

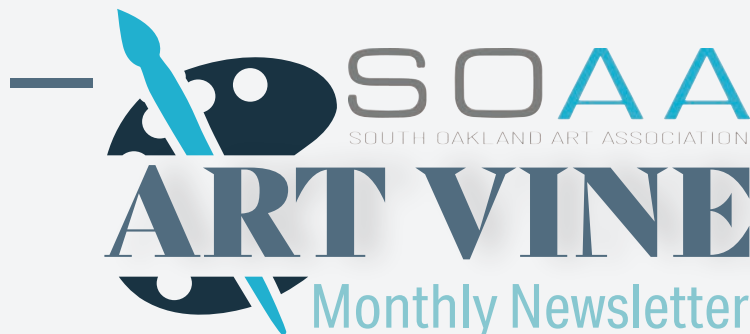
OUR NEXT MEETING IS...

Tuesday October 7th, 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

Next month's meeting is Tuesday November 11th. At this meeting we are drawing from a live model. She will be posing in an interesting outfit for an hour long session. You can bring your own board and easel, and we will try to provide some for people who do not have one. You can use any media, but think of something that is quicker. You may take photos to finish. We will provide some pastels and pastel paper for those that do not have supplies or forget to bring some. If drawing people is something that scares you, here are a few videos made by Melissa Wilson that you can watch and practice with. Melissa and two of her OU students are also inviting you to a free workshop at OU to step by step go through drawing a face. If you are interested in that, please email Melissa at melissawilson192@gmail.com to get the details and reserve your spot. It will be Tuesday November 4th from 5:30-8:00 at Oakland University. You must pre-register. Melissa and her art education students will also be at the live model session and be available for pointers.

Watch these video

<https://youtu.be/QGYg93XyoPs?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/1bmOn7PTLrI?si=Df7X3MzjKLuh1PjQ>

“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? See pg. for more info.

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/aFd7sPffqj0>

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 .

<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,



"Is it October already?!" 🧐

At the last members meeting I heard several exciting ideas for activities for the group!!! Tim and Kathy have something they are lining up. Please consider volunteering during our museum show. There is a sign up link on page 9 of the newsletter.

Our second executive board meeting for the fall was on September 11th, and we met at a restaurant where Andrea Slomczenski works and surprised her by holding our meeting there 😊 The food

was terrific and so was the company!! We miss you Andrea and that Amazing Smile!!!

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:

- Our Next monthly meeting October 7, 2025 Susan Donnellon Needlefelting class will be a BIG HIT as it always is !!
- November 2nd - November 15th – Our Annual Art at the Museum show!! Look for instructions in the newsletter.
- Our programs are set to inspire 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 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

October Artist Speaker

With Susan Donnellon



Work Samples



Needle Felting - “Fall Critters”

Susan Donnellon has been creating art for most of her life, working across a wide range of media including pencil, charcoal, oil, watercolor, colored pencil, paper quilling, and acrylics—her preferred medium.

In 1994, she began painting commissioned pet portraits, which has since grown into a thriving side business through word of mouth. Her work is deeply personal, and she values the emotional connections her paintings create for others. In addition to portraiture, Susan is well known for her bird paintings and ornaments, earning her the affectionate nickname “The Bird Lady.” Her hand-painted bird ornaments are available at Wild Birds Unlimited in Royal Oak.

Most recently, Susan has expanded her practice into needle felting, a process that uses wool roving and barbed needles to create both 2-D and 3-D works of art.

Susan Donnellon
sdonnellon6925@gmail.com
(248) 912-2831

For her presentation, she will demonstrate this unique technique and guide participants in creating their own needle-felted piece.



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

Oct. 7, 2025
Nov. 2, 2025

Susan Donnellon Needlefelting
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.

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

Laurie Tennent Botanical Photographer

April 7, 2026

May 5, 2026

Ice Cream Social/ Artist of The Year

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.

September Artist's Of The Month

Portrait Category



1st Place; Susan Donnellon
Title; Coco

3-D Category



1st Place; Tim Pare
Title; Plein Air Bluffington



2nd Place; Erica Davis Hernandez
Title; Flowers

Representational Category



1st Place; John Nagridge
Title; Catalpa Train Bridge



2nd Place; Janice Schulte
Title; Koi and Friends

Abstract Category



TIE for 1st Place
John Rash
Title; Building #12



Tom Kulich
Title; Blue Flowers

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!

Mural with DIA and Lathrup Village.



Andrea Slomczenski is continuing to work on this very large mural over in Lathrup Village. There will be an unveiling on November 13th, 2025 at their city hall building with a ribbon cutting and a small speech by yours truly. I will get more information on time but tentatively early evening.

She also just finished painting a smaller mural at a small EDM festival called Big Fam.



SOAA Member Updates & Happenings!

These were sent from Kenneth Hershenson (September's Speaker) if you want to see some of his in process stuff.



Art in the McNamara Terminal Update

We should have the final language to sign sometime in November to display December- March 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



New Member Ryan Bigham's work on display at the Royal Oak Library

ART AT THE MUSEUM SHOW & SALE

We need help to make our annual show a huge success. Please sign up to bring a food item to the opening or work a shift throughout the duration of the show. There are many dates available so scroll all the way down to register for the later dates. It is really important that we have SOAA members at the museum to answer questions, watch the art and collect payment if someone wants to purchase something throughout the entire show. If you work during the week, there are weekend hours available. You do not have to be participating in the show to volunteer, however participants are highly encouraged.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4EADA92EA7FE3-57912240-soaa/136202292#/>

ART AT THE MUSEUM SHOW & SALE GUIDELINES

SHOW DATES: November 1-15th 2025

SHOW LOCATION: Royal Oak Historical Museum, 1411 West Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073

SHOW HOURS: Tuesdays & Thursdays – 1 PM – 4 PM and Saturdays 10 AM – 4 PM

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Artwork Dropoff:** Tuesday, October 28th from 3 PM – 4 PM
 - If you can't drop it off on this date, please ask someone to drop off for you or contact Melissa Wilson or Noah Ford
- **Show setup:** Museum Staff
- **Museum Reception:** Sunday, November 2nd from 2 PM – 5 PM
- **Artwork Pickup:** Saturday, November 15th from 3:30 PM – 4 PM

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- Current paid up membership in SOAA is required
- \$20 Show Entry Fee
 - Due no later than at art drop off prior to the show
- Inventory Sheet must be completed, signed and submitted at artwork drop off
- A sales commission of 15% will go to SOAA
- Participants are expected, if possible, to help with the show – this includes working a shift or two during museum hours and attending and 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

- Number of entries may be adjusted due to the number of entrants participating. If a change is necessary, you will be notified.
 - Hanging Art: 5 pieces
 - 3D Art: 10 small pieces or 5 large
 - Note Cards: No limit, but we share two racks
 - Bin Art: 10 pieces

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

Labels

- You will need two labels for hanging pieces:
 - One label will be placed on the back of the piece
 - One label will be placed next to your art on display
- You will need one label for each bin item or 3D piece
- Note Cards should have a label on each card with artist, title & price.
- Frames must be scratch free, with no chips or cracked glass.
- Use only braided wire to hang art. Wire should not be too taut. Work not meeting standards will not be hung. The backs of all hung artwork should look neat. Nails should not show, Dust covers, foam core or matt board should be used when needed to tidy up backs.

- All bin and card items must be covered with plastic with name and price on the back. Unframed, matted originals & prints will be accepted for the bins. Note Cards will be on a card rack. Giclee prints should be labeled as such (i.e. Reproduction of....)
 - No wet painting will be allowed. No exceptions!
 - All work must be original – i.e. not from copy-righted sources. No exceptions!
 - Artwork must be tasteful. The exhibit committee has the discretion to reject any artwork that is considered to be inappropriate for this venue.

We want to be proud of this exhibit – Please do your best to help out and cooperate with our exhibit staff.

Thank you and we look forward to a great show!

- For the SOAA Annual Show you will need to create and print your own tags. You can pick up sticker sheets at our next meeting. Please follow the provided directions to make your tags. Remember, these tags are the same for every show, so it's important for everyone to learn how to create them.

Here is the link for our tags .

<http://labe.ls/kMPNeOg>

Directions can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1krxNpfVeh7oYWfurfqWni1jCIPX129HK?usp=sharing>

If you're having trouble with the computer or need assistance, **Dave Buffington is available to type your tags. 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. Remember we all are getting ready for the show.

Thank you!



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

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



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



@SouthOaklandArt
SOAA - South Oakland Art Association Group
@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>