



# Phoenix Artists Guild

Volume 171

August 2026

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2026



Dear Phoenix Artists Guild Members,

It is with deep gratitude and a sense of responsibility that I begin this new year as President of the Phoenix Artists Guild (PAG). Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I am truly honored to serve this wonderful organization and its members.

Over the past several weeks, the Board and I have been working behind the scenes to prepare for a new Guild year filled with more opportunities to grow artistically, connect with one another, share ideas, participate in meaningful programs, and have more fun together.

The Phoenix Artists Guild has a rich history, and my hope is that we continue to build on that foundation while creating fresh energy for the future. We would like the Guild to be a place where members feel welcomed, inspired, supported, and excited to return again and again, to learn, exhibit, teach, sell, collaborate, and grow in our artistic journeys.

**We would like to begin this year with a couple of new offerings:**

1. Send in your artwork: We would like to replace member photos with a photo of their actual original artwork. Please email an image of the artwork you would like featured to both Julie Frye and me (emails: [juliefrye381@gmail.com](mailto:juliefrye381@gmail.com); [alika.kumar@gmail.com](mailto:alika.kumar@gmail.com))

2. Your webpage on the PAG website: As a pilot project, we would like to offer a webpage featuring up to 6 images, to any member artist who would like to have online visibility. The cost for the first year will be \$50 (subject to change in subsequent years). Forms will be available at the next meeting.

As a volunteer-run Guild, we depend on the participation, talents, and generosity of our members. Each person has something valuable to offer, whether it is helping with exhibitions, welcoming new members, assisting with programs, contributing to the newsletter, sharing technical skills, bringing refreshments, making phone calls, offering ideas, or simply showing up with warmth and encouragement. Small acts of service make a big difference.

Our next PAG meeting is on August 23rd at the Arizona Artists Guild building at 6:00 pm. I look forward to listening, learning, collaborating, and working alongside all of you.

Stay tuned, we have a lot of exciting new activities and opportunities lined up for you.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Alika Kumar  
PAG President Elect

## 2026/2027 PAG MONTHLY CHALLENGE

*A 10-Month Creative Growth Program for PAG Members*

**Purpose:** The PAG Monthly Artist Challenge is designed to encourage creative exploration, artistic growth, member connection, and fresh inspiration throughout the Guild year. Each month offers a theme-based prompt that can be interpreted in any medium, style, or level of experience.

**These challenges are optional, non-competitive, and open to all PAG members. The goal is not perfection, but practice, discovery, and creative momentum.**



### How It Works

- Create one piece each month inspired by the theme.
- Work in any medium: painting, drawing, photography, fiber, sculpture, collage, mixed media, digital art, printmaking, or other visual art forms.
- Interpret the prompt in your own style.
- Bring your work to a meeting for sharing, discussion, or display when invited.
- Finished work is welcome, but studies and experiments are equally encouraged.

**Optional Member Sharing Format:** Each artist may speak for 1–2 minutes, depending on the number of participants. At the monthly meeting, participating artists may briefly share:

1. What theme they responded to
2. What medium they used
3. What they explored or learned
4. One challenge or discovery from the process

**The Monthly Artist Challenge is an invitation to keep creating, experimenting, and growing together. Whether a member creates a finished piece, a small study, or simply tries something new, each challenge supports the spirit of artistic growth, encouragement, and community within the Phoenix Artists Guild.**

## AUGUST

Theme: New Beginnings

**Challenge:** Create a piece that reflects a fresh start, a renewed commitment, or a new creative direction.

**Growth Focus:** Setting artistic intention

**Ideas to Explore:** A new subject, new color palette, new medium, or a visual statement about where you want your art to go this year.

## SEPTEMBER

Theme: Learning and Layers

**Challenge:** Create artwork that uses layers—visually, emotionally, symbolically, or materially.

**Growth Focus:** Depth and process

**Ideas to Explore:** Layered paint, collage, transparent washes, textured surfaces, personal history, memory, or hidden meaning.



## Creative Corner

### Let's discuss COLOR

By Julie Frye

Just last Friday, when the staff at St. John's Episcopal hung my solo show, I looked at the finished product and said, "Wow – that's colorful!" I had to admit to myself that I am a "colorist". I was taught by the master colorist, muralist and portrait painter extraordinaire, Jay Datus, all I know and practice about color, and have taught every student throughout the valley for 30 plus years! If you have observed my work at all you will notice that most of my work embraces color.

"What colors will I use" is a subject that must be addressed by most artists before they begin to plan and execute a painting – Regardless of medium except of course black & white drawings.

There are several "approaches" to color: Local color; Expressive color, Personal color, (Color from memory or imagination), and what is termed as "Full color seeing.

LOCAL COLOR – Red is the "local" color of some apples, yellow the "local" color of ripe lemons, etc. It is the color of an object independent of such things as light in which it is viewed, or its relation to other colors in the field of vision

EXPRESSIVE COLOR – That is, color based on FEELING or the artist's response to the subject. This way of choosing color allows the artist to respond directly from his/her feelings and emotions – intuitive, spontaneous feeling

PERSONAL COLOR – This refers to purely individual color choices, from color harmonies that the artist finds pleasing, to seemingly arbitrary random colors. I remember a portrait demo a few years ago when the artist used hues on the model's face that were not there at all but were chosen by the artist as "personal color" that was his "choice", not at all what he saw. How creative is that!

FULL COLOR SEEING – I fall into that category, hopefully! LIGHT AFFECTS COLOR! (and the color you see in cast shadows – but that's another discussion!) – not only the local color of the object but on all the colors surrounding it, the way the light is hitting it, the time of day, the season, atmospheric conditions, etc.

Take the time to know your chosen medium's colors. Experiment with combinations of colors you personally feel "go together" – establish the mood you wish to convey by your choice of color (and value).

## August Demonstrator – Melanie Harman



Melanie Harman is an Arizona-based artist who works in varied water media including watercolor, acrylic and collage. She began her art journey in 2005 as a mid-life beginner and has since taken workshops with noted National and International artists such as Tom Lynch, Lian Quan Zhen, and Laurie Goldstein-Warren. In addition to Contemporary Watercolorists of Arizona (Co-Chair Exhibitions), she is a member of various Arizona and regional arts organizations and volunteers in several capacities. She is available for workshops and demonstrations in watercolor and acrylic gel print collage. Her work can be found in collections in the USA, United Kingdom, and Australia. She likes hiking and traveling both within the USA and abroad.

My work reflects the world around me, be that people, places, flowers, things. Achieving a full range of values in whatever medium I use is important to me. I try to convey to the viewer what caught my attention and gave me the desire to paint, be that value contrasts, color contrasts or compelling subject matter. I am currently working with poured watercolor from dark to light. This gives a strong value contrast and allows the paint to mingle on the paper with soft edges where I need them.

Lately, I have found myself drawn to certain subjects that evoke a mood – peaceful, even slightly melancholy. This may be due to the past few tumultuous years, or simply a reflection of my current stage in life. Painting these becomes a calming meditation.

### *Meeting Agenda*

#### **Monday, August 24, 2026**

6 – 6:45pm – Group Critique

6:45 – 7:15pm – Business Meeting

7:15 – 7:30pm – Social Time

7:30 – 8:30pm – Demonstration – Melanie Harman

## OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

|                                           |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| President                                 | Alika Kumar      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (Program)  | Lois Miller      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Exhibits) | Nancy Donovan    |
| Treasurer                                 | Tim Morrison     |
| Recording Secretary                       | Tonnie McBroom   |
| Corresponding Secretary                   | Sheila Bellinger |



Artist of the Year: Lois Miller



Remember to only enter 1 piece of artwork each month. **Piece must be your own original work and exhibit ready.** Also, once you have won, you can't enter another monthly competition during the current year.

**You are eligible for Artist of the Year, held at the May general meeting.**

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## August Birthdays



**Chuck Cummins**

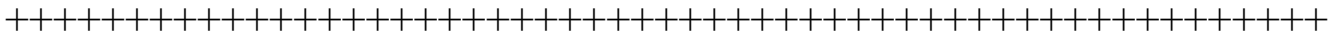


Grant Washburn, Art Alliance Representative

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**Ways and Means** please remember to buy your 50/50 raffle tickets at the general meetings. Drawing will be at the May general meeting.



**Renewals for 2026-2027 are due NOW!**

Membership forms will be at all General meetings and on our website.  
Annual fees are \$50.00.



Please **remember** to submit your artwork for Back Page art.  
Send to Cindy Chambers at: [tees2others@gmail.com](mailto:tees2others@gmail.com)

**Remember** also to submit your artwork for Members Monthly Activity and Artist of the Month.

## OUTREACH



This month we will be collecting Peanut Butter and different types of cereal.

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**Julie Frye** has an exhibit at The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist located at 4102 W. Union Hills, Glendale, AZ. Show runs till October 31, 2026

**Julie** also does a critique every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at her home. It is open to all, bring as many art works as you want.

**Lynne Rogers** – had an art piece accepted into the Colored Pencil Society of America International Exhibition.

**Cindy Chambers** – had 2 watercolor paintings accepted into the WHAM “250 Vision” Exhibition. She received a Honorable Mention on one of the paintings.

**Tim Morrison** – had 3 art pieces accepted into the WHAM “Dog Days of Summer” Exhibition.

Please let us know, your accomplishments, so you can be recognized in the newsletter.



**For just \$25.00 a year!!! Include it in your annual membership dues – how easy is THAT?!**

We are increasing traffic flow and visitors to our site and piquing their interests **WHEN THEY GET THERE!**

Julie Frye is now your webmaster, (Chuck and Alika Kumar assisting) so get YOUR LINK on the PAG website and get these advantages **WORKING** for YOU!

Just send the following info. to Julie Frye, [juliefrye381@gmail.com](mailto:juliefrye381@gmail.com)), A cropped JPG (**as least 300dpi**) of one of your pieces

- The title of the piece
- Unframed sizes, media
- Your name, email address, website link, (remember-link it back to PAG site, to increase traffic)
- Organizations to which you belong.

BACK

PAGE

ART



“The Whole World’s Watching” – Colored Pencils – Tim Morrison

## SPONSORS



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## MEETINGS:

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of Month  
AAG Building  
18411 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix

## CONTACTS:

Alika Kumar - President  
Pat Washburn – Membership  
Membership \$50.00 per year/May-April