



Phoenix Artists Guild

Volume 166

January 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – January 2026

As we start 2026, the board has been looking at ways to get the members more involved in the meetings.

At the January meeting, we are going to start with Group Critiques. I and the Board want to thank Elaine and Julie for the many years they have done the critique. Their many years of experience will be used to form a list of critique questions.

We will have a sheet with the question: Why are you bringing this piece for critique?

The artist will answer the question with answers such as: Need work on composition, having trouble with my light source, do my colors work together. There will be a member monitor who will

introduce the piece, the artist can come up to talk about their piece, or the monitor will direct comments from the membership.

The monitor will have a list of questions prepared by Julie and Elaine to help stimulate discussion. We hope to have a different member be the monitor each month. By changing the critique, we hope to engage the members to participate more.

REMEMBER: When criticizing painting your words should be like a fine painting. Use soft strokes. Constructive criticism is always appreciated and criticizing that is generally in a negative context, is not part of PAG Critiquing. Let your words make them feel they are glad that they attended the meeting and glad they shared their art.

BE RESPECTFUL
BE KIND

Cindy Chambers
PAG President



Creative Corner

Inspiration vs. Copying

Inspiration involves taking elements from other art to create something new and personal, adding your own perspective, while copying is replicating another's work with little to no originality, often crossing into plagiarism and intellectual property theft, harming both the original artist and your own creative growth. The key difference lies in transformation: inspiration interprets and builds upon, whereas copying replicates the core design, layout, or style without adding significant original thought.

Inspiration

- **Uses many sources:** Drawing from diverse influences to form a unique idea. **Adds originality:** Interpreting a concept (like flowers or a color palette) in a completely new way with different subjects or styles. **Focuses on techniques/ideas:** Learning skills or themes from others but applying them to your own distinct work. **Fosters growth:** Builds your skills and unique artistic voice.

Copying ([Imitation](#))

- **Replicates directly:** Producing an almost identical work or copying specific line work, composition, and orientation. **Lacks transformation:** Simply recreating another artist's specific design or overall feeling. **Can be plagiarism:** Directly taking another's copyrighted work and claiming it as your own. **Stifles creativity:** Hinders your own development and can fuel imposter syndrome.

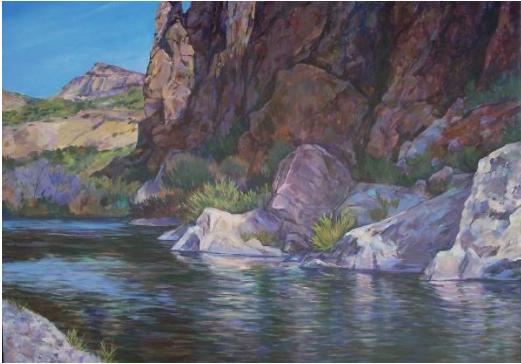
How to Stay Inspired, Not Copying

- **Take a break:** Step away from the source art before creating to let ideas synthesize. **Mix sources:** Combine elements from multiple artists or sources. **Change the context:** Use an idea in a totally different subject, style, or color scheme. **Focus on techniques:** Learn how artists achieve effects rather than copying the final image. **Ask yourself:** "Am I building on this, or just tracing it?"

The Gray Area & Ethics

- The line isn't always clear and often involves judgment, but intent matters. When in doubt, give credit to the original artist if you're clearly influenced by them. Learning by copying is normal, but it's crucial to transition from imitation to authentic creation for your own artistic journey.

January Demonstrator – Ann Osgood –



Abstract expressionist paintings are stories without words. They convey a feeling or idea that is created by the artist using their internal intuition. Marks, colors, brushstrokes, shapes etc. are used in an improvised way. What happens next depends on what came before. The artist takes a journey without a preplanned destination. It is this mysterious process to achieve a new thing of beauty with a life of its own that is magic.



Ann Osgood was raised in Southern California and left to finish a BFA in Drawing and Painting at the University of Hawaii. A bit after graduating Ann moved to the base of the Superstition Mountains in Arizona. The desert immediately cast a spell, and she has lived here since then. Ann opened The Upstairs Gallery in Apache Junction and taught at Central Arizona College. She attended Arizona State University as a graduate student. Eventually, she moved to Deer Valley and taught in public schools for many years. Now she is a full-time painter who enjoys working in a variety of styles.

Ann Osgood's work has been exhibited in solo shows at The Shemer Art Center, ASU Downtown Vault Gallery, Sisao Gallery, (9) the Gallery, and was featured as the artist at Serendipity Labs on Camelback. She has been the winning artist in many groups shows and competitions, including First Place in the Sonoran Desert Plein Air Event and Purchase Awards in several City of Glendale Plein Air events. Her work is in collections across the country.

Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 26, 2026

6 – 6:45pm – New Group Critique

6:45 – 7:15pm – Business Meeting

7:15 – 7:30pm – Social Time

7:30 – 8:30pm – Demonstration – Ann Osgood

OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

President	Cindy Chambers
1 st Vice President (Program)	Lois Miller
2 nd Vice President (Exhibits)	Nancy Donovan
Treasurer	Tim Morrison
Recording Secretary	Tonnie McBroom
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Bellinger



Artist of the Month:

1st: Lois Miller

2nd: Cindy Chambers

Remember to only enter 1 piece of artwork each month. 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.

August – Mary Groves, September – Gary Merrill, October – Dean Grissom, November – Lois Miller

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December and January Birthdays



December – Nancy Byer & Rob Donovan

January – Carol France, Tonnie McBroom, Paula Sandera



Grant Washburn, Art Alliance Representative



Ways and Means please remember to buy your 50/50 raffle tickets at the general meetings.

Members' Activities:



January 2026: "New Horizons"

- Theme: A fresh start — dreams, resolutions, and blank slates.
- Prompt Ideas: Doors, windows, mountains, maps, symbolic imagery.
- Bonus: Use an unfamiliar medium or style.



6. February 2026: "Love in All Forms"

- Theme: Not just romance — explore affection, compassion, and connection.
- Prompt Ideas: Parent-child, friendship, self-love, love of nature.
- Bonus: Create a diptych (two-part artwork).



Membership forms will be at each of the 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

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



OUTREACH

Top 9 items food banks need **MOST**:

Peanut Butter, Canned Proteins, Canned Beans, Pasta and Pasta Sauces, Pantry Staples (flour, sugar), Canned Vegetables, Cooking essentials, Baby Formula and Baby Food



For just \$25.00 a year!!!

This includes one additional mid-year image exchange! Then you can change-out again. 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, A 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.

Computer Corner



In this scam, you receive a text message from your phone's cloud storage provider. The message says your cloud storage is full and warns you that all your photographs and videos will be deleted if you don't upgrade your storage immediately. The message prompts you to select a link to upgrade your plan.

But this text is from cybercriminals trying to scare you! If you select the link in the text, you'll be taken to a fake web page and instructed to enter your credit card information so you can "upgrade" your storage. If you enter your credit card information here, cybercriminals will steal it!

Follow these tips to avoid falling victim to a phishing scam:

- If you receive a text message about your cloud storage being full, don't reply or select any links in the message. Instead, open your cloud storage app or visit the official website to confirm that the message is legitimate.
- Remember that cybercriminals often try to trick you into acting impulsively by creating a sense of urgency. Always be cautious if you receive a text message that instructs you to act quickly!
- If you receive a suspicious text message, you can report it to your phone's service provider. This report will help them block similar messages for everyone.

BACK

PAGE

ART



“Katzenquille”, Mixed Fiber Art by Robin Berning



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Meetings:

4th Monday of Month
AAG Building
18411 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix

Contacts:

Cindy Chambers - President
Pat Washburn – Membership

Membership \$50.00 per year/May-April