

OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

Tuesday April 1st, 2025

Starting promptly at 7:00 p.m

Welcome  
Spring



📍 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 an exciting lineup of events this spring and summer!

For the Month of April - k-12 Royal Oak Art Show @ the Royal Oak Library

April 5th - Adaptive Art Dry Run 10 a.m.

April 1st - Promoting your Art with speaker Brian Fritz

May 3rd - Community Outreach Adaptive Art Event - Volunteer info on page 7.

May 6th - Dave Buffington speaks on Life as a Graphic Artist and the AIGA

May 17th - Habatat Glass Gallery Meetup to explore the 53rd International Glass Show at this Royal Oak Gallery

June 3rd - Ice Cream Social & Wire Wrapping Workshop - featured member art will be 5x7 paintings and 2D creations to be donated to MiniMasters program.

July 12-13 - Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair at Memorial Park - signup coming soon.

## “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 [AndreaJs.com](http://AndreaJs.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

Did you know? Those small 5"x7" masterpieces you, our members and friends, donate to the Mini-Master Program, really do make a difference. *It is time to refresh our stock!* 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.

### Member News (snapshot)

We are excited to congratulate several of our talented members for their achievements this month!

- **Andrea Slomczenski** has decided that she will be ending her Residency with the Russell Industrial Painting a mural in one of the taller walls near their music venue. In addition, she will be doing another mural with City Walls Detroit very soon. She also will be appearing in HOUR Detroit's Magazine sometime this month. Recently she just finished up painting some windows at the Baldwin Cafe in Lake Orion.
- **Joyce Coyne** has some of her "Sandy Beads" at the Artsy Umbrella on 12 Mile Rd.
- **Susan Donnellon** and **Melissa Wilson** also hosted a workshop on Needle Felting for the Royal Oak High School Art club.
- **SOAA Members** at our March 4th meeting, gathered to decorate bowls for the "Empty Bowls" outreach project that **Melissa Wilson** does every year, and it turned out to be such a fun and meaningful afternoon. Everyone brought their own style and creativity to the table, and the results were a beautiful reflection of our shared effort.

If you're participating in an upcoming show, be sure to let **Andrea Slomczenski** know so we can include your news in future newsletters.

Congratulations to all of our members for their accomplishments, and we look forward to celebrating your continued success!



For more details -  
[southoaklandart.com](http://southoaklandart.com)

Established in 1960 by a group of dedicated artists, the South Oakland Art Association has been a cornerstone in Southern Oakland County, fostering creative talent and supporting the fine art community for over six decades. Membership Information: Individual Membership: \$30 - Dual Membership: \$35 SOAA takes 15% from work sold under SOAA shows, or events.

# Member Feature -

## SHOW YOUR ARTWORK ON OUR WEBSITE

Another advantage of membership – our member artwork section on our SOAA website – [southoaklandart.com](http://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](mailto:rash.john1@gmail.com))  
with your contact information.

## Pics from the Workshop Susan and Melissa did at ROHS.



# President's Report

Dear Members of the South Oakland Art Association,



March was a month filled with exciting and meaningful events for the South Oakland Art Association (SOAA). One of the highlights was the wonderful group effort in glazing beautiful bowls, which will be used in the upcoming Empty Bowls event to raise funds for the homeless. A big thank you to everyone who participated! If you weren't able to join us this time or would like to paint more bowls, we'll be offering additional opportunities in the future.

In addition, I hosted a free website-building workshop at my home, and a few members took advantage of the chance to learn new skills. At this month's meeting, we're excited to offer even more! Artist Brian Fritz will be joining us on April 1st to discuss creating websites for your art and various ways to promote your work. Whether or not you plan to create a website yourself, it's always beneficial to understand the possibilities. Brian is also a passionate wildlife painter, and we are thrilled to have him share his expertise with us.

As part of outreach, Susan Donnellon and I also hosted a workshop on Needle Felting for the Royal Oak High School Art club. The students had a blast and I am going back before the end of the month to do the empty bowls project with them as well. One of the seniors said she was even able to incorporate some needlefelting into one of her pieces for her senior exhibition.

If you would like to check out the k-12 Royal Oak Art show, it will be on display this month at the Royal Oak library. One of the high school teachers is SOAA member Nancy Sly. Her students have some phenomenal work. Even some ceramics done by my son Aidan.

I'd also like to remind everyone that, as I mentioned last month, I'll be stepping down in the fall due to a scheduling conflict with evening classes I'll be teaching. While I'll still be very involved, I'm currently running the art education classes at Oakland University, so we are looking for someone to step up and fill this position. I am more than happy to help train the next person, and I will continue to be available for support. If you're interested in this opportunity, please let me know. Nominations should be determined at this, the April meeting, election(s) in May. New President takes office in June.

Warm Regards,  
Melissa Wilson  
President, South Oakland Art Association



## March Artist Speaker With Brian Fritz



## Work Samples



## Website Basics For Artists.

Brian Fritz  
[brianleefritz@gmail.com](mailto:brianleefritz@gmail.com)  
(517) 428-9264

Brian Fritz is an artist and web designer with a background in marketing.

He's built websites for nonprofits, small businesses, authors and artists, including full e-commerce installations.

In this presentation, he will give an overview of the available platforms for making your own website as well as the process of building and basic maintenance.

We will also briefly discuss SEO (Search Engine Optimization) and writing for the web.



# 2025 SOAA Board Members

**Melissa Wilson** - President, Programs & Exhibits

**Rachel Kaltner** - Vice President, Outreach Lead

**Carol Card** - Treasurer & Membership

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

**Susan Donnellon** - Corresponding Secretary, Hospitality

**John Rash** - Webmaster ([rash.john1@gmail.com](mailto:rash.john1@gmail.com))

**Andrea Slomczenski** - Newsletter Editor ([Andrea.s.illustrations@gmail.com](mailto: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 Calendar of Events

April 1st	Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. -Promoting your art with Brian Fritz
April 5th	Adaptive Art Event Volunteer Dry Run At -Community Center 10 a.m.
May 3rd	Adaptive Art Event - Community Center -11 a.m - 2 p.m.
May 6th	Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. - Life as a Graphic Artist & AIGA - Dave Buffington
June 3rd	Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. -Ice Cream Social & Wire Wrapping Workshop
July 12-13	Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair at Memorial Park

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## 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.

## Get on the SOAA Reminder App

You can now receive SOAA meeting and activity reminders on your phone by adding the REMINDER APP now.



Type in address: #81010  
Text in message: @soaaremind  
Send.



## 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](http://andreajs.com) or visit her instagram [@AndreaSztuka](https://www.instagram.com/AndreaSztuka).  
[Andreajs.illustrations@gmail.com](mailto:Andreajs.illustrations@gmail.com)

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

Do you know who else paints murals? SOAA member **Joyce Coyne!** [sandybeadsllc@gmail.com](mailto: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

1st



1st Place, Susan Donnellon  
Title: Bandit

2nd



2nd Place, Janice Schulte  
Title: Zebra

### 3-D Category

1st



1st Place, Tim Pare  
Title: Baby Allie

2nd



2nd Place, Erica Davis-Hernandez  
Title: Tree Of Life

### Representational Category

1st

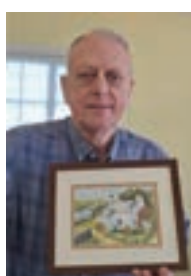


1st Place, Beth Breneau  
Title: Around We Go

2nd, TIE



2nd Place - TIE, Paul Stema  
Title: Trees



2nd Place - TIE,  
Patrick Krease  
Title: Irish Cottage

### Abstract Category

1st



1st Place, John Rash  
Title: Seascape #5

2nd



2nd Place, Ann-Marie Mannino  
Title: Birch Trees

# 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!

A vibrant poster for the South Oakland Art Association's Adaptive Art Clinic. The top half features a colorful, abstract background with the text "SOUTH OAKLAND ART ASSOCIATION" and "ADAPTIVE ART CLINIC" in bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the date and time "MAY 3, 2025 NOON" and the location "3500 MARAIS AVENUE ROYAL OAK, MI 48073" are listed in white text on a dark teal background. The bottom half of the poster has a dark teal background with white text. It includes an RSVP deadline "RSVP BY APRIL 15TH" and a note "SPACES ARE LIMITED". It also describes the event as a fun and inclusive art experience where volunteers assist participants with disabilities in creating a unique piece of art. It mentions that no prior art experience is necessary and that materials will be provided. A contact email "SOAA200@gmail.com" is provided for securing a spot and for questions. The SOAA logo and a Royal Oak logo are at the bottom left, and a colorful abstract painting is at the bottom right.

**SOUTH OAKLAND ART ASSOCIATION**  
**ADAPTIVE ART CLINIC**

**MAY 3, 2025  
NOON  
3500 MARAIS AVENUE  
ROYAL OAK, MI 48073**

**RSVP BY  
APRIL 15TH  
SPACES ARE  
LIMITED**

Join the SOAA at the Royal Oak Community Center for a fun and inclusive art experience where creativity knows no bounds! Volunteers will assist participants with disabilities in creating a unique piece of art to take home.

No prior art experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating the joy of creativity together!

To secure your spot, please email [SOAA200@gmail.com](mailto:SOAA200@gmail.com) with your name, age and phone number by April 15th.

Questions? Email [SOAA200@gmail.com](mailto:SOAA200@gmail.com)

**SOAA**  
SOUTH OAKLAND ART ASSOCIATION

**RO**

## Adaptive Art Clinic

**May 3, 2025 @Noon**

**SOAA members, we need your support!**

Our outreach committee is hosting this adaptive art clinic, and we would love your help. Please save the date and consider volunteering to make this event a success!

**SOAA members** - we need your help working with community participants! If you know anyone that would benefit and wants to register for the adaptive art clinic they need to RSVP by April 15th to the SOAA email: [SOAA200@gmail.com](mailto:SOAA200@gmail.com).

**Volunteer today** - Contact Rachel Kaltner at: [SOAA200@gmail.com](mailto:SOAA200@gmail.com).



# SOAA Member Updates & Happenings!

At our March 4th meeting, we gathered to decorate bowls for the "Empty Bowls" outreach project, and it turned out to be such a fun and meaningful afternoon. Everyone brought their own style and creativity to the table, and the results were a beautiful reflection of our shared effort. These finished bowls will soon be part of a special event where they'll be filled with soup and sold to raise funds for the NOAH Project in Detroit, an organization working to compassionately end homelessness. It was wonderful to come together for a cause that lets us make art and make a difference at the same time. Take a look below to see the amazing bowls we created!





# SOAA Member Updates & Happenings!

As mentioned on page one, **member Andrea Slomczenski** brought her creativity to the windows of the Baldwin Café in Lake Orion with a cheerful display of seasonal art, pictured below. She also contributed a powerful mural design for the City Walls Project, "Transforming Neighborhood Alleys with Art." Her piece for Manistique Alley centers on themes of wellness and mental health, featuring a meditative figure submerged in a dreamlike underwater world—symbolizing perseverance, hope, and healing. In addition, Andrea recently completed a concept sketch for what may become her most ambitious mural to date, inspired by the Eastern European Folk Lore Slavic goddess Marzanna. This deeply symbolic work explores resilience, cultural identity, and rebirth, paying tribute to the strength of women—especially those in Detroit's diverse communities. Both pieces showcase Andrea's passion for meaningful public art that invites reflection and connection.

## Design for City Walls Alley Project



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## Sketch for Russel Industrial Artist Residency Mural



## Window Art at the Baldwin Cafe, Lake Orion

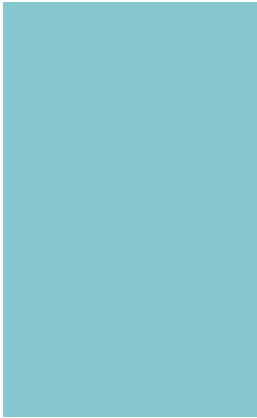


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# New Year, New Opportunities

Hey it's me Andrea, your newsletter editor - something I would love to create is a space for posting opportunities for other members to know about, apply to, etc. If you know of any opportunity's and would like to share, please email me - [andrea.j.illustrations@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.j.illustrations@gmail.com) and I will make sure to include them in next months newsletter. Happy Creating!

- 
1. Thanks to John Nagridge's Facebook Post...  
**You can sell your work at the Novi Fine Art Fair June 20th-22nd.**  
Apply here: <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=12753>
  2. and John's other post on Facebook...  
**Participate in the Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival**, you must register by your plein air experience: Professionals: June 1st OR as an Emerging Artists: July 1st and Painting starts August 11th. Register at [PaintDexter.com](http://PaintDexter.com)

## Murals and Call to Artists

### Keep Detroit Clean

Motor City Makeover 365, Detroit's annual citywide volunteer cleanup and beautification initiative, is seeking up to seven (7) artists to create impactful designs/artwork promoting the message: KEEP DETROIT CLEAN.

### Artist Deliverables

Designs will be printed in full color 2'x3' and 3'x4' format on a High Intensity Prismatic reflective material vinyl and applied to traffic grade metal sign.

Designs will also be printed on T-Shirts for distribution at the Motor City makeover events and will need to be converted by the artist into a 3-color print.

All Designs will be submitted in digital form and must be high resolution and preferably vector.

**Deadline to apply: 4/6/2025**

<https://detroitmi.gov/departments/general-services-department/city-walls/call-artist>

### 48217 Slow Streets

The City of Detroit, City Walls Detroit, and the Department of Public Works - Complete Streets are partnering to bring a Slow Streets art project to the intersection of Visger and Beatrice St. next to Piwok Park. This initiative aims to create a safer and more connected environment for residents, especially pedestrians crossing at this intersection. We envision vibrant street art within the planned traffic calming features, including curb extensions. This is your chance to share your artistic vision and help transform this location into a space that fosters a sense of belonging and reflects the unique character of the neighborhood. This project aligns with the City's vision of empowering residents and shaping a positive future for our communities. We encourage everyone to apply, whether you're a seasoned artist or simply brimming with creative ideas.

**Deadline to apply: 4/12/2025**



# In Memoriam: Celebrating the Life of Beverly Stief



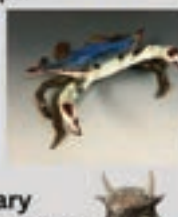
It is with deep sorrow that we share the news of the passing of Beverly Stief, a cherished member of our SOAA family. Beverly left us on February 2nd, leaving behind a legacy filled with passion for painting and impact on the community she loved so dearly.

Beverly's life was a vibrant tapestry woven with creativity and friendship. Her dedication to art and her warm, welcoming spirit not only enriched her own journey but also inspired those around her. Through her beautiful works and generous heart, she helped shape the supportive and artistic community we all enjoy today.

As we remember Beverly, let's honor her memory by continuing to celebrate the passion and creativity we have here at SOAA and how special it is.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Lori Dixon and the entire family during this difficult time. May the legacy of Beverly's art and friendship continue to inspire and bring comfort to us all.





ROYAL OAK  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

ROYAL OAK  
K-12  
SCHOOLS

## 2nd ANNUAL ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS ART SHOW

March 22-April 25, 2025



### OPENING RECEPTION

March 22, 2025

2:00-5:30pm



ROHS Chamber Music Performances  
between 3:00- 5:00pm



Royal Oak Public Library  
222 E Eleven Mile Rd. Royal Oak



ROHS \* Churchill \* ROMS \* Addams \* Keller \* Northwood \* Oakland \* Oakridge \* Upton