

FEBRUARY 2026



NEWS LETTER

YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS LAKE OF THE WOODS ARTS

Bus Trip to NGA and SAAM Postponed



Unfortunately we have had to postpone our LOW Arts trip to the **National Gallery of Art (NGA)** and the **Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)** on March 18, 2026.

All payments will be returned.

We hope to spark enough interest to fill the bus and reschedule.

The NGA includes works from the 11th through the early 20th century. Must see art includes: *Ginevra de'Benci*, the only Leonardo da Vinci painting in the Americas. Also, *The Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial* by Augustus Saint-Gaudens has been acclaimed as the greatest American sculpture of the 19th century.

Must see works at the SAAM include: Mickalene Thomas' *Portrait of Mnonja* and the sculpture *Puck* by Harriet Hosmer. By the way, the SAAM's sculpture collection is considered to be one of the best in the world!

At the SAAM there are several exhibitions you will find interesting, from Grandma Moses' *A Good Day's Work*, to Isaac Julien's *Lessons of the Hour — Frederick Douglass*, to Glenn Kaino's powerful aerial sculpture *Bridge*, to Nick Cave's *Mammoth*. There is certainly something for everyone. Click [here](#) to go to the SAAM Exhibitions page.

Please go to page 4 to see what's going on at the NGA.

March Membership Meeting

Our March Artist the Spotlight will be **Mariana Concha**, who titles her presentation, "Defining My Niche." Mariana says she has never defined her niche, painting for merely expression of spirit without a purpose.

In this presentation, artist Mariana Concha reflects on her journey as a painter, exploring how the sum of her life experiences has influenced her work and artistic expression. Through an intimate and interactive dialogue, she invites reflection from fellow artists to help reveal her strengths and emerging niche, as she shapes a new body of work and a renewed creative purpose for this new stage of her life after retirement.

Details for the March meeting are given at right.

We always welcome guests and new members - artists and art lovers, alike!

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Monet Immersive Experience

February 23, 2026

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Exhibition Hub

Richmond, Va.

Studio Tour

April 18 and 19, 2026

Become a member of LOW Arts to include your studio on the tour. [Sign up here](#) by March 1, 2026.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

General Meeting

March 2, 2026

Community Center, Room 2

10 am, Critique 9:30 am

Special Events Committee

March 9, 2026

Community Center, Room 1

2 pm

Click drawing at right to see a complete calendar of events and deadline dates.



www.lakeofthewoodsarts.com

Our Busy Members

Rick Rappoport - Lifelong Woodworker

"It is humbling to be a member of the LOW Arts Club and to be surrounded by so many talented artists whose work I admire and enjoy. I am not an artist; I am an artisan trying to incorporate some artistic expression in my work. I have worked with wood for most of my life, but it was only after retirement in 2015 that I began to make cutting boards and small tables. My favorite pieces are end grain cutting boards because of their strength, beauty and resiliency.

Conversely, they are also difficult, complex and time consuming to make – but I enjoy the challenge!

"I have three primary goals when I make a cutting board. First, to use beautiful and mostly traditional hardwoods. Second, to combine the grain patterns in each piece to create artistic designs. And lastly, to create a satin finish that provides a sensory touch experience that complements the visual experience. Initially I made them

only for family and friends, in the hope they would become family heirlooms. About 3 years ago I began selling them at the LOW Arts Show and at Fraser Wood Elements in Fredericksburg. I also have a simple website

(www.RappoportArts.com) which I use primarily to help folks select custom designs. I am a member of the LOW Woodworkers Club, and my journey as a maker has been greatly enhanced by the guidance and advice of fellow woodworkers."



Pop artist **Elena Pratt** will have a solo exhibit at the Arts Center in Orange, with an opening reception on Thursday, March 5th. The exhibit is *Hollywood Reimagined*. Elena will be rolling out the red carpet for all attending! Feel free to dress up for the premiere!

Speaking of **Elena Pratt**, look at the painting on the right of her Pet Portrait done for Rona Degner, the Silent Auction winner at the LOW Arts Show and Sale this past fall. Wow, Elena, you truly captured this wonderfully adorable pet! Thank you for sharing, Rona and Elena.



"Art is not meant to match your curtains. It's meant to speak to your soul." - Unknown

Our Busy Members, continued



Click on the ad at left for information on the 75th Annual Fine Arts Show and Sale at the Dorothy Hart Community Center in Fredericksburg. The deadline for entries is February 27, 2026. LOW Arts members entering the event so far include: **Lewis Wills, Daria Bessom, Karen O'Donnell, Mariana Concha, Elaine Freeland, Catherine Hillis, and Bill Mann.**



Hillis, *Freefalling*

Catherine Hillis was the Grand Prize Winner for the "Cityscapes" category in International Artist Magazine for her painting *Freefalling*. Her prize includes an article in Art Collector Magazine, and she'll be featured in the next International Artist Magazine. Hillis also had a painting accepted in the Southern Watercolor Society Exhibition, and she'll serve as judge for the inaugural plein air event with the Hilton Head Art League in April.
Congratulations, Catherine!

Around Town and Other Fun Things

Every year the Clark County Historical Association (CCHA) holds its Art at the Mill art show, its primary fundraiser, providing the operating funds for the Mill, the Museum, and Archives. Art at the Mill has become one of the premier art shows in the mid-Atlantic region, attracting artists and buyers from more than a dozen states. Not only is the art amazing (several LOW Artists usually participate), the mill itself is a piece of history from the 1780's.

The deadline for submissions to the show is March 2, 2026 at midnight. Click on the photo at right for show details.



O'Donnell, *Along the Danube*

LOW Arts president and world traveler **Karen O'Donnell** has two photos in the "All Photography" juried show at the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts. The show runs through February 27, 2026. Click the photo at right to go to the FCCA website.

Karen, your photos are so inviting -- I see adventure awaiting me!



O'Donnell, *Passau Walkway*



Hever Rose, *Anne Boleyn*

Read [this article](#) to read about an odd rumor combining history and art from the late 1500's. Was Anne Boleyn a witch? Why was it important she held a rose in this painting? At left is the original painting and a recently completed infrared scan of the work.

What's new at the National Gallery of Art?

The National Gallery of Art has so much going on in March. Here are some highlights.

The *Mary Cassatt: An American in Paris* exhibition just opened this week. The description: “An intimate exhibition brings together rarely-seen treasures and iconic works by Mary Cassatt, marking 100 years since her death.”

There is the Clifford Ross exhibit, *Digital Waves*. “Our central, soaring Rotunda comes alive with a 23-foot-tall screen, featuring waves of glowing pixels.” That should be something to see!

Back and Forth: Rozeal., Titian, Cezanne is offered as “Spanning six centuries and different cultures, four paintings reveal how artists engage with art history—and become part of it.”

There is the ongoing exhibition *The Corcoran Collection*. “This room honors the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the first institution in the United States created specifically as an art museum.”

In the East wing there are more modern exhibitions including artists Mark Rothko and Amedeo Modigliani.

Please see [this article](#) from a deputy head curator at the NGA regarding bringing classical art to a younger audience.



Gentileschi, Mary
Magdalene in Ecstasy

The NGA has recently acquired a work by the baroque painter Artemisia Gentileschi, which will be on view during our March trip. Click [here](#) for more information about this important painting and artist.

And if you want to be truly amazed click [here](#) for an interactive article “Jean Honoré Fragonard's *Young Girl Reading: The Mysterious Fantasy*.” This painting is on view in the West Wing.



Fragonard, *Young Girl Reading*

Plus, there is more! Click [here](#) to go to the exhibitions page for the NGA.

Recommended by

A big thank you to LOW Arts treasurer and glassmaker **Eve DeVito** for passing along the following information from a *Well* (New York Times newsletter) article, “An overlooked prescription for happiness” by Jancee Dunn dated February 5, 2026. The article in the New York Times explains that engaging in arts and crafts—such as painting, knitting, reading, dancing, baking, or attending cultural events—has proven mental and physical health benefits. Research by Dr. Daisy Fancourt of University College London shows that even small, regular doses of creative activity can improve well-being, slow cognitive decline, reduce heart disease risk, and even extend longevity. She calls the arts the “forgotten fifth pillar of health,” alongside diet, sleep, exercise, and nature.

Importantly, you don't need talent or skill to benefit—participation alone matters. Dr. Fancourt encourages people to integrate the arts into everyday life in simple, affordable ways: attending free or low-cost community events, swapping some social outings for creative activities, setting small personal creative challenges, and enjoying art at home through books, streaming performances, cooking creatively, or trying new hobbies. The key message is that showing up and engaging creatively, not producing something “good,” is what supports health.

So true, Eve, so true.



For more information visit our website, our Facebook and Instagram pages, and watch for articles in the *Lake Currents*.

