

OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

Tuesday May 6th, 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

SOAA has an exciting lineup of events this spring and summer!

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.

June 29th - Buffington Home for Plein Air Painting get together. 2p.m. - 6p.m.

July 12-13 - Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair at Memorial Park - signup at May or June meeting. No entry fee, & 15% commission on sales.

Royal Oak Art Fair - Volunteer & Artist Info

If you are planning to participate in the Royal Oak Art Fair, we'll need help with setup on Friday, July 11th. Anyone who is available is encouraged to assist with setting up tents and screens.

SEE PAGE - 8 for more info.

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 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 - We will be featuring mini masters at our June meeting. Please bring them in for display in preparation for sale at work. 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 one of our talented members for their achievements this month!

- **Andrea Slomczenski** is featured on Local 4 News as 1 of the 43 artists helping to transform neighborhood alleys in Detroit. See the Article [HERE](#).
 - "Detroit commissions 43 artists to transform neighborhood alleys into public art spaces. Over 130 artists responded to an open call issued by Space Lab Development"
- She is also working on a mural project with the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) in Southfield.

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



For more details -
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. 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.

Andrea Slomeczenski's Design for Art in the Alley Initiative.



This mural is designed to visually and emotionally resonate with the theme of wellness and mental health, aligning with Manistique Alley's mission to be a space of healing, creativity, and empowerment.

The artwork features a young woman seated in meditation, resting in a glowing flower at the bottom of the ocean—symbolizing resilience, self-reflection, and balance. Her head emerges just above the water, embodying the phrase “keeping your head above water,” a metaphor for perseverance through life's struggles. She is adorned with a crown of butterflies, representing transformation and hope, while Detroit-inspired patches on her clothing and tattoos of sunflowers and uplifting words like “Hope” and “Love” ground her in the city's spirit.

The surreal environment further reinforces the mural's layered meaning—fish swim through the sky, flowers bloom underwater, and a paper boat marked “S.S. Detroit” floats at the surface, serving as a playful yet symbolic nod to the city's resilience. The warm sunset over water, coral reefs, and dreamlike scenery encourages viewers to take a closer look, challenging perceptions and evoking a sense of calm and introspection.

This piece aims to create a space where people can pause, breathe, and find a sense of peace, making it a perfect addition to the Creative Empowerment Garden and the wellness-focused mission of Manistique Alley.

President's Report

Dear Members of the South Oakland Art Association,



I can't believe it's already time for our May meeting! This semester has flown by, and I've been especially busy at Oakland University, working with seven amazing student teachers. I'm proud to share that they'll be graduating soon and entering the field as new art educators!

I'm thrilled to introduce someone very special to me at our May 6th meeting—my father, Dave Buffington. Not only is he the best dad anyone could ask for, he's also an award-winning graphic designer and educator. I can't wait for you to see his presentation—it's going to be a real treat.

Mark your calendars for another exciting event on May 17th from 3–5 PM—we're meeting at the Habitat Gallery for the International Glass Show. This is a truly special exhibition, and we're lucky to have it right in our own backyard!

As we approach the end of the season, I want to share that next month concludes my two-year term as president. It has been a genuine pleasure serving in this role. I'm looking forward to staying involved by continuing to chair both the Programming and Exhibition Committees.

Noah Ford has kindly offered to step into the role of president, but we welcome any other nominations. If you're interested, please let us know—we will be voting at the May meeting. You can email me if you'd like to be considered.

We also need everyone to bring your favorite ice cream topping to the May meeting. SOAA will provide the ice cream. It is our annual ice cream social, we have fun things planned and the artists of the year will be announced. We do not do artist of the month at the June meeting, but we are asking everyone that can to bring a 5 x 7 artwork to display at the meeting and donate to SOAA for our mini masters, which is a SOAA fundraiser.

Looking ahead, don't forget the Royal Oak Art Fair is happening July 12–13. If you're interested in participating, please sign up at the May meeting and receive your inventory sheet. If you can't attend but would still like to be involved, just email me so that I can send you the forms and make sure you get put on the list.
melissawilson192@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Warm Regards,
Melissa Wilson
President, South Oakland Art Association



May Artist Speaker With Dave Buffington

Work Samples



AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) Fellow Presentation.

Dave Buffington
Buffington@comcast.net
(248) 561-0697

Dave attended St. Clair Community College and the Art School of the Society of Arts and Crafts, graduating from the Communication Design department in 1973.

He has worked for large and small design firms and Advertising Agencies before starting Group eX, a design consortium in downtown Royal Oak. He has since retired and dabbles in watercolor, pencil drawing, pastels and pen and ink.

He also taught for 35 years as an adjunct at CCS teaching Business and Professional Practices to Graphic Design students.

His presentation is one that he gave when he was honored as a Fellow by AIGA Detroit, American Institute of Graphic Artists, a national association of graphic designers.

Even though he spent his entire career in the field of graphic design, he bookmarks his career, before and after, in fine art.



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)

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 Calendar of Events

May 17th	Habitat Gallery Glass Show 3p.m. - 5 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
June 29th	Buffington Home for Plein Air Painting get together. 2p.m. - 6p.m.

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

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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		

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 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.

April Artist's of The Month

Portrait Category



1st Place, Kathy Pare
Title: Bird in Winter



2nd Place, Susan Donnellon
Title: Paitence

3-D Category



1st Place, Erica Davis-Hernandez
Title: Happy Mug



2nd Place, Tim Pare
Title: Elliot

Representational Category



1st Place, Beth Breneau
Title: Tulips



2nd Place - Jim Anderson
Title: Cap Hatteras, N.C.

Abstract Category



1st Place, Cynthia Gould
Title: Beachy



2nd Place, Joyce Knight Coyne
Title: The Legend of the Pussy Willow

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!

Royal Oak Art Fair – Volunteer & Artist Info

If you are planning to participate in the Royal Oak Art Fair, we'll need help with setup on **Friday, July 11th**. Anyone who is available is encouraged to assist with setting up tents and screens. If you are part of the show, it's important that you:

- **Set up your work on both Saturday and Sunday mornings**
- **Take down your work at the end of each day**
- **Store your work in a personal plastic bin with a secure lid**

You're welcome to stay and work during the fair, but your help is especially needed during setup and takedown, including taking down the tents on Sunday.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation!

If you would like to set up signs for the fair at designated spots on the Sunday evening before the fair and Sunday night after the fair please email Carol Card. ROAC.carol@gmail.com

Summer 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 - **andreaajs.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 Professionals: June 1st Emerging Artists: July 1st and Painting starts August 11th. Register at PaintDexter.com

Remembering SOAA Member Mike Byrne

SOAA Member Mike Byrne

To all of our current and past members and friends,

This is to let you know of the loss of our special friend and SOAA member, Mike Byrne. Mike was a very talented man, not just as an artist, but talented in so many different ways. He was someone who's mind was constantly creating ideas for businesses, friends,, students and the many organizations he enjoyed and to which he belonged. His obituary is attached.

Currently a funeral mass is sheduled for May 5th, 2025 (notice will be sent if anything changes)

WILLIAM MICHAEL BYRNE

SHRINE OF THE LITTLE FLOWER, Royal Oak at 10:00 a.m.

Burial at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI at 1:00 p.m.

We will miss our friend,
Carol



<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/auburn-hills-mi/william-byrne-12329879>





Known by many, Mike Byrne, a Fine Artist and Teacher, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side. Mike was born in Detroit on September 29, 1940, son of Howard E. Byrne, Sr and Olive Florence Severy. He was brother to Laura McLaughlin (Tom) of Vancouver, WA. and Howard E. Byrne Jr (Mary Ellen) of Traverse City, MI.

Mike is survived by his wife Michele of 60 years and his children William M. Byrne Jr. (Shannon), David T. Byrne, and Catherine J. Byrne. He was the proud and loving grandfather to Erin, Holly, Jakob, Samuel, and Jayne. Proud and loving Uncle to Thomas, Laurie, Michael, John, Kathleen, Virginia, and Howard III.

Mike graduated from Shrine High School, Royal Oak, he also attended Meinzingner Art School, Society of Arts and Crafts and James Cotton

Commercial Art School before entering the US Navy proudly serving for 4 years and 4 months during the Vietnam conflict as a Photographic Intelligence Specialist. He spent two years at the US Naval Intelligence Center near Washington D.C. where he met Michele J. Taylor, who was also serving her country at the center. Mike and Michele married August 29, 1964. He was then assigned to the U.S. Navy Pacific Intelligence Center in the Philippines serving on 5 different aircraft carriers.

Upon arriving back from Naval service, Mike joined Burroughs Corporation in Detroit as a graphic artist for several years. He later worked for three different medium sized advertising agencies before landing with Rose Jewelers (Zale Jewelers) as the Advertising Director for ten years and then moved to Highland Appliance as Assistant Advertising Manager. Mike opened his Mike Byrne Advertising Agency for 10 years and retired in 2005.

During his career Mike was heavily involved with the Boy Scouts of America as a Cub Master, Boy Scout Master, Leader for the Boy Scout Northridge District and Detroit Area Council. Mike

also was a little league baseball coach and girl's recreational basketball coach. For several years in the late 70's and early 80's Mike was involved with the Spirit of Detroit Hydroplane Boats organization designing and managing the race magazines.

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Retirement awakened Mike's passion for art leading him to join the South Oakland Art Association in September of 2008 later becoming vice-president of the association for five years. Mike also joined the Royal Oak Arts Council in June of 2010 and later served as President in 2013. Mike used his art skills for several years volunteering as an art therapy counselor at Oakland County's Common Ground organization.

Mike started teaching several art mediums in 2015 including watercolor, pen and ink, acrylics, and pastels at the Royal Oak Senior Center until early 2024 when he retired to enjoy his remaining time with his wife until his passing.

Mike's artwork is proudly hanging in many homes across the United States.

A memorial mass will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at The National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, located in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Following mass, William will be laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

PLEIN AIR

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE BUFFINGTON HOME FOR A PLEIN AIR GET TOGETHER

BRING PAINTING SUPPLIES AND A DISH TO PASS

SUNDAY JUNE
29TH 2PM - 6PM

RSVP

248- 770- 8528 to Melissa

address 6681 Red Cedar Lane West Bloomfield

Habitat Gallery meet up

May 17th, 2025 3-5pm

4400 Fernlee Ave, Royal Oak 48073

rsvp to Melissa 248-770-8528



Watercolor Paintings *by Mo*



April 28 to May 31, 2025
Exhibition at the Royal Oak Public Library



Mo is a self-taught watercolor artist who embarked on her journey in 2024. With a passion for both impressionism and realism, Mo finds inspiration in the beauty of landscapes and the charm of animals, capturing their essence through brush strokes.

