

OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

Tuesday, April 7th, 2026

Starting promptly at 7:00 p.m



Mahany/Meininger Community Center
3500 Marias, Royal Oak - Room's 8 & 9
(North at the light off 13 Mile between
Main and Crooks)

Meetings are the first Tuesday of each Month unless otherwise noted.

Updates & Highlights

REMINDER

SOAA has a lot of exciting momentum this spring! Our recent Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra concert collaboration was a huge success, with a wonderful turnout, beautiful artwork on display, and an amazing live painting performance by John Nagridge. We're also continuing to refresh our Mini-Masters fundraiser, so members are encouraged to create and donate small 5" x 7" works to help support the organization. In more exciting news, SOAA is moving closer to finalizing an Art in the McNamara Terminal display opportunity alongside Pewabic Pottery, with a four-month run in the works for interested artists. Members are also encouraged to get involved by responding to volunteer surveys and considering officer or committee roles ahead of upcoming elections. And don't forget — our April meeting will feature Laurie Tennent, whose presentation on botanical photography promises to be a great evening of inspiration.

“Hello!”



My name is Andrea Slomczenski, local artist and muralist, and I'm excited to continue bringing you the latest news and updates as your newsletter editor! As we dive into our second newsletter of the year, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome. Stepping into this role after Carol Card's amazing work has been an honor, and I'm eager to continue building on the foundation she set.

I hope you're enjoying the new design and format of the newsletter. If you'd like to know more about me and my work, feel free to visit Andreaajs.com and check out the "About" section.

I look forward to keeping you informed and inspired with all the happenings at SOAA throughout the year. Happy reading!



Mini-Masters - An SOAA Fundraiser

Now's the time - to refresh our stock for mini-masters. Those small 5"x7" masterpieces you, our members and friends, donate to the Mini-Master Program, really do make a difference. We would like to request everyone take a bit of time and create for the cause. Blank Canvas Boards are usually available at our meetings and if Watercolor or other mediums are more your specialty, we can arrange to have pre-cut paper available too.

Art in the McNamara Terminal Update

We should have the final language to sign sometime soon to display along with Pewabic Pottery. It will be a 4 month run. Please make sure to email SOAA200@gmail.com if you are interested in displaying some work for this.

Currently these artists have expressed interest, but we know there is more:

- Winnie Chrzanowski
- Kathy Pare
- Melissa Wilson
- Noah Ford
- Joyce Coyne
- Andrea Slomczenski
- Cynthia Gould
- John Nagridge
- Jean Garrett
- Philip Deneau
- Ronda Berger
- Tom Kulich
- Madu Oberoi
- Camille Lecoutre
- Erica Davis Hernandez



For more details -
southoaklandart.com

Member Feature -

SHOW YOUR ARTWORK ON OUR WEBSITE

Another advantage of membership – our member artwork section on our SOAA website – southoaklandart.com. It's easy to do and allows us to show off the talents of our membership. Take a photo of each artwork you would like to display and send along with a short bio and possibly a photo of yourself to be used in your section. Photos should be in jpeg format – 8 or fewer photos.



Send to Webmaster
John Rash (rash.john1@gmail.com)
with your contact information.

President's Report

Dear Members of the South Oakland Art Association,



Hello all you Beautiful Artists!!

The Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra Concert was a SMASHING HIT!!! Thank you to everyone who participated!! John Nagridge created an Amazing Painting while all in attendance watched while enjoying some terrific music!! Be sure to check our Facebook page to see some photos and a timelapse of Johns painting.

We have sent out several emails asking YOU to respond on the google form with any interest in volunteering for the group. Please respond with not interested at this time in all of the categories if you are unable to help, and please do respond with the things you are interested in helping with. I know if you are reading this, you probably are getting the emails, but we need responses back on the google form. Anytime we ask for a response, it is important to let us know. What is the best way to get a hold of you?? There will be many things that we are going to ask the group as a whole that we NEED your INPUT so we can create the best and most enjoyable group 😊 If you don't participate.. then I am going to make ALL the decisions for you..... So please respond to the emails we send out ok 😊

Last week my wife and I went to Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton MI near the Irish Hills. They had an art show going on and we were very impressed with the results they got using all natural materials. The organization who put the show on was Adrian Center for the Arts. So with the nice weather almost here, I am challenging each of you to create a piece of art from all natural materials with the exception of paint, glue, and maybe wire if you need those items. Just keep at least 90% natural materials. Now let me explain "natural" materials. These are items found in Nature. Not wool or cotton fabric. We will have until the November meeting to get them completed. I will look into getting a judge for this competition as well as some prizes!!

Don't forget we have elections coming up in May. If you are interested in getting more involved with our Organization, if you would like to have more input on what we do and how we do it, then get involved!! Board positions and committee chairs are voted on by the members but we need volunteers to make everything run smoothly.

Noah Ford - President
South Oakland Art Association

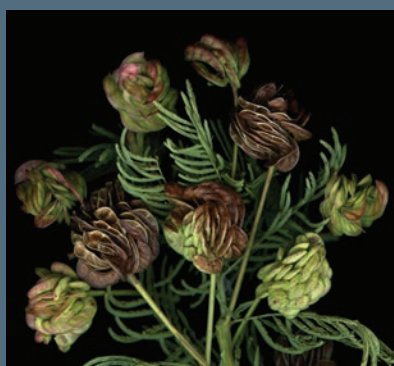
April Speaker

Laurie Tennent



LAURIE TENNENT BOTANICALS: INTIMATE PORTRAITS

Laurie@LaurieTennentBotanicals.com



Laurie Tennent, an American photographer known for her distinctive, dramatic images. She holds a BFA from the College for Creative Studies. She is represented by galleries internationally and her work is part of many collections including Detroit Institute of Arts, University of Michigan Museum of Art, The Kresge Foundation, The Mira Goddard Collection of Photography at Ryerson University in Toronto and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris. She has been commissioned to create permanent works at the Chicago Botanical Garden, The Morton Arboretum, Meijer Gardens Museum and the The Peace River Sculpture and Botanic Garden in Punta Gorda, Florida. She recently was added to the Art in Embassies project and has work in Truman Hall the home of our Ambassador to NATO. Tennent's deep interest in science and biology led her to work with botanists and master

gardeners to discover unique species before photographing the plants in her studio. The work is printed large scale and then can be "planted" back into the gardens as sculptures. Working with botanists and conservationists, By creating a multi-sensory traveling exhibit, she pushes the boundaries of what has traditionally been considered part of the botanical illustration genre. She will take us on a tour of the many Botanical Gardens she is working with to create permanent works for the gardens.

2025-2026 SOAA Board Members

Noah Ford - President

Melissa Wilson - Programs & Exhibits

Rachel Kaltner - Vice President, Outreach Lead, & Membership

Susan Donnellon - Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Hospitality

Joyce Knight-Coyne - Recording Secretary, Artist of The Month & Awards

John Rash - Webmaster (rash.john1@gmail.com)

Andrea Slomczenski - Newsletter Editor (Andreajs.illustrations@gmail.com)

Janice Schulte - Hospitality

To unsubscribe, send an email with subject "Unsubscribe to Newsletter" to Andrea S. above.



It's Time!

For Facebook Fame.

We would like to start a new feature on our Facebook page where we feature the art and a short bio of each of our artists. Only one artist will be featured at a time. Once it's posted, feel free to share it on your FB page or anywhere you like. Let's promote the fine artists we have here in the South Oakland Art Association.

If you'd like to participate, please go to
<http://nagridge.com/soaa>.

There will be a pdf for you to download with the instructions.

My hope is to feature an artist once or twice a week. I look forward to featuring you. Let me know if you have any questions or problems submitting the art or the form.

-John Nagridge



2026-2027 Calendar of Events

April 7, 2026	Laurie Tennent Botanical Photographer
May 5, 2026	Cynthia Gould Painting demonstration on different additives and paint mediums
June 2, 2026	Ice cream social/ Artists of the year 5-10 minute artist talks, go over summer art show information
June 27-28 2026	Royal Oak Art in the Park- SOAA will have a booth
Sep. 8, 2026	
Oct. 6, 2026	Camille Lecoutre - Printmaking
Nov. 7-21st 2026	(Opening Sunday Nov. 8th) SOAA Annual Show at Royal Oak Historical Society Museum
Nov. 10, 2026	
Dec. 1, 2026	Pot luck holiday gathering, starts 30 minutes early

At Our Meeting...

Please Be On Time

1. Please sign in and take a name tag.
2. If you bring a guest, have them sign in and introduce them to some of our members :)
3. Place your snack item in the provided space.
4. **DON'T FORGET** - Members, set up your artwork for our Artist of the Month Competition.

Membership

We hope you will consider joining us as a member.

Annual Dues are \$30 individual or \$35 to include a second adult family member at the same address. Your dues go for programs, shows, awards and supplies. Payments can be made by cash or check made out to South Oakland Art Assn. OR by Credit Card - (*using a credit card will incur a 4% added service charge.*) We would love to have you join us! Bring a friend to any meeting for \$5.



Painting Classes... WITH JOHN RASH

Painting - All Media
Thursdays, 9:15 a.m - 11:45 a.m

Painting - Watercolor
Fridays, 9:15 a.m - 11:45 a.m
Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m - 8:45 p.m

Generally, 8 Classes = \$65. These classes are held at the Mahany/Meininger Community Ctr. 3500 Marias, Royal Oak.



Information: 248-246-3900

Unlock Your Artistic Potential with Private Lessons by Melissa Wilson

Are you interested in private art lessons? Look no further! Melissa Wilson, an award-winning art teacher, is here to guide you on your artistic journey. Melissa specializes in a variety of mediums, including Oil, Watercolor, Encaustic, Ceramics, Photography, and so much more. Whether you're a beginner eager to learn or an experienced artist looking to refine your skills, Melissa offers private lessons tailored to your needs.

- Each private session lasts 2.5 hours and is just \$50 per session.

Contact Melissa today to schedule your private art lesson and "unleash your creativity!"



melissawilson192@gmail.com

Bringing Walls to Life: Got walls?

Muralists and Artist's Andrea Slomczenski and Juliana Rabban are always on the lookout for new mural projects and creative collaborations in the Metro Detroit/ Detroit Area. With a shared passion for transforming spaces through vibrant, large-scale artwork, we're excited to bring our unique styles and experiences to both outdoor and indoor spaces.

From community projects to commercial or residential spaces, each mural either of us create is designed to reflect the spirit of the community and the vision of our clients. Recent projects always remind us how powerful art can be in shaping and uplifting spaces. If you have a friend, friend of a friend, family member, or other who is looking for a muralist - we can help bring it to life!

You can view Andrea's work at andreajs.com or visit her instagram [@AndreaSztuka](https://www.instagram.com/AndreaSztuka).
Andreajs.illustrations@gmail.com

You can view Juliana's work at justbyjuliana.com or visit her instagram [@justbyjuliana](https://www.instagram.com/justbyjuliana)
justbyjuliana@gmail.com

Do you know who else paints murals? SOAA member **Joyce Coyne!** sandybeadsllc@gmail.com
Check out the SOAA Member Updates and Happenings page of the newsletter to see some of her latest projects!



SOAA - South Oakland Art Association Group



@SouthOaklandArt



@South.Oakland.Art

Artists of The Month

SOAA Artist of The Month Contest Rules

1. You must be an SOAA member in attendance to enter artwork in the monthly contest.
2. All artwork must be submitted by **7:00 p.m.**
Voting ends at **7:15 p.m.**
3. Artists may enter two pieces of art each month. They do not need to be entered in the same category.
4. First & Second Place Awards will be given in each category. In the event of a tie, both winners will receive an award.
5. Anyone attending the meeting may vote for the Artists of The Month.
6. Winners are announced at the end of the meeting and will have their photo taken for our newsletter.
7. Once a piece of art has been entered in the Artist of The Month contest, it cannot be entered again.
8. When a piece of art borders on two categories, the Awards Chair may assist with category selection with artist agreement. Some art would fit in multiple categories.

March Artist's Of The Month

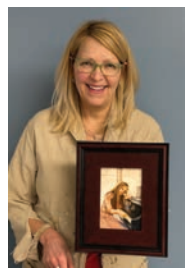
Portrait Category



TIE 1st Place; Ron Novack
Title; Prairie Brave



TIE 1st Place; Susan Donnellon
Title; Tory the Cat



TIE 2nd Place; Kristin MacPhee
Title; Young Pianist



TIE 2nd Place; Dave Buffington
Title; Figure Drawing

Representational Category



1st Place; Kristin MacPhee
Title; Road Less Traveled



1st Place; Camille LeCoutre
Title; Moi Aussi

3-D Category



1st Place; Tim Pare
Title; Brothers



2nd Place; Phil Deneau
Title; Vase

Abstract Category



1st Place; Noah Ford
Title; Untitled



TIE 2nd Place; Cynthia Gould
Title; Chrome Texture

Pictures from the Art Sale at the Royal Oak Symphony



Join a Committee

Your interest in contributing to SOAA is highly appreciated, and we are delighted to extend an invitation to you to join a committee, run for committee chair or an officer position. We would like to know your interest in any positions before the April meeting. We have a vote at the May meeting. These are for two year terms.

Exhibit/Committee Chair

Help organize our exhibits by securing locations, coordinating setup and takedown, and creating exhibition sheets. You'll also work with other committees during events and track expenses.

Fundraising/Committee Chair

Lead our fundraising efforts by securing patrons and donations, organizing activities like raffles or silent auctions, and coordinating donor acknowledgments.

Public Relations Committee Chair

Help spread the word about everything we do! This role focuses on social media, promotions, event announcements, and community outreach.

Recording Secretary

Attend meetings, take and organize minutes, and upload them to our shared Google Drive for the Board.

Even if you're unsure, we'd love to talk with you about any of these roles. Your involvement makes a real difference!

Please reach out if you're interested or have questions—we'd be happy to help you get started.

The Committees play a vital role in creating a warm and inviting atmosphere at our monthly General Membership meetings and events and help keep things organized and running smoothly. . Your involvement in this committee will directly impact the overall experience of our members and guests. The responsibilities of the officers, committees and its chair are outlined below. Please fill out this survey if you have not already done so at this link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQEmL7sfd1VK7UjlvW3A-YxGqRqPwG07zXR5jJCXelyXaBdA/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=100285997207064535312>

Tag Creation Instructions for Upcoming SOAA Shows

Are you interested in showing some work March 13th at the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra? If so you can sign up at the March Meeting. We will limit this to five pieces 2D or 3D, but you may bring additional matted pieces for the bins and note cards.

For any SOAA Shows or sales, you will need to create and print your own tags. You can pick up sticker sheets at our next meeting. Please follow the provided directions to make your tags. Remember, these tags are the same for every show, so it's important for everyone to learn how to create them. If you're having trouble with the computer or need assistance, Dave Buffington is available to help. You can reach him at 248-561-0697. Please call him at least one week before the art drop-off date. If you can type your tags but don't have a printer, you can email your PDF to Melissa Wilson at melissawilson192@gmail.com, and she will print them for you.

If you'd like to learn how to do it yourself but are still finding it challenging, please call Melissa at 248-770-8528. She can set up a time to assist you.

Important: Please don't wait until the last minute! Plan ahead to ensure your tags are ready on time. Here is the link for the tags: <http://labe.ls/kMPNeOg>

Directions for the tag are here

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1krxNpfVeh7oYWfurfqWni1jCIPX129HK?usp=sharing>

Call for Art Donations – ROSO 30th Anniversary Gala Silent Auction

South Oakland Art Association is excited to continue building our new partnership with the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra (ROSO)!

ROSO is celebrating its 30th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, May 16th at the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, and they are inviting SOAA members to donate artwork for the event's silent auction.

What They're Looking For:

Artwork that can be easily transported and displayed

All media welcome, as long as it can be set up for viewing and bidding

Items submitted by May 1st

Why Participate?

Artists will be acknowledged in the item write-up

You may include a brief bio to be displayed with your work

The gala is expected to host 120–130 guests

Call for Art Donations – ROSO 30th Anniversary Gala Silent Auction

Auction items will also be promoted on Facebook, allowing for online bidding beyond event attendees

This is a wonderful opportunity to support the arts community while gaining exposure for your work. If you are interested in donating a piece, please contact:

Lisa Wade
VP, 30th Anniversary Committee
☎ 248-561-5523
✉ lisawade219@gmail.com

Thank you for helping strengthen the creative connection between SOAA artists and ROSO musicians!



Photo taken by: Sandi Cook-Poirier

posting about **plein air events throughout metro Detroit on Facebook**. If you don't go on Facebook but would like to know about some of these events, *feel free to ask me by email and I'll reply with links to the events*.

If you want to get better at landscape drawing or painting, there's no better way than to do it from life instead of from photos. *Take your pencils, pens, and paints outside and have a good time capturing Nature as only you can see it.*

What's in your Nature?

Plein Air Painting: John Nagridge

It's no secret I'm a big fan of plein air art and enjoy advocating the making of it. I'm sure you also know I also like to post artwork from SOAA members on Facebook. During our summer break, I'd love to do both.

If anyone of you do a plein air sketch, drawing, or painting and are willing to share it on Facebook, please email your piece to me at johnnagridge@gmail.com. make sure it's a nice jpg, png, or tif file. Also let me know its title, size, and medium your piece is. I also encourage you to let me know the location you painted it and add any type of story about what inspired you to do this particular scene.

Please don't be intimidated by the term "plein air." It's just a fancy term for doing a drawing or painting of an outdoor scene in front of you. It could be done on a vacation scene, a local park, or even in your own yard.

On a separate, but related, note, I've also been



INDEPENDENT ART STUDIO FOR PAINTERS

Wednesday afternoons 1-3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$2 residents

\$2.50 non-residents

Drop-in painting space at

Royal Oak Sr. Community Center

3500 Marais, Royal Oak

Adults of all ages welcome

Bring your painting supplies and join

a fun group of artists who love to

work alongside others while enjoying

conversation and friendship.

Need a Realtor? I Noah guy!!
 Call
Noah Ford 248-505-4742
 Buying or selling Real Estate?
 I'm your guy!
 NoahAFordREO@gmail.com
 31 S. Main Street
 Clarkston, MI 48346
 248-625-0200
 Real Estate One

Great news for home buyers! The market is flooded with more homes for sale than there are buyers so there are deals to be had. Your bargaining power is very good right now. I can help you negotiate the best deal. Home ownership is one of the top ways to make money on an investment. First time home buyer specialist! Investment property? I got you!! Got questions? I have answers. Let's sit down and talk. **Call me @ 248-505-4742**

SOUTH OAKLAND ART ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!
 — STEP UP • GET INVOLVED • SHAPE OUR FUTURE —

ELECTIONS ARE COMING—AND WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!
 Nominations: APRIL • Elections: MAY • Installation: JUNE
 Let us know if you're interested **BEFORE THE APRIL MEETING!**

WHY YOUR HELP MATTERS
 Many members are carrying multiple roles. We need fresh energy and new ideas.
 The more who help, the stronger SOAA becomes!

WHAT WE NEED MOST

- Create Promotional Materials
- Be comfortable using Social Media Tools
- Use Google Drive to Keep SOAA Organized

HOW YOU CAN SERVE

- ✓ Be a SOAA Officer
- ✓ Become a Committee Chair
- ✓ Join as a Committee Member

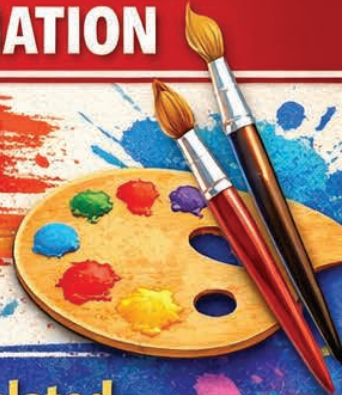
2-YEAR TERMS • ONLY SIGN UP IF YOU CAN COMMIT!

READY TO LEAD SOAA FORWARD?
 Sign up to choose your role!
 Talk to any Board Member with questions.

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP SOAA STRONG, & CREATIVE!

SOUTH OAKLAND ART ASSOCIATION

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY!



Do you have a business that's **not art-related**, but you think SOAA members would love to know about?

ADVERTISE IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

ONLY
\$100
PER YEAR!

Easy Steps:



1 Create your ad image



2 Email it to **SOAA200@gmail.com**



3 Reach dozens of SOAA members every month!



Connect with Our Creative Community!

CONTACT US TODAY!



SOAA200@gmail.com