

OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

Tuesday June 3rd, 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!

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 19th - Meetup at Cranbrook Art Museum
6PM- 8PM, free to attend.

June 29th - Buffington Home for Plein Air Painting get together. 2p.m. - 6p.m. RSVP to Melissa Wilson @ 248-770-8528.

July 12-13 - Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair at Memorial Park - signup at 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 at 5:30PM. Anyone who is available is encouraged to assist with setting up tents and screens as well as take down which is Sunday July 15th at 5PM. **SEE PAGE - 6 for more info.**

August 13th - Plein Air meetup at the Detroit Zoo
4PM- 8PM. RSVP to Melissa Wilson @ 248-770-8528.

“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.

Planning to be in the Royal Oak Art Outdoor Art Show in the SOAA booth or the Fall Annual show?

You can still sign up at the June meeting to be in the Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair and the Annual show sign up will be at the September meeting.

At our June meeting Melissa will show 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/1k1T8CLpSfh0pY5xJsOkauDrX1xaTkMz1/view?usp=share_link

Here is the link for our tags for all upcoming Art shows.
<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.

Update on the Snowden Alley Mural -



LAST MONTH...

Member Andrea Slomczenski shared a mural design for an upcoming mural and she has been working on it for the last couple weeks between work. She plans to finish before the end of May. She will share a final photo of the mural in Junes newsletter for those interested.



President's Report

Dear Members of the South Oakland Art Association,



Outgoing President

We had a wonderful time at our May meetup at Habitat Glass Gallery—thank you to everyone who joined us! Looking ahead, we have a few more great events planned for June:

Thursday, June 19th at 6:00 PM – Join us for a meetup at the Cranbrook Art Museum.

Admission is free, and it's a great opportunity to enjoy art together in a beautiful setting.

- **Sunday, June 29 from 2:00–6:00 PM** – You're invited to the Buffingtons' home for an afternoon of plein air painting by the lake. Please bring your own painting supplies and a dish to pass. **Kindly RSVP to Melissa Wilson at 248-770-8528.**
- **Wednesday August 13th** we tentatively have planned a plein air meetup at the Detroit Zoo from 4-8pm. **Kindly RSVP to Melissa Wilson at 248-770-8528.**

Also, don't forget the Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair is coming up on July 12–13. It's always a highlight of the season and a great opportunity to connect with the community and fellow artists. Our summer is shaping up to be full of creativity and connection, and we'll continue to keep you updated as new events and opportunities come up.

As many of you know, starting in September, Noah Ford will step in as the new President of SOAA. This will be my final President's Report, but I'm not going far—I'll be continuing as the Program and Exhibition Chair. Noah and I are both excited about the future of SOAA, and we look forward to all the great things ahead.

Warm Regards,
Melissa Wilson
President, South Oakland Art Association



Incoming President

This is Noah and I hope to be a positive influence on our organization with the help from all of the wonderful board members as well as all the members in SOAA Please be patient with me as I learn the ropes of being president 😊.

Noah Ford - New President
South Oakland Art Association

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 (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 Calendar of Events

June 3rd	Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. -Ice Cream Social & Wire Wrapping Workshop
June 19th	Cranbrook Art Museum meetup 6PM-8PM.
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
August 13th	Tentatively have planned a plein air meetup at the Detroit Zoo from 4-8pm.

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 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.

May Artist's of The Month

Portrait Category



1st Place, Susan Donnellon
Title: Trio



2nd Place, Judy Berdraua
Title: Mickey Mouse

3-D Category



1st Place, Susan Donnellon
Title: Alfred



2nd Place, Tim Pare
Title: PeeWee

Representational Category



1st Place, Sam Rimi
Title: Coneflower



2nd Place - Robert Schnider
Title: Winter

Abstract Category



1st Place, Melissa Wilson
Title: Michigan Theater



2nd Place, Joyce Knight Coyne
Title: Mushrooms w/ Fairies Nightlight

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:

Andrea.j.s.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

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SOAA Member Updates & Happenings!

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

Pictures from SOAA's Habatat Gallery Outing in May.





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



Come visit the South Oakland Art Association members at the

54th Annual Royal Oak Outdoor Art Fair

07.12.25
10-6

Memorial Park
31050 Woodward Ave. Royal Oak

07.13.25
10-5



This is a non-profit collaboration between the Royal Oak Arts Council and the Royal Oak Recreation Department. 100% of the money raised from the fair goes to support community programs including college scholarships for Royal Oak high school seniors, local art programs, fine and performing art organizations and the Recreation Department.

