



NEWSLETTER

YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS LAKE OF THE WOODS ARTS

New Year's Resolutions?

Have you made any resolutions for the new year? Not about going to the gym more or vacuuming the car more but about including more **art** in your life. Maybe you would like to develop a new skill? Maybe a new aspect of working with your media of choice?

Well, this is the time to do it! All sorts of classes are being offered. There are classes to be found locally and online. Many places even offer videos you may follow at anytime rather than "Zooming" into a class.

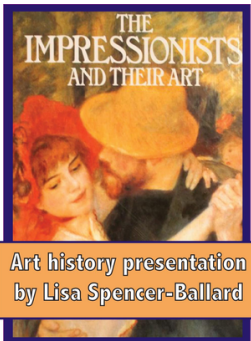
You might find something that will spark your creativity. Trying something new can liberate you. You may be able to focus on what you enjoy in the new experience. You may enjoy the journey more than you expect. Maybe the joy of creativity will embrace you. Trying something new may offer you new ways to work with your chosen media. Plus, **art is fun!**

Meeting artists who may offer new ideas is always one of the best things about taking art classes.



Take a look at the following pages for a few art class options. Oh, and ask a friend to go with you. Moral support can be an important motivator when trying something new.

February Membership Meeting



Art history presentation
by Lisa Spencer-Ballard

The Artist in the Spotlight for our February meeting will be Lisa Spencer-Ballard discussing "The Impressionists and Their Art."

The world of art exploded with howls of criticism in Paris during the late 1800's as a revolutionary style of art emerged. The Impressionists were a bonded group of visionaries rebelling against the established art academy which dominated the art scene. Now considered some of the great master painters, their lives were forged with difficulties as they held fast, creating a movement that will never be forgotten.

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

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Impressionist-Style Painting

February 16, 2026

12 pm - 3 pm

Creative Gatherings Studio

See page 4 for details

Monet Immersive Experience

February 23, 2026

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Exhibition Hub

Richmond, Va.

See page 4 for details

Smithsonian Institution

March 18, 2026

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Bus trip to Washington, DC

See page 4 for details

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. See page 3 for details

UPCOMING MEETINGS

General Meeting

February 2, 2026

Community Center, Room 2

10 am, Critique 9:30 am

Special Events Committee

February 9, 2026

Community Center, Room 1

2 pm

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



Our Busy Members



The Orange Paint Club

The Orange Paint Club exhibition “100 Tiny Paintings and Other Works by the Orange Paint Club” is ongoing through January 31, 2026 at the Arts Center in Orange. Do you recognize the two LOW Arts members in the photo at left? Of course, you do! It's **Ellen Raguette** and **Darlene Agsten** behind those Foster Grants. Click on the photo at left to go to the webpage for the exhibition. The Arts Center in Orange is open limited hours - Wednesday through Friday from 12 pm to 8 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.

This month let's get to know LOW Arts artist **Kate Martinez**. Kate stands out by adding her unique style to fabrics and photographs. Be sure to enlarge the page to appreciate the texture in the work pictured below.

Kate Martinez is a dedicated fiber artist who has been practicing cross-stitch for over 15 years, steadily honing her craft while continually pushing it in new directions. What began as a love for traditional cross-stitch has grown into a broader exploration of many types of embroidery, techniques, and unexpected surfaces. From stitching directly onto a pair of boots to embellishing photographs she has taken herself, Kate enjoys challenging the boundaries of what stitched art can be.

Her work is driven by curiosity and play. By practicing a wide range of stitches, she creates fun, unique pieces that transform ordinary objects into vibrant works of art. A central theme in her practice is bringing color into everyday items, inviting viewers to see familiar things in a new, more expressive way.

The attached picture shows Kate's favorite completed cross stitch piece to date, created from a pattern designed by Autumn Lane Stitchery. This intricate work took approximately 150 hours to complete and features both cross-stitch and beadwork, adding depth, texture, and visual interest. It stands as a testament to Kate's patience, skill, and passion for turning thread and fabric into bold, colorful stories. Follow Kate's stitching adventures on Instagram (@StitchyRex) to see her latest projects and creative explorations



Kate, thank you for sharing your amazing and unique art with us.

“This is what I like about photographs. They're proof that once, even if just for a heartbeat, everything was perfect.” - Jodi Picoult, Author

Around Town and Other Fun Things

Join LOW Arts artist **Catherine Hillis** in Italy in April 2027. There is painting in a stunning location and instruction with award-winning watercolorist, Catherine Hillis. There is a pasta-making class, authentic Italian cuisine, luxury accommodations, and more.



Click on the painting at left for information on “Paint in a Painter’s Paradise”



Virginia State Parks offer free or low cost classes on a variety of topics. Click on the graphic at left for the webpage of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s list of classes. It’s easy to navigate the website and find the map of Virginia with the locations of the state parks.

Examples of offerings are: Sea Glass Class, Pinched Pottery, Nature Journaling, Primitive Cordage, Pine Needle Basketry and more.

The Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts is offering a Fun with Felt Making Workshop at the end of January and a Wood Block Printmaking Workshop toward the end of February. These workshops cost from \$35 to \$45/person and allow older children to attend. Click the graphic at right for information.



The Arts Center in Orange is offering a variety of classes from ceramics to oil painting to jewelry making to stone carving and more. **Catherine Hillis** will be teaching Watercolor Bootcamp I class in February 2026 (spots going fast!) and Watercolor Bootcamp II in March 2026. Click on the logo at left for information on classes offered at the Arts Center in Orange.

Be sure to check the schedule at Creative Gatherings Art Studio here in Lake of the Woods. The studio is run by LOW Arts artist **Maribeth Logan**. Click the logo for information. February classes will be added soon.



LOW Arts’ popular **Studio Tour** will be held April 18-19, 2026. Registration for artist studios is open until March 1, 2026. Join LOW Arts, if you wish to include your studio as we only include members as part of the tour. The form for registration is [here](#). There is no cost to register.

Artists and non-artists alike attend the tour to see how your art is made. It’s a lovely way to meet neighbors. It’s a great way to demonstrate your unique process.

Fun, continued

LOW Arts has several upcoming special activities for members.

First, there will be an impressionist style painting class at Creative Gatherings Studio on February 16, 2026 from 12 pm to 3 pm. The cost is \$45. There are only 10 spaces, so sign up soon! [Payment link here](#). Class information is given at the payment link.



Our next impressionist opportunity is February 23, 2026. We will carpool to the Monet Immersive Experience at the Exhibition Hub in Richmond, Virginia. The cost for LOW Arts members is \$20, with the club subsidizing the remainder of the ticket price, and it is members only. The deadline for reserving a ticket is February 2. [Payment link here](#) with full information.

The third LOW Arts event will be a bus trip to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC on March 18, 2026. No driving on I-95! No parking worries! Further information will be out soon.



Drumroll, please

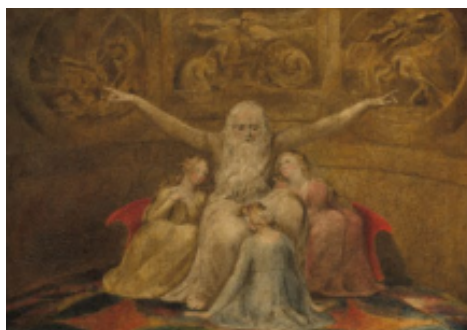


And now for the winner of the “New Titles” contest!
First, you’ll see the paintings with original title and artist.
The “new” title submissions are listed below each painting.



John Singer Sargent,
Nonchalair (Repose)

- *Maybe I Shouldn't Have Had That Last Glass of Wine* - O'Donnell
- *Exhausted Folding a Fitted Sheet* - Kovach
- *It's Exhausting Being This Fabulous* - K. Weingartner
- *Yes, I have cramps!* - Stockman



William Blake, *Job and His Daughters*

- *No, you can't watch one more episode of Gilmore Girls* - Iglehart
- *We've seen K-Pop Demon Hunters three times- enough already!* - Iglehart
- *Go to Your Rooms* - Kovach
- *The Deodorant Test* - K. Weingartner
- *Please go outside already! You're driving me nuts!* - Stockman



Giorgione and Giovanni Cariani,
Portrait of a Venetian Gentleman

- *Mona's Lesser-Known Brother, Harold* - McClusky
- *Rock (Paper, Scissors)* - Kovach
- *How Long Have You Been Standing There?* - K. Weingartner
- *I TOLD you the Eagles would be in the Super Bowl!* - Stockman



And the winner is:

Lynne Kovach for *Go to Your Rooms*

Lynne's prize is a one-year membership in LOW Arts!



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

