

OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

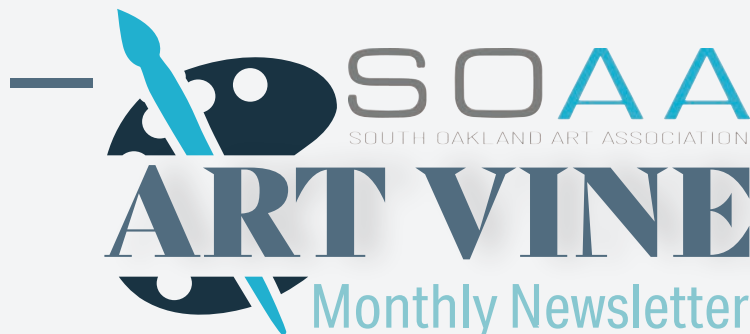
Tuesday December 2nd, 2025 &

Tuesday January 6th, 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

🎉 **Get Ready for Our December 2nd Holiday Gathering!** 🎉

We're excited to announce that we'll be hosting another ticket raffle auction! If you have any fun items to donate, please reach out to Susan Donnellon with your contributions or at least let her know you plan to bring something. Each person donating items will fill out a card at the meeting describing the items being raffled off. Susan's email is sdonnellon6925@gmail.com. Great ideas for donations include artwork/crafts that make perfect holiday gifts, art supplies, homemade goodies, or anything else that others might love. Let's spread some holiday cheer together!

Our holiday gathering is a potluck and we always start a half hour early. You can bring your favorite homemade dish to pass.

“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 in December now to display starting in January along with Pewabic Pottery. It will be a 4 month run. Please make sure to email SOAA@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

Current Exhibitions

Detroit Zoo Camouflage running November 1, 2025 -February 28th 2026



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.

Some Photos From the Annual Art Show and Detroit Zoo Exhibit -



President's Report

Dear Members of the South Oakland Art Association,



“Gobble Gobble Gobble!!” 🦃

We tend to think of this time of year as a time for Gratitude and Thanksgiving. I would like to encourage each of you to try this daily throughout the entire year. Practicing Gratitude and Thanksgiving has been a major help in my life and so it can be in yours as well 😊

If you haven't been to the Zoo to see our amazing display of Art, I encourage you to do so!!

Anyone interested in a group outing to The Zoo Lights at the Detroit Zoo? I'll send out an email after Thanksgiving with a date and time for us to meet up and enjoy the amazing sights!! Also the Zoo has informed me that we are welcome to do Plein Air inside any of the heated buildings this winter!!! Who's Game??? Lets Go!!

Membership dues will remain the same this calendar year ending in May—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! Right now people are paying 30.00 for TEN learning opportunities per year with snacks and contests with awards. That's 3 bucks per meeting. And we always pay our speakers from the Chryseas knowledge. I'll be sending out an email to the general membership to get their thoughts on what a fair membership expense is worth. We will also be discussing the option for those who might not be able to afford an increase in membership dues, to be “sponsored” by the group as a whole. I don't want to lose any members over a few \$\$ a year. But many of us see SOAA as a tremendous value for learning, with opportunities for selling our art as well. Plus the chance to build community and relationships with other artists.

SECOND PLACE Winner Chryseas
TITLE: Frozen in Time

A few upcoming events to mark on your calendars:

- Our Next monthly meeting is December 2nd, and we will have our Holiday Gathering and silent auction fundraiser plus Tye Dye T-Shirt making!!! With a pot luck dinner 😊
- I'm working on some more BIG COLLABORATIONS for 2026 and beyond!!

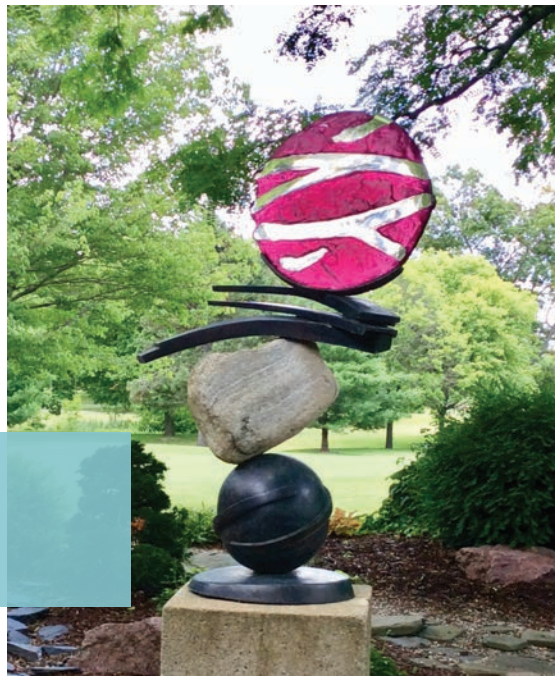
So... I would like to have all of you start thinking BIGGER!! BIGGER Artworks especially 😊 BIGGER membership and BIGGER shows with BIGGER attendance from Patrons!! Together we will put SOAA on the Metro Detroit Map!! Yeah Baby!! 😊

- We offer programs that are designed to inspire and encourage your creativity!
- Melissa Wilson is still serving as Programs Chair and she has a great lineup of speakers for our monthly meetings. Here's to a vibrant, creative fall/winter for S.O.A.A. Let's make it our best season yet!
- I can't wait to see everyone's creative art this month!!

Noah Ford - President
South Oakland Art Association

January Speaker

Herb Babcock



Herb Babcock
info@herbabcock.com

Herb Babcock uses glass and metal as an art medium to express sculptural objects that have the essence of a figural stance called the "Pillared Series". This power point talk will cover the evolution of study and process that allowed this artwork to happen. It is as much about concept development as it is about the excessive physical work involved to make the work.

Herb has a BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art, 1969 and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1973. He ran the studio glass program at the Center for Creative Studies, Detroit for 39 years, retiring Emeritus Professor in 2013. He currently maintains his studio in Ann Arbor. Locally he is represented by Habatat Galleries, Royal Oak. His work is represented in many public collections including the Stamelos Gallery, UM- Dearborn, Detroit Institute of Arts and the Muskegon Museum of Arts. His public art work includes the

Monore Marker and Woodward Marker at Campus Martius, Detroit and the Sparrow work for, the Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, Lansing.





BEST OF SHOW: Susan Donnellon
TITLE: Perfect Perch

Annual Show Winners

ART AT THE MUSEUM 2025 Our annual juried show for SOAA Members



FIRST PLACE: Jean Garrett
TITLE: Stacks



SECOND PLACE: Kristin MacPhee
TITLE: Soft Autumn



HONORABLE MENTION: Sharon Moehr
TITLE: Kansas Sun



HONORABLE MENTION: Sam Rimi
TITLE: Green Vase

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 (Andreaajs.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

Dec. 2, 2025	Holiday Gathering and silent auction fundraiser.
Jan. 6, 2026	Herb Babcock Glass Artist
Feb. 3, 2026	Leigh Wright Painter
March 3, 2026	Melissa Wilson - Empty Bowls
April 7, 2026	Laurie Tennent Botanical Photographer
May 5, 2026	
June 2, 2026	Ice Cream Social/ Artist of The Year
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

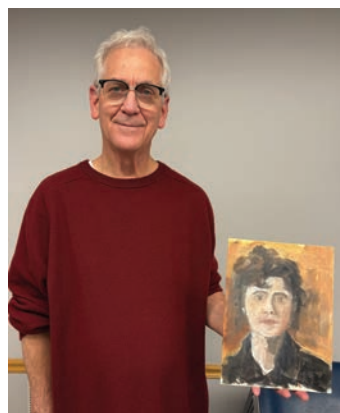
1. You must be an SOAA member in attendance to enter artwork in the monthly contest.
2. All artwork must be submitted by **7:00 p.m.**
Voting ends at **7:15 p.m**
3. Artists may enter two pieces of art each month. They do not need to be entered in the same category.
4. First & Second Place Awards will 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.

November Artist's Of The Month

Portrait Category



1st Place; Kristin MacPhee
Title; Figure Study



2nd Place; John Rash
Title; Female Portrait

3-D Category



1st Place; Joyce Knight-Coyne
Title; Monarch Earrings



2nd Place; Time Pare
Title; TA DAAA

Representational Category



1st Place; Kristin MacPhee
Title; Big Barn

2nd Place; TIE - Paul Stema
Title; Tree w/ Bird



2nd Place; TIE - Sharon Moehr
Title; Apples and More



Abstract Category



1st Place; Jean Garrett
Title; Birch Tree



2nd Place; Adam Bigham
Title; Mystique



Pictures From November Meeting



Bag Raffle Items



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.



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