



Phoenix Artists Guild

Volume 172

September 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – September 2026



Dear Phoenix Artists Guild Members,

As we approach the fourth quarter of the year, I am encouraged by the energy, ideas, and possibilities already taking shape for the Phoenix Artists Guild.

Over the past two months, I have had the pleasure of meeting with the Director of the Arizona Art Alliance and the President of the Arizona Artists Guild. We are looking forward to exploring collaborative programming in the year ahead that can bring new learning, visibility, and opportunities to our members.

We are also introducing monthly Member Artist Spotlights, which will be featured in both the newsletter and on the PAG website. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the talent within our Guild and help our members become more visible.

Your PAG Board is working behind the scenes to help make our Guild more active, welcoming, and robust. But a thriving Guild is built by all of us. Your participation, whether large or small, truly matters. Gerri, our new Coordinator of Member Activities, is helping introduce additional workshops and activities so members have more opportunities to connect, learn, and grow beyond our monthly meetings. These activities are

optional, of course, but your participation helps guide and inspire future programming. This is about supporting you and your artistic goals.

I would appreciate your help with a few important items:

1. Please send Julie or me an image of **your artwork** to replace your photo on the member's page. We want your art to be the focus.
2. Please complete and sign the **Volunteer Availability/Terms of Engagement Form** and return it to Pat Washburn at the next meeting.
3. Please reach out to Lynne Rogers and let her know how you may be willing to **volunteer**. Every contribution helps, and we truly need you.
4. We are also starting monthly **raffles**. If you have any new or "as-good-as-new" items to contribute, we will warmly welcome them.
5. Finally, your ideas matter. Please email me or place your suggestions in our new **Suggestion Box** at the next meeting.
- 6.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting at AAG on Monday, September 28, 2026. Together, let's continue building PAG into a thriving, creative, and connected art community.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Alika Kumar, PAG President



Creative Corner

IS YOUR ARTWORK REALLY YOURS?

Reprinted Article by John Robak, CPSA Member

Photography and colored pencils are two distinctly different mediums. Why turn a photograph into a colored pencil drawing? What is being gained by copying one medium into another? After creating a photograph of a still life, why not enter it in a photo contest? Filling in the traced outlines of a photograph with colored pencils seems redundant. It is simply creating a coloring book devoid of the quirks and unique personal decisions that make colored pencils come alive.

In a recent colored pencil magazine, an artist posted the reference photo beside the colored pencil rendition. They looked the same. But, I wondered, what is the point? Where is the evidence of an artist's eye? We all use reference photographs. But we know when to divorce ourselves from the digitally rendered photo and concentrate on our artistic skills and the possibilities before us.

While even some of the Old Masters used aids like grids and the camera obscura to create their art, they were also trained in drawing and incorporated their vast experience while using these aids by another person.

What some artists don't realize is that the idiosyncrasies of camera lenses and aperture settings often find their way into drawings. This makes them easily recognizable as mere copies of photographs. I want to look at the art and not be distracted by what the camera sees. I want to see the artist's hand, the unique marks and color choices that reflect the artist's skills and experience. Art is supposed to be about individual expression.

So, my entreaty to you is this: Override that impulse to copy. Use the reference photo only as a launching point and trust your instincts and vision to render the scene with an artist's eye. Do you have to trace it precisely? Are there elements that you can render freehand? Does everything need to be included? Do the colors really match?

Wean yourself from a dependency on the photograph. Make decisions that will make the drawing as yours, rather than a product of a camera, a software program or a tracing box. Explore. Enjoy the process. Have the courage to make it yours.

September Demonstrator – Vikki Reed

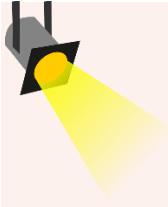


Growing up in the Desert Southwest cultivated a deep love of the light, the beauty and the resilience of this land. My first body of work includes vibrant watercolors of desert landscape and botanicals.

I studied in the 1980s with watercolor greats Irving Shapiro and Paul Kuo, and began exhibiting at the outdoor shows in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico after Paul's encouragement. This led to gallery representation with the Wickenburg Gallery and Work of Artist's Gallery. I also exhibited at the Celebration of Fine Art for eight years. Before taking sabbatical to act as caregiver for my father in 2010, I was featured in a one woman show at the Northern Trust Bank in January 2008 and was selected to create an ornament for the White House Christmas Tree that same year.

In 2004 I returned to creating mandalas which were so natural when I was a child and the innate knowledge that mandalas are a primordial tool for centering and healing was resurrected.

In 2016, a new medium (acrylic) and new style emerged, as I surrender more to creating "what wants to be seen", and negotiating with what is emerging as each painting develops, relying on frequency and vibration to guide the color and form.



Monthly Member Artist Spotlight



Julie Frye



Julie Frye’s artistic journey began at age 12, when she painted and sold her first “Free Sketch” of *Blue Boy* to her babysitter. Julie earned a Fine Art degree from Phoenix College and later studied and taught through the Kachina School of Art. A three-time PAG president and our current webmaster, Julie creates painterly realism inspired by dramatic light, rich color, texture, and animals. Her advice: “Put your heart and soul into each painting.” Julie currently has a solo exhibition at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, and another solo at the Church of the Beatitudes.

This month’s featured artwork is “**Smiling Flower Lady**” created in oil, 22x28 inches.

Contact/Website: email: juliefrye381@gmail.com; Website: www.noteworthyarts.com.



Monthly Members Challenge

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.

October

Theme: Mystery, Shadow, and Mood

Challenge: Create a piece that explores contrast, mood, atmosphere, or the unknown.

Growth Focus: Value, drama, and emotional impact

Ideas to Explore: Strong lights and darks, night scenes, symbolic imagery, abstract mood, shadows, mystery, or transformation.



Artist of the Month

1st Place – BetteLou Tobin

2nd Place – Dorothy Huber

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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September Birthdays



Dean Grissom

Clarice McIlvain

Brett Morrison

Silvia Roberts



Grant Washburn, Art Alliance Representative



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

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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

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.



[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 2nd Tuesday at her home. It is open to all, bring as many art works as you want.

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



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.

Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 28, 2026

6 – 6:45pm – Group Critique

6:45 – 7:15pm – Business Meeting

7:15 – 7:30pm – Social Time

7:30 – 8:30pm – Demonstration – Vikki Reed

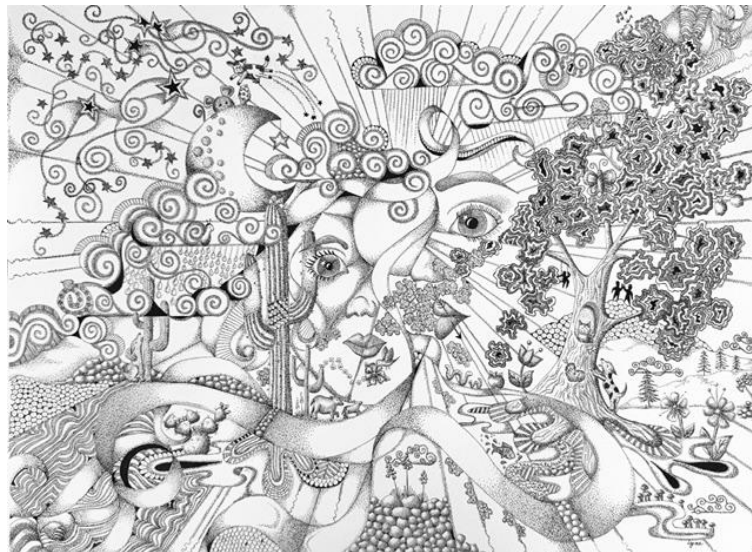
OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

President	Alika Kumar
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

BACK

PAGE

ART



“What Do You See?” Ink by Lynne Rogers



BLICK®

Meetings:

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

Contacts:

Alika Kumar - President
Pat Washburn – Membership

Membership \$50.00 per year/May-April