



NEWSLETTER

YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS LAKE OF THE WOODS ARTS

A look back



Thank you all for supporting us this year. Whether you are a member of LOW Arts or support us by attending our events, thank you for doing so. We could not have had the fun, artful year we had without **you**. We hope to see you in 2026!

If you have not attended a LOW Arts meeting, you have missed something special, the Artist in the Spotlight presentations. This year's presentations included: "Vincent Van Gogh" by **Karen Falcon**, "Magic Lantern" by **Edward Murray**, "It's All About the Prompt (AI)" by **Jen Heinz**, "My Life in Paintings" by **Gary Close**, "A Critique Session" by national award winning watercolorist **Catherine Hillis**, "Children's Art" by **John Lentine**, "Louis Comfort Tiffany" by **Lisa Spencer-Ballard**, and finally making paper flowers with **Karen Falcon**. We have seen beautiful art, learned about famous artists, and learned about each other. You don't need to be a member to attend a meeting. You can find out about upcoming meetings from this newsletter and from the *Lake Currents*.

January General Meeting



Lotenberg, *Wall City*

Our artist in the spotlight this month will be **Barry Lotenberg**. He started oil painting in 2020 with a single community-based class, with a great instructor, and found his passion. He has dabbled in other mediums through classes but always returns to oil paint, as it is soooooo forgiving.

He will be presenting how he has tried to evolve from largely copying impressionist classics to finding a style that channels Claude Monet while documenting his travels and local surroundings. And on how the LOW Arts club and his classroom communities have provided so much support and inspiration in the most recent phase of his journey.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 5, 2026

General Membership Meeting
10 am, Critique 9:30

Community Center, Room 2

Please stay after the General meeting for early planning of our spring **Studio Tour**.



Gari Melchers, *In the Studio*

January 12, 2026

SEC Meeting

2 PM

Community Center, Room 1



Click above to see a complete calendar of events and deadline dates.

www.lakeofthewoodsarts.com

Our Busy Members and More



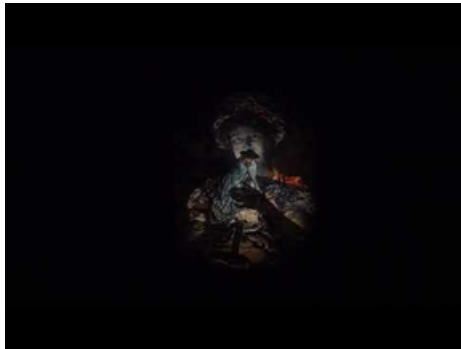
“When people move to music, I feel their joy in my soul,” says **Toni Maltagliati**, whose favorite type of exercise is dancing. “Last July, my boyfriend and I went to the Concert on the Point. The Hullabaloo band was playing lots of rock oldies, and we could not sit still. After 20 minutes of dancing, I decided to take a break and shoot some photos to set the stage for a simple painting. It’s the first time I’m trying to paint people, and it needs lots of work, but it’s exactly the creative challenge I love.” Toni was working on the painting during our Fall Arts Show, so you may have seen her wearing her favorite smock - a white medical coat.

Toni, your painting makes us feel joy, too!

Edward Murray sends us the Magic Lantern enhanced poem he has recently finished, click the photos below to view the artworks.

“In chapter 1, there is the work of Eve DeVito, who developed the fire slide for the candle, the yellow is much better presented in person! I am grateful for the collaboration.”

Edward, this art requires finding the words, pictures and sounds to make a harmonious piece. It’s truly amazing!



Murray, *chapter 1 in love*



Murray, *chapter 2 in war*



Have you ever looked at Pieter Bruegel the Younger’s winter village scene and wondered, “what is all this activity? What is the artist conveying to us?” The title gives away that information - *The Census at Bethlehem*. While the figures in the painting are going about their 17th century lives, Mary and Joseph, dressed in 17th century garb, are arriving in town. Click [here](#) for an in-depth (just over 2 minutes) look at this delightful work of art.

Fun

This painting is titled:
Would It Hurt You To Put The
Dirty Bowl In The
Dishwasher?



The picture at left, *Portrait of Admiral Sir Charles Saunders*, by Richard Brompton, is sent from Toni Maltagliati with the “new” title *Would it Hurt You to Put the Dirty Bowl in the Dishwasher?*

This inspired LOW Arts to put forward this challenge:
Please give a “new” title to one of the paintings below. Send your “new” titles to LOWArts@lakeofthewoodsarts.com by January 10, 2026. Be sure to tell us which painting you have retitled. The best (funniest?) responses will be included in the January newsletter.



William Blake, *Job and his Daughters*



John Singer Sargent,
Nonchaloir (Repose)



Cariani, *Portrait of a Venetian Gentleman*



We all know that creating art keeps us healthy and happy, right? Please read the article, *Making art is a uniquely human act, and one that provides a wellspring of health benefits* by Girija Kaimal, from the newsletter *The Conversation*. Anyone can benefit from making art, anyone and everyone!



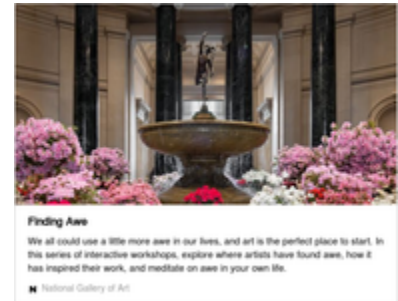
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens has a full list of classes this winter and spring from gardening, floral design, nature photography, botanical illustration, food & drink, mind/body/spirit, to arts & crafts, and more. Click the photo at left for more information. By the way, the Gardens are about 90 minutes away in Richmond, Va.

“If it wasn’t hard, everyone would do it. It’s the hard that makes it great.” - Tom Hanks

More Fun



Did you know that you could ice skate in the Sculpture Garden at the National Gallery of Art, in Washington, DC, this winter? Click [here](#) for more information. Don't know how to skate? Lessons are offered on weekends.



The National Gallery of Art is also offering a series of workshops titled, *Finding Awe*.

"We all could use a little more awe in our lives, and art is the perfect place to start. In this series of interactive workshops, explore where artists have found awe, how it has inspired their work, and meditate on awe in your own life." This definitely sounds as if it is worth the drive! Click [here](#) for the *Finding Awe* workshops.

Click [here](#) for a related article from the My Modern Met on how our brains are stimulated by viewing real artworks (not reproductions).



Gustav Klimt, *Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer*

A portrait by Gustav Klimt has sold at Sotheby's New York for \$236.4 million at auction, a record for modern art.

The 71-by-51-inch painting, *Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer*, was sold at a Sotheby's auction in November 2025 for \$236.4 million. It belonged to the private collection of Leonard Lauder, the cosmetics heir.

Record Breaking Art Sales

Click [here](#) for more information on the record breaking Sotheby's auction.



Frida Kahlo, *El sueño (La cama)*

Sotheby's says, "Frida Kahlo's 1940 self-portrait, *El sueño (La cama)*, sold in November 2025, at Sotheby's New York for \$54.66 million, becoming the most expensive artwork by a woman artist ever sold at auction and the most valuable Latin American piece in history."



Add some color to your art (and life) with online classes.

[My Modern Met Academy](#) has many reasonably priced online art courses

"If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be." - Maya Angelou