

OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

Tuesday September 9th, 2025

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

Membership Renewal - September is the beginning of a new SOAA season of meetings, events & programs! For most of our members it is time to renew your membership. SOAA membership dues pay for our monthly room rental, speaker fees, program supplies, website, mailing expenses and more.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE:

- \$30 per individual
- \$35 for two adults living at the same address.

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.) A Membership table will be open at 6:45 p.m at our Sept. 9th meeting for your convenience.

We will also be signing people up for the annual member show at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum now, So if you are planning to renew your membership you may want to pay for both at the same time. The cost to be in that show is \$20.

Questions regarding Membership can be directed To Rachel Kaltner at rachelkaltner@gmail.com. Be sure to let us know if you have any updated contact information changes - name, address, phone, etc.

Sept. 9, 2025 Kenneth Hershenson - A discussion of his journey as a professional artist with a focus on his I DO Know Jack! series

Sept 20th Noon-6 Trenton Art Show

“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.

Planning to be in the Fall Annual show?

The Annual show sign up will be at the upcoming September meeting.

At our June meeting if you missed us - Melissa showed a video she made about **SOAA art show information**. You can view it here if you plan to be in any upcoming shows. Please watch this and turn up the volume.

<https://youtu.be/aFd7sPffqi0>

Here is a **powerpoint that describes how to fill out your tags**. Please watch this. You can all do this. If you need the stickers, please pick them up from Melissa Wilson. Melissa's cell 248-770-8528.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k1T8CLpSfh0pY5xJsOkaurX1xaTkMz1/view?usp=share_link

Here is the link for our tags .

<http://labe.ls/kMPNeOg>

If you're having **trouble with the computer or need assistance with tags**, **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. Thank you!



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.

Fall Annual Show -

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS: -

Current paid up membership in SOAA required:

- \$20 Show Entry Fee paid no later than at art drop off prior to the show.

- Entry/Inventory Form must be completed, signed and submitted at drop off - A sales commission of 15% will go to SOAA.

- Participants are expected, if at all possible, to help with the show – this includes working a shift or two during museum hours and attending & bringing a food or service item to the opening event. Please sign up. If you are unable to personally help out you may send someone to fill in for you.

ENTRY LIMITS MAY BE ADJUSTED DUE TO NUMBER OF ENTRANTS PARTICIPATING. If change is necessary, you will be notified.

- Hanging Art: 5 pieces
- 3D Art: 10 pieces
- Bin Art: 10 pieces
- Note Cards: No limit, there will be two shared racks

President's Report

Dear Members of the South Oakland Art Association,



"There's a New Sheriff in Town!" 🤠

Do I have to keep this serious? Nah! Our first executive board meeting for the fall was on August 7th, and wow—what a productive start to the season!

First, a big welcome to our new Treasurer, Susan Donnellon! Thank you so much for stepping up, Susan—we appreciate you!

Membership dues will remain the same this year—still an incredible value for all the opportunities and resources S.O.A.A. provides. So spread the word to friends,

family, and fellow artists!

A few upcoming events to mark on your calendars:

September 20th – Several of us will be heading to Trenton, Michigan, for a one-day art show. It's always a great time!

Detroit Zoo Show – "Camouflage" – This exciting exhibit in the Ford Educational Center is coming up FAST! We need 2D artwork featuring the camouflage of animals, birds, fish, insects—whatever inspires you. The show runs November through February, right through the popular Zoo Lights season, attracting visitors from across the country. Artwork will not be for sale, but the Zoo will promote our group with contact info for those interested in our art. What a fantastic way to showcase your work to millions of people! ***If you have questions please call Noah Ford at 248-505-4742***

Our programs are also set to inspire! Melissa Wilson is still serving as Programs Chair and she has a great lineup of speakers for our monthly meetings. We kick things off on **September 9th** with professional artist Kenneth Hershenson, who will be sharing his series "I DO Know Jack." It's sure to spark ideas and creativity—don't miss it!

Here's to a vibrant, creative fall for S.O.A.A. Let's make it our best season yet!

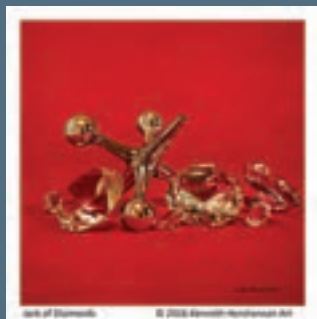
Noah Ford - President
South Oakland Art Association

September Artist Speaker

With Kenneth Hershenson



Work Samples



Discussion of my Artist journey and my "I DO Know Jack!" Series.

Kenneth Hershenson is a self taught acrylic painter whose artistic approach is rooted in the twin disciplines of realism and illustration. Architectural design and illustration are the basis of much of his professional life, which included serving as an architectural designer with Disneyland in California and designing Japan stores for Starbucks while living in Seattle.

He has participated in many juried art shows and has won a number of awards in watercolor, drawing and painting including several national awards. He creates images that provide the viewer with a sense of joy, humor and a relief from the day-to-day stresses of 21st century life. Currently, he is exploring reflections in chrome in his award-winning "I DO Know Jack!" series of hyperealistic acrylic paintings. Toy chrome jacks are placed in unexpected settings and scales and each painting is titled with a play on words. He is fascinated with the concept of

Kenneth Hershenson
Ken@KennethHershensonArt.com
 (313) 727-8478

connecting the viewer to a world that exists outside of the edges of the painting through reflective surfaces. These paintings have proven to engage people of all ages.

His paintings have been published in numerous nationally distributed art books including five issues of AcrylicWorks: The Best of Acrylic Painting series 2015-2018 and 2023 plus six issues of the annual Richeson75 Still Life and Floral Exhibit, 2016-2020 and 2023. His painting Jack of Clubs received an Award of Excellence from the National Oil & Acrylic Painters' Society and Pepper Jack Cheese was selected for the 2023 International Guild of Realism Fall Salon show. Ken is a member of the International Guild of Realism and the National Oil & Acrylic Painters' Society, and taught painting at Atelier School of Art in Royal Oak, MI.

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 (Andrea.s.illustrations@gmail.com)

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



2025-2026 Calendar of Events

Sept. 9th, 2025	Kenneth Hershenson - A discussion of his journey as a professional artist with a focus on his I DO KNOW Jack! series.
Sept 20th	12pm-6pm Trenton Art Show
Oct. 7, 2025	Susan Donnellon Needlefelting
Nov. 2, 2025	Annual Show opening at the Royal Oak Historical Society museum.
Nov. 11, 2025	We will have a live figure drawing session with a model in interesting clothing. Holiday Gathering and silent auction fundraiser.
Dec. 2, 2025	
Jan. 6, 2026	
Feb. 3, 2026	
March 3, 2026	
April 7, 2026	
May 5, 2026	
June 2, 2026	
Sep. 8, 2026	
Oct. 6, 2026	
Nov. 10, 2026	
Dec. 1, 2026	

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 andreaajs.com or visit her instagram [@AndreaSztuka](https://www.instagram.com/AndreaSztuka).
Andreaajs.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.

Artist's of The Year 2025

Portrait Category

Susan Donnellon



3-D Category

Erica Davis-Hernandez



Representational Category

Beth Breneau



Abstract Category

Joyce Knight-Coyne



SOAA Member Updates & Happenings!

This page is your go-to spot for staying in the loop on what our talented members are up to in the coming months. From launching new art collections to hosting gallery exhibits and participating in collaborations, there's always something inspiring happening in our creative community. Whether it's a special project, a milestone achievement, or an upcoming event, we want to keep you connected with all the amazing things happening around SOAA.

But we need your help!

If you're a SOAA member and have some exciting news, updates, or upcoming projects you'd like to share, don't keep it to yourself. We'd love to include your story in our next update!

Just send the details over to Andrea:

Andreaajs.illustrations@gmail.com.

Let's celebrate the creativity and hard work of our members together and inspire others with what you're working on!

Snowden-Hartwell Alley Mural, with Andrea Slomczenski




Andrea Slomczenski finished up this mural over on McNichols near Sinai-Grace Hospital. Andrea and many other artist from all over painting murals up and down this alley over the summer.

& The beginning of a larger mural with the DIA and Lathrup Village.



SOAA Member Updates & Happenings!



A2AC Exhibition

RESIST AND REVEAL

Featuring the work of
Melissa Wilson

Aug. 1 - Sept. 28, 2025

*Extended through
September!*

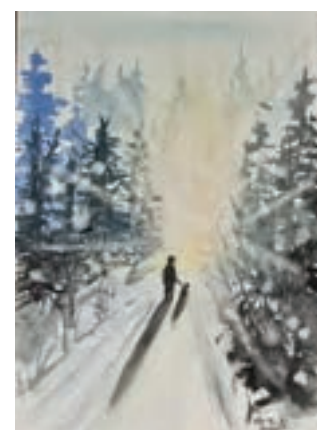
An exploration of resilience
through saltwater copper
etchings and cyanotypes

**A2AC SPOTLIGHT
GALLERY**

We're thrilled to share that our very own Melissa Wilson's show in Ann Arbor is going exceptionally well—and will remain on display until September 28th. Melissa has been working tirelessly over the past year preparing for this exhibition, and that dedication is truly paying off. Not only have more of her pieces sold, but she also connected with a metalsmith who was enthusiastic about her work and encouraged her to keep pursuing this next exciting stage in her artistic journey. Melissa's momentum doesn't stop there. Next weekend, she'll be featured as the Guest Artist of the Month at a gallery in Maryland, where she will showcase her work on a dedicated wall. While she describes it modestly, we know this recognition is a big step and a testament to her talent and growth. Congratulations, Melissa, on all of your hard work and success—we can't wait to see where this journey takes you next!



Pictures from the June Meeting.



Royal Oak Art Fair.



Pictures from over the Summer.

Cranbrook Meetup.



Plein Air at the Buffington's.



Plein Air at the Zoo.





Photo taken by: Sandi Cook-Poirier

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 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.*

you're invited

South Oakland Art Association - Annual Art at the Museum Show & Sale
Royal Oak Historical Museum
Opening Reception - Sunday Nov. 2nd, 2025 - 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
1411 W. Webster, Royal Oak, MI 48073

SOAA

**Show runs through Nov. 15th during museum hours.
Scan QR Code for hours.



SOAA

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@SouthOaklandArt

You are invited to the South Oakland Art Association Annual Art at the Museum Show & Sale at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum. The show runs November 1st - November 15th, 2025 with the opening reception on Sunday, November 2nd, 2025 (2 p.m. - 5 p.m.).

Regular Museum hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., with extended hours on 3 Saturday's (Nov. 1st, 8th & 15th) 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Check their Facebook for last minute changes, or call them at - (248) 439-1501.



SouthOaklandArt.com



Call For Art!!

The Detroit Zoo has invited
S.O.A.A to be in a show from
November through February!!

The theme is **Camouflage**

I'm excited to see what everyone comes up
with!! **Animals, Birds Reptiles, Insects** are all
options!!

I will need your creations in 2D and they are due at
Noah's house by October 2nd at 8pm.

Contact Noah at 248-505-4742 with questions.
Also Tags will not have a price on them, only title and discription.

See this for ideas and information on the
main show.

<https://www.saqa.com/art/exhibitions/camouflage-saqa-global-exhibition>