



SOUTH
CAROLINA
CHAPTER

Quarterly Newsletter Summer August 2025



From NAWA SC Chapter President Meyriel Edge

Having spent six weeks seeing friends and family in Wales, it is time to get back to work, although I did complete four small paintings while there. I find it impossible not to respond to my natural surroundings wherever I am. The North Wales landscape, light, and sounds are so different from the Lowcountry of SC with mountains and valleys replacing marshes and pine trees, while sheep and cattle mutterings replace those of tree frogs and alligators.

Our Chapter's exhibition, "Brookgreen Inspires - Women Create," was a resounding success, and 9 pieces sold. The curator, Robin Salmon, said, "The exhibit has been such a hit - everyone is loving the color, materials, points of view, and the Brookgreen inspiration!" SC is certainly a colorful, varied NAWA Chapter made up of contrasting yet inspiring points of view...like a good piece of art.

Threads of Labor - Women's Work is our upcoming online exhibit. Submissions will be accepted on Smarter Entry from September 1-30. We look forward to holding our first Zoom reception for this exhibit in October. More information is included in this newsletter.

It is heartwarming to welcome two new volunteers to aid our Chapter. Pamela Urban Moore has joined the Exhibit Committee and Francie Klopotic has taken over Social Media from Rhian Swain. Rhian is now our Public Relations Manager. Additionally, two board members swapped jobs last month. Deidre Hayes is now our Membership Chair and Susan Irish is now our Secretary. We welcome members to contact any Board member to offer your expertise to our Chapter.

Meyriel Edge
President NAWASC

If you move or change your email address, please notify us at:
art.nawasc@gmail.com. Please put Change of information in the subject line.

We don't often send out snail mail, but we don't want you to miss anything!

Welcome to Our New Social Media Manager

NAWA SC welcomes Francie Klopotic as our new Social Media Manager, following Rhian Swain's move to NAWA SC PR Manager. Francie is a NAWA Associate Member and an Augusta, Georgia based artist whose professional art career began in 2018 when she picked up her pencils after a long hiatus. She initially focused on drawing photorealistic portraits of popular musical icons using graphite, charcoal and colored pencils.

Francie Klopotic is pictured with Robert Johnson. Robert is the great-nephew of Dr. S.S. Johnson pictured in Francie's painting, titled: *My Home is Your Pharmacy*. This art piece is exhibited in the *A Thousand Words* Exhibit, in Augusta, GA. Dr. Johnson was not allowed to practice medicine at the local hospital, so he set up a pharmacy for the Black community out of his home.



Francie works in multiple mediums including acrylics, graphite, watercolors, colored pencils, oils, and oil pastels, creating brightly colored portraiture and abstract artworks. She creates art that is inspired by musicians and artists who have influenced her life since childhood.

In 2021, Francie was invited to join the Augusta artist collective, Artzilla, where she painted live during the ArtsCity Festival. In 2023, a public art jury selected her to paint one of Augusta's iconic pianos for the Jessye Norman School of the Arts. In 2024, she was guest curator for the Voices of Augusta II show at Augusta & Co. Gallery and juried into the Augusta Handmade Fair and the Euphoria Arts Festival. Her art is now on exhibit at the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, in Augusta, GA.

Francie has recently been juried into multiple group exhibitions in the Atlanta area and is currently creating bodies of work for an upcoming solo show. Her work can be found at the Art on Broad retail gallery in downtown Augusta and is presently on display at the Lucy Craft Museum of Black History, Augusta, GA.

NAWA SC Exhibit - Threads of Labor: Women's Work

Important Dates:

Submission Dates: September 1 - September 30, 2025

Online Reception: October 15, 2025

Exhibit Dates: October 15 - November 15, 2025

Exhibit Overview: This online exhibit will explore the overlooked contributions of women, from the original 13 colonies, during a pivotal period in American history: 1774 - 1781, and the lead up to the American Revolution. Through a diverse range of mediums - textiles, painting, sculpture, photography, and multi-media works -

contemporary artists will reflect on the concept of "women's work," connecting historical narratives with modern artistic interpretations.



This exhibit reclaims and reimagines the labor, creativity, and resilience of women who shaped the cultural and economic landscape of Colonial America.

Submissions are handled through <https://client.smarterentry.com/nawasc>. This is a juried exhibit. You may submit up to 2 artworks. Submission does not guarantee acceptance. Entry fee \$35 for up to 2 works of art.

A prospectus was emailed to members earlier this summer. Please read the prospectus carefully. It has been expanded to include all 13 colonies and the time period of 1774 - 1781. If you have any questions, contact Exhibit Chair: Flavia Lovatelli: art.nawasc@gmail.com and put Exhibit in the subject line.

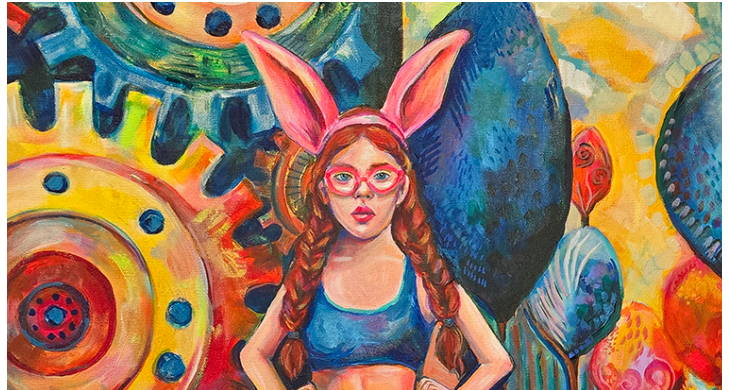
NAWA SC Chapter Featured Artist - Rhian Swain, Augusta, GA

Rhian Swain has a BFA from the Atlanta College of Art. She is a painter, photographer, designer, illustrator, writer, and former talk show host.

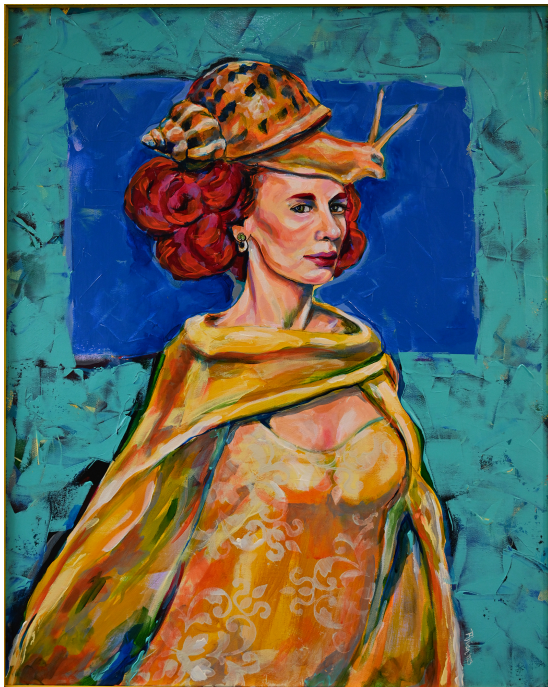
She owns RedWolf Advertising, an ad agency in Augusta, GA that provides marketing services to national and international clients.

Rhian also volunteers with our NAWA SC Chapter Board, having served as our Social Media Chair and now as our Public Relations Chair.

She is past President of the Greater Augusta Arts Council and currently serves on their Board. Rhian has recently been appointed as Co-chair of the PR Committee for NAWA National in New York.



Women Build Bridges, by Rhian Swain



What Are You Looking At?, by Rhian Swain; artwork from the *People* solo exhibit in Augusta, GA

For 40 years, Rhian has been exhibiting and selling her artwork. She works in varied mediums, including acrylic, oils, watercolor, multi-media, and digital (non-AI) painting. She loves to infuse symbolism into her pieces. Humor and bright colors are often found in her work. Her recent creative explorations have included working with and merging figurative and abstract techniques to evoke an emotional impact. Rhian draws inspiration from the human figure. By painting them in their bold, uniqueness, Rhian brings the vivacious qualities of the human spirit to life.

Rhian presently has two ongoing exhibits, one at the Augusta & Co. Gallery through October 2, 2025, and a second at The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, Augusta, GA through August 31, 2025. The first exhibit, titled *People*, is a collection of her infamous “festival people”, which has become synonymous with the Arts in the annual Heart Augusta Festival.

Rhian’s second exhibit is titled *A Thousand Words*, where her art tells stories about a part of Augusta’s Black history and culture that was often overlooked. The Museum’s Executive Director and Program Manager, provided oral history and historic photos from the Georgia Archive and the Museum’s historic archives, which provided inspiration for Rhian’s art on display.

Now and Then - Lessons in Etiquette, by Rhian Swain; artwork from the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History



SC Department of Commerce Exhibiting Artist - Deborah Rosato

Deborah Rosato’s Upstate NY surroundings fueled her interest in art. After exploring all 2D mediums, watercolor became her favorite; then she progressed to pastels. Pastels, combined with watercolor underpainting, have become the perfect combination for painting historic architecture to landscapes and everything in-between.



Deborah’s innovative technique, of painting with watercolor on rice paper, creates a batik effect with the use of wax resist. Using pen and ink to outline and pastels to add highlights to the finished work, she creates unique mixed media art forms. This technique is a wonderful marriage for working with local wildlife, especially wading and shore birds. **Photo at left:** *Nesting Ritual*, watercolor batik, 28 x 40.

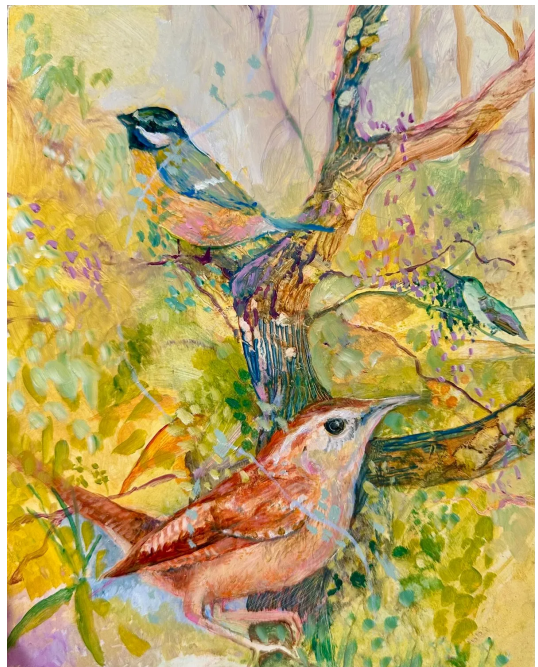
Member Highlights this Quarter:

Members - please share your good news! We want to promote your art achievements in our newsletters and social media. Please send your information to: art.nawasc.org.

Members Exhibiting in NAWA's Summer Small Works 2025 Online Exhibit:



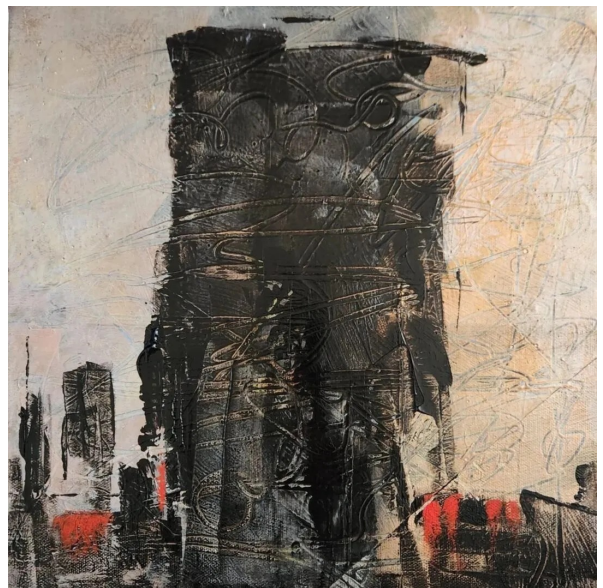
Green Reverie, by Lillie Morris; acrylic, 12x12



Do I Know You? by Meyriel Edge; oil, 10x8



Arts in the Heart, by June Klement; oil, 8x10



Unshackled, by Mandy Morhous, acrylic, 12x12

Members Exhibiting in NAWA's Surface Exhibit, Yellow Studio, NY



Earth's Surface, by Jennifer Okumura; oil,
40x30



Reclaimed Magic, by Staci Swider;
Sculpture: Fiber, wire, ephemera,
14.5x9x6



Palette 4-dans macabre, by Jill Cliffer
Baratta; printmaking, 22x15

Questions?

NAWA SC is proud to be a part of the National Association of Women Artists and further the national mission in our state of South Carolina - to promote awareness of, and interest in, visual art created by women in the U.S. Contact art.nawasc@gmail.com if you have comments or news to share. Please put “newsletter” in the subject line. To join the NAWASC Chapter and become part of our active membership, visit <https://nawasc.org>.

Please send your Social Media News to: art.nawasc@gmail.com and put “Social Media” in the subject line. We want to promote your art endeavors.

How to Contact a NAWA SC Board Member:

When you wish to contact a member of the NAWA SC Chapter board, e-mail to: art.nawasc@gmail.com. Please put the name of the department you wish to contact in the subject line of your email, such as Membership, Exhibitions, President, Social Media, Newsletter, etc.