is training a couple of our members who expressed interest in learning more about MAPS technology duties.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - This year we are planning an outreach activity with the Bellemeade Park Community's middle school age children. We will expose the kids to pastels and their use, giving them an opportunity to practice and make their own piece in plein air. The date for this event is April 20th (rain date, April 27th). Program Chair, Shavon Peacock has very generously taken the time to plan this. If you are interested in volunteering for this event let us know.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Sheila Chandler, Patti Jeffries and Dornan Trainer have been working hard to put a slate of officers together for our upcoming term. In the event we are not able to fill an officer's term limiting position, the board voted on a proposal to update our Bylaws and allow for board approved additional terms. We have presented the proposal to our members. Voting will be open through March 12. A non-vote is a "yes" response to the amendment.

BUDGET FOR 24/25 YEAR - Treasurer, Elizabeth Hood is working with the board members to put a budget together for the upcoming year.

WORKSHOPS - Chair, Joan Dreicer is finding an increase in the workshop artist fees along with an increase in the cost of lodging, food and travel and this is bringing workshop costs a little higher than we are accustomed to. She is looking to find a cheaper workshop venue, as most of the other costs are difficult to control. If you are aware of a venue in the Richmond area that is reasonable cost, let Joan know.