

## A Note From Our President



We had an amazing spring show, as many eagerly embraced our new festival name "Art In the Village" and came out to support us. The list of people who deserve thanks for their efforts is much too long for this space, but I particularly want to thank our Show Chairman, Janet Sanders for once again working her hardest to be sure the show ran like a well-oiled machine. The success of the show is in direct relation to how diligently

she plans and delegates. We are so fortunate to have her guiding all the things that go mostly unseen. Thanks also to all the volunteers who gave their time; we truly could not have done it without you. And, lastly thanks to all of you who diligently worked, painted, and showed your art. We look forward to our next show as we head toward summer with great momentum ...let's all enjoy the warm weather and continue to create great art!

## UPCOMING MEETING DEMOS VP PROGRAMS, MARTHA FULGHUM

May 19, 10am-12pm

Troy Crisswell, our demo artist for the May meeting, worked as a graphic artist and painted on the side. After marrying his wife Becky, who does beautiful pottery, they began showing in art fairs. Troy became a full-time painter, first in watercolor and later adding oil painting. He often uses transparent glazing techniques to create a mood and uses surrealistic elements "to throw the viewer off just a little." He enjoys figure drawing, so often he will paint figures into his whimsical scenes. (There will be no night meeting in May.)

All meetings will be at Emmet O'Neal Library, Crestline Village  
50 Oak Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213

Sept 22	Thursday, 10-12:30 morning
Sept 27	Tuesday, 6-8 PM night
Nov 10	Thursday 10-12:30 morning
Nov 14	Monday 6-8PM night (no Tues. available then)
Dec 2-17	Holiday Show, Brookwood Village
Apr 22, 2017	Art in the Village annual show, Crestline Village



*"Promoting interest in art across the community  
and encouraging the professional development of area artists"*

# ART IN THE VILLAGE

## SHOW CHAIRMAN, JANET SANDERS

The new name for our annual spring show was a big hit with everyone. As we expected, it made for an easy title for all publicity in the city. We had good coverage, even a television spot the night before. The weather this year was great--not too hot nor too cold. Windy as usual, but everyone expects that. Overall sales were good and in line with previous years, even with missing two of our most popular artists. (I'm not counting last year's rainy-day sales) We noticed a lot of abstract art leaving the field with happy customers.

### SPECIAL THANKS

We could not run this show without our many volunteers. Sam Collins designed the cards and posters; Beverley Phillips made all those nice name tags; and Julia Pope made all the artist packets. Mike Battle and Sam Chiarella got all our club gear moved to the field. And we have plenty of gear: tents & heavy weights, tables, chairs, boxes, display panels. Martha Fulghum and her husband, along with Adelaide Booth, helped get it all back after working a long day at the show. By the way, many of our supplies have been donated to the club. The club now maintains a paid storage closet to keep it all in one place. (Hmmm....we could use another tent)

### VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

We have such great members. Over 24 members filled the schedule for our Hospitably Tent, setting up and breaking down, along with running the booth. Several worked multiple shifts. It always amazes me. They always see where work needs to get done and throw themselves into it. It helps make the show run well for all of us. It's not always easy, as when the food doesn't arrive on time and we have to quickly get it delivered and distributed. Thank you to Martha Fulghum for spearheading that effort.

### NEXT YEAR

We have already secured the field for next year, and it will be huge. **Save the Date! April 22**

MOUNTAIN BROOK ART ASSOCIATION 35 <sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ART FESTIVAL	
<b>Art in the Village</b>	
<b>BEST IN SHOW</b>	
PROFESSIONAL LEVEL	"Coffee Cup"
LYNITA MOTES	BOOTH #16
SEMI-PROFESSIONAL LEVEL	"Martha's Make"
LOIS MASH	BOOTH #55
EMERGING ARTIST / HOBBIEIST LEVEL	"Debbie and Rosemary's"
LAURA NIGG	BOOTH #28
<b>AWARDS OF DISTINCTION</b>	
ARTIST WELLEN BRIDGERS	BOOTH #65
ARTIST KATHERINE TRAMMOLL	BOOTH #31
ARTIST ELLEN JUSTICE	BOOTH #25
ARTIST DEB GAMEL	BOOTH #64
ARTIST BETHANY TOMPKINS	BOOTH #29
ARTIST VOLUNTEER SANDY TILT	Hospitality Booth
MARA JANBOR	#12
<b>NORTONS FLORIST COMPETITION WINNER</b>	

Right: Lynetta Motes wins Best in Show in the Professional Level for "Coffee Cup."



Far Left: Winner Board at Hospitality Tent for all visitors to see  
Left: Lois Mash wins Best in Show in the Semi-Professional Level.

## ART IN THE VILLAGE . . . CONT'D



*Left: Laura Nigg wins Best in Show in Emerging Artist/Hobbyist Level.*

*Above: Mara Jambor is congratulated by Gus Pappas, owner of Nortons Florist, for her winning painting.*

Congratulations to Wellon Bridgers, Katherine Trammell, Ellen Justice, Deb Gamel and Bethany Tompkins for receiving Awards of Distinction and Sandy Tilt for being recognized as the winning artist volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATES - 2016 HOLIDAY SHOW FRIDAY DEC 2 - SATURDAY DEC 17

**B**rookwood Village Mall is excited to have us back again for our annual holiday show. We will know more near August what space we will have, but it will either be the same space of the old Gus Mayer or that of former Z Gallerie across the hall.

Z Gallerie has moved upstairs, leaving behind a much larger and wonderfully lit space for us. These spaces are right inside the first level across from the very popular restaurants on the little quaint "main street" in front of the mall. It is a good fit for us. We like to push the closeness of the popular eateries for publicity, telling customers to come enjoy dinner and visit us. Each day we feature one of our artists painting in the window so we can keep publicity going every day. Most important of all, our charity partner publicizes us to their huge following.

It is a fun show for us all. It is easy to participate, and as we volunteer we get to know each other and all the wonderful talent we have.

Attached is a photo of Joan Curtis painting in the store window as one of our daily featured artists.

START PAINTING !



# ADVICE FROM ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS

## Deciding What to Paint

By Richard Russell

The year was 1984. I sat in the smoke-filled room as Walter blasted away on the piano. The old black man was always smiling. Walter didn't have many years to live, but he went out doing what he loved, and it showed. I pushed up to my usual spot at the bar and told the bartender to get me the usual Long Island tea. The bartender and I had a lot in common with the exception of one thing. He believed in art for the sake of art, no matter what. I believed in living my life like Walter, doing what I love doing. Even if it meant working for less money. At that time in my life I set a requirement of a minimum of 100 originals a year. Each painting would bring me \$75-\$250. I had two markets. One was Birmingham skylines, the other New York street scenes. The New York paintings were already sold as soon as they were finished. The more I painted the more money I could make.

For now let's just say the name of the bartender was Joe. Joe and I were always discussing the same thing. He said that I was prostituting myself by painting things that I knew would sell rather than what was in my heart. I always responded that at least I was practicing my art and after all, who was serving whom at the bar? I was making money doing these New York scenes while developing my talent, and all was well with the world. Meanwhile Joe was going home exhausted working on his art for about an hour before collapsing into bed each night. Ever since I was 20 years of age I had the philosophy that no matter what, I would be a full-time artist. And for the past 35 years that's all I have ever known.

So you may ask "How did you do it?" My answer to you is that I looked at things in reverse. About now you are wondering what in the world I am talking about. Most artists feel the gumption to create works that they feel inspired to create almost as if they were touched spiritually and commanded to create something coming directly from their soul.

One lady actually said to me that I must have a tortured soul to create the work that I created. I responded to her that I was a pretty happy fellow and torture was not in the plans. I get up every day like everyone else, I go to work painting, then have dinner, watch some TV and go to bed. I am motivated pretty much like everyone else. I just want to pay the bills and be happy.

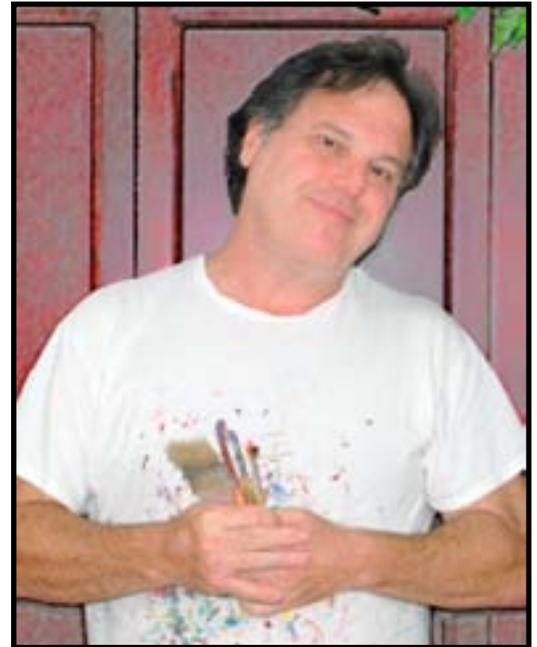
When I tell you to do things in reverse, what I am talking about is trying to figure out what sells, then paint it. If you think that's prostituting yourself then let me throw out a few other art prostitutes.

Early in history artists would paint paintings of kings and queens. This was a tough job because the king wanted his wife to look 20 years younger and 75 pounds thinner. It hasn't always been easy for the artist; in fact, King Henry the eighth's artist may have stayed the busiest.

My point here is that many artists have had the task of painting what other people want them to paint. We call this a commission. And most of us would like to have a lot of those.

So now that I have taken up your time explaining that you need to have the mentality to paint what sells, rather than the first thing that comes into your head, I can walk you through how to figure out what sells. This is what I mean by doing things in reverse. Instead of painting what you want, try painting what the buyer wants.

I moved back home to Alabama in 2005, after losing most everything in Katrina in New Orleans. I asked



## ADVICE FROM ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS . . . CONT'D

myself, “What can I paint that I can make an immediate impact and cash to help get a new start in life?” Let me think. What is the most popular thing in the state of Alabama? Hmm... must be football. So I went and got a license and painted Alabama and Auburn football. Eleven years later I do very well for myself financially, and it is just a coincidence that I happened to love college football. That just happens to work very well for me.

Each of us must find within ourselves a subject matter that works for us and works for the buyer as well. What if you're not sure how to figure that out? Go out and buy a notebook and also a couple of good magazines... like Southern Living or Better Homes and Gardens. Maybe an architectural magazine or anything that shows people living and the lifestyle of the up and coming American family. Flip through the pages quickly and jot down the subject matter of paintings you see that make you smile. That should lead you in the right direction of what subject matter to paint. In terms of size, go online to Michael's or Hobby Lobby and look at the ready-made frames. Write down all of the ready made frame sizes that are available. That is the size you need to work within. Next, go to Home Depot or Lowe's and ask the paint expert to poll the most popular paint chips that they have available right now. In addition you can Google the 10 most popular colors of 2016. Here is what I came up with in my Google search.



### PANTONE® FASHION COLOR REPORT SPRING 2016



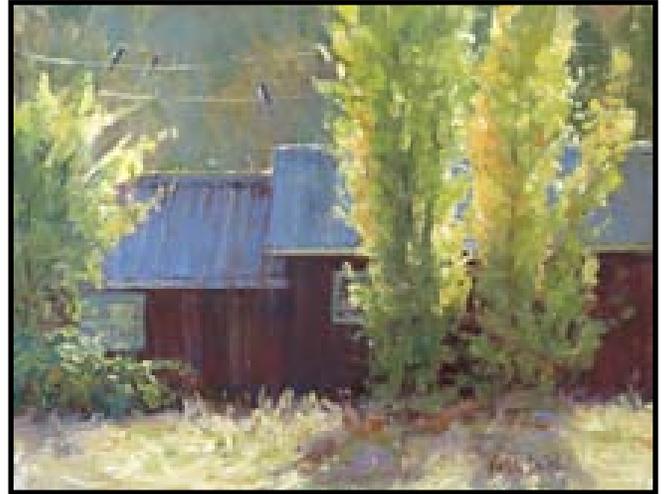
Now, I have given you all the tools you need. You have the motivation, the subject matter, the size, and the color palette. The only thing left to discuss is price. My philosophy is that I don't want anything sticking around my studio for too long. Price it as low as you possibly can; then sell it. Then make another one, and price it a little bit higher. Eventually your sales will level off somewhere and you will know what to charge. Don't take any one piece too seriously. Most great artists have a huge body of work that they have done over many years of painting and creating.

Now get to work!

## ADVICE FROM ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS . . . CONT'D

### Plein Air Tips from Kathleen Dunphy, a Nationally-Recognized North California Artist

**N**ext year will mark my 15th year of plein air painting. Through this decade and a half, I've probably made every mistake in the book and come up with a few new ones while I was at it. I've also been teaching workshops for ten years, which has forced me to analyze my process in order to convey my method and thoughts to my students. Over the years, I've found that just about all artists - beginners and professionals and myself included - make so many of the same mistakes. In our rush to grab the scene before the light changes, we often overlook some of the basic tenets of good painting. A few years ago, I consolidated these observations into a list to remind myself and my students of the traps we can all fall into while painting:



#### Plein Errors: The Top Ten Mistakes Artists Make While Painting On Location:

10. Forgetting to squint to eliminate detail and see values more clearly
9. Getting bogged down in detail instead of massing in the basic shapes
8. Painting over an incorrect passage and making mud instead of scraping down/wiping off that section to start over
7. Painting too large a canvas for the amount of time available before the light changes
6. Not mixing up enough paint and skimping on paint application
5. Giving up too early
4. Wiping off the entire painting in the field (your painting might just be better than you think it is...)
3. Focusing on one area too long instead of seeing the entire design
2. Using small brushes at the start

And the Number One reason why paintings fail .....

**1: Not having a clear plan before you start!**

You can find Kathleen and read her blog at [www.kathleendunphy.com](http://www.kathleendunphy.com)

## MEMBER NEWS

**Nan Braswell** will be exhibiting at Rojo on Highland Avenue this month. The opening reception was held on Thursday, May 12. Art will be up until end of May.

Congratulations to **Cyndie Hay** who received 1st place in acrylic and 3rd place in watercolor at the recent National League of Penwomen Show at Soon Bok Lee Sellers Gallery in Hoover. The show ended March 29th.

**Amy Peterson** received the "Best Body of Work" award from judge Dawn Whitelaw during the Spring Plein Air Invitational hosted by the Gadsden Museum of Art. Her art work will be exhibited at the GMA through April. Currently, her latest oil paintings of Birmingham are featured at the "Sweet Home Alabama" show at the Beverly McNeil Gallery.

**Mike Battle** will be exhibiting at Trinity United Methodist Church's first Art Show, "Art in the Lot," on June 18th, taking place in the church parking lot and benefiting the church.

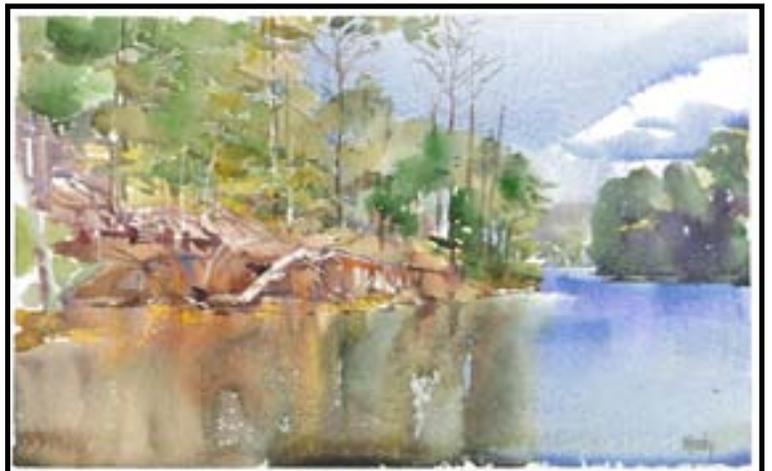


Last month **Terry Strickland** presented a TEDx Birmingham talk entitled "How Painting Helps Me Understand Life." She talked about representational art - how we connect to paintings and their healing qualities. You can listen to Terry's talk online at this link: Terry Strickland TEDx Birmingham 2016 <https://youtube/YB3iKkarDJY>

Although this is not specifically news about art, we do think it is newsworthy that this May one of our new members, **Jan Blahnick**,

will become the President of Newcomers Club of Birmingham. This is a very large club and has about 30 activity clubs within the club such as card games, dining, traveling, etc. Janet Sanders is a past president of this organization.

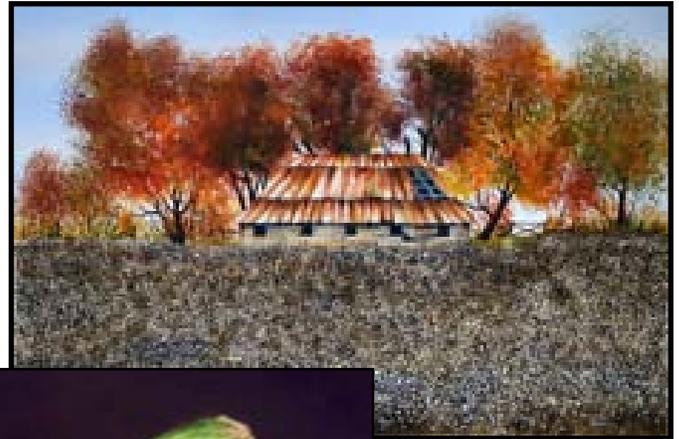
**Bob Moody** will be exhibiting his Watercolors of Lake Martin through the month of May at Littlehouse Galleries, 2915 Linden Avenue, in Homewood. You can view examples of his work at [moodywatercolors.com/painting-series/lake-martin](http://moodywatercolors.com/painting-series/lake-martin) or [facebook.com/moodypaints](http://facebook.com/moodypaints). [littehousegalleries.com](http://littehousegalleries.com).





## MEMBER NEWS . . . CONT'D

The Alabama Center for the Arts in historic downtown Decatur (133 2nd Ave. NE) is pleased to host the Watercolor Society of Alabama's 75th National Exhibition, May 15 - July 15. The opening reception and awards presentation will be held on Sunday, May 15, 1-4pm. The public is invited. Congratulations to the following MBAA members who are exhibiting in this show: **Amy Collins, Michael Davis, Florene Galese, Tora Johnson and Julia Pope.**



*Upper Right: "Old Cotton  
Field Back Home"  
by Michael Davis*

*Right: "Big Ole Red Pepper  
On Foil" by Julia Pope*



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### ITEMS FOR SALE

2 canopy awnings - \$40 each

Portfolio stand - \$25

Canvas bags for transporting paintings (med and large) - \$15 each

Heavy duty commercial 5-drawer flat file - \$175

Contact David Nichols

davnichols@bellsouth.net

205-531-0739

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### STUDIO ASSISTANT WANTED

Richard Russell is looking for a studio assistant. Email Richard at [Rrgallery@aOL.com](mailto:Rrgallery@aOL.com) for more information.

## ONGOING CLASSES BY MEMBERS

Fill your week with art! (In Alphabetical Order by artist)



### BETH BRADLEY

Beth paints in acrylic/mixed media and will be starting two sessions of 'Beth's Acrylic Mysteries' classes again at Forstall in early June, on Thursday morning June 2nd and Thursday evening June 6th. These are four-week, 2 1/2 hour sessions at \$120. Email Beth for info on these sessions at [alabeth@aol.com](mailto:alabeth@aol.com)

### ANGIE CLEVELAND

Angie Cleveland will be teaching Wednesday and Thursday classes this summer during the month of June. Students may choose to attend on Wednesday or Thursday from 10:00 - 2:30 at Lee Branch Hobby Lobby. Angie explains, "In order to enhance creativity in my classes I allow the adult students to choose their own study and their individual medium to work in. Most students paint in oils or acrylics, and their studies range from landscapes and still-lives to figures and

portraits. I teach oils, acrylics, pastels, scratchboard, charcoal, and beginner to advanced drawing techniques. Participants can sign up by calling me at 381-3022 or by email at [angie.cleveland@att.net](mailto:angie.cleveland@att.net).

### AMY COLLINS

Amy Collins is an award-winning painter and illustrator. She has taught classes and workshops in oil, acrylic, and watercolor. Amy's professional work experience as a medical illustrator has influenced her painting style, best described as contemporary realism.

Expressive Painting Classes at Artists on the Bluff in Hoover, Tuesday

mornings 9:30-12:30 (\$120/month - 4 sessions), Tuesday afternoons 1:30-4:30 (\$120/month - 4 sessions). These classes are designed for all levels and will help you improve

your skills while challenging you to become a better painter. Working from still lifes, photographs and models, we will cover the basics such as color, composition and form. The class will combine demonstrations with individual instruction to help you discover your own style while enjoying the process of painting. 205-532-1016/[www.amypcollins.com](http://www.amypcollins.com).

### TROY CRISWELL

Troy Crisswell will begin teaching classes in May at Alabama Art Supply. Classes will be on Mondays, 12:30-3:30pm, and will include drawing, acrylic, watercolor, oil, etc. Visit [www.alabamaart.com](http://www.alabamaart.com) or contact [acrisswell@gmail.com](mailto:acrisswell@gmail.com) for details.



**Troy Crisswell**

**Mondays 12:30 - 3:30 • \$30**

Students of all levels are encouraged to attend. Come with your own supplies and those and receive individual instruction in any medium you are interested in: drawing, acrylic, watercolor, oil, etc.

**Classes begin in May**

## ONGOING CLASSES BY MEMBERS . . . CONT'D



### MICHAEL DAVIS - LANDSCAPES IN WATERCOLOR

Learn traditional techniques with transparent watercolor on paper. Create depth and a sense of motion by applying broad washes followed by finer details. Through the subtle use of color, you will learn how to capture the beauty of your natural surroundings in watercolor. Forstall Art Center, Thursdays, 9:30-12:30pm. \$130 for 4 weeks

### RIK LAZENBY MULTI-MEDIA

Rick's class meets on Tuesdays. Join anytime. Early session 9AM-12 or late session 5:30-8:30PM. \$120 per month at Artists on the Bluff. Contact Rik at 205-281-5273 or riklazenby@charter.net.



### RON LEWIS

Ron Lewis is listed in Who's Who in American Art and is a signature member of the prestigious American Watercolor Society. Ron teaches classes in watercolor, acrylic, oil and alkyd for Mtn Brook Community Education in Crestline on Wednesdays 9 -11:30 in 6 week sessions for \$85. Paint-a-longs with Ron or work on your own with individual critiques. Contact Ron at ronbeckylewis@aol.

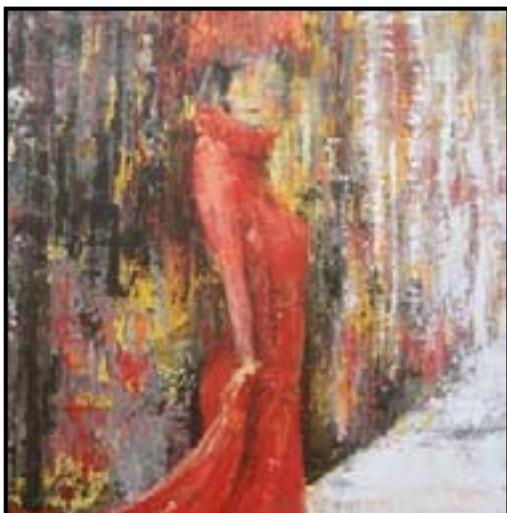
com or at ronaldlewisart.blogspot.com.

### MELANIE O'KEEFE

Melanie O'Keefe will be presenting a workshop on Saturday, June 11th, "Landscape Trees and Water," Saturday, from 9:00 - 4:00 at Alabama Art Supply (205-322-4741). Make your landscape paintings more realistic with variations in light, reflections and ripples in water. We will work on the transitions between light and dark, and discuss

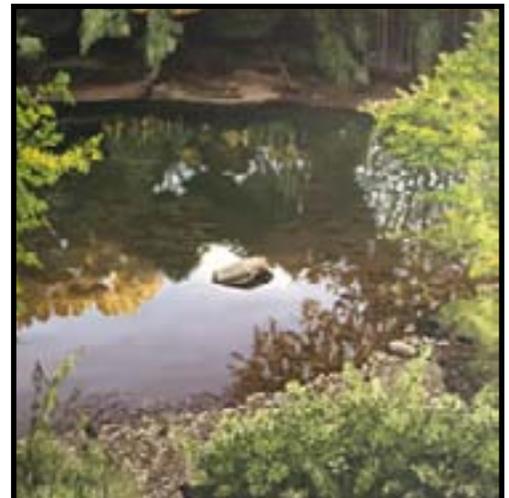
how trees and vines grow to help you paint them more realistically.

Cost: \$100



### LISA OPIELINSKI - MIXED MEDIA WITH LISA

will teach you how to layer acrylic colors using brushes, palette knives and other tools, as well as how to use the many acrylic mediums available today. Go beyond the brush and palette! Forstall Art Center, Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:30pm. \$187 for 6 weeks, lisaoartist.com



## ONGOING CLASSES BY MEMBERS . . . CONT'D



### TERRY STRICKLAND: CONTEMPORARY REALISM OIL PAINTING

Nationally-recognized, award-winning artist Terry Strickland leads you through this “back to basics” class, designed for all skill levels desiring to paint in a realistic manner. Work from still life, live models, and photographs. Explore color theory and paint mixing while learning the tried & true skills necessary to render three-dimensional forms and capture light with oil paint. Tuesdays 9:30 - 12:30 or 1:30 - 4:30, \$200 for 6 weeks [terrystricklandart.com](http://terrystricklandart.com)

### FUTURE CLASSES. LOOK FOR THESE TO BE ANNOUNCED:

#### DAVID NICHOL'S IMPRESSIONISM

David is taking a short break from teaching at Forstall Art Center, but look for future classes. [davidnicholsart.com](http://davidnicholsart.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

### VP Membership, Jan Grant

We are so pleased to welcome the following new members:

Janice Banks  
Judy Kirk

Sharon Lancaster  
Lindsay McKee

Lynita Motes  
Susan Rheuby

Sadesh Boodram Wilkerson

Please note that the newest MBAA photo directory has been posted to our web site in the password protected tab under “Members Only.” [ Password: 2016member ] Please do not share this with non-members.

Annual Dues for Membership in the Mountain Brook Art Association are now \$50 as of February 1, 2016.

If you are recommending that a friend join, remember that new members pay \$40.

When paying by check, please send to the following address:

MBAA  
Ed Wilson, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 531194, Birmingham AL 35253

You may also pay via our web site with your credit card by clicking here:

<http://mountainbrookartassociation.com/how-to-join/>.

It would help us if you let us know that you have paid via credit card and what date.

**YOU MUST GO THROUGH OUR WEB SITE TO PAY BY CARD!**

# CLUB EMAIL - [mtnbrookkartassoc@gmail.com](mailto:mtnbrookkartassoc@gmail.com)

## YOUR NEW 2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD



*President  
Christi Bunn*



*Past President  
Mary Wier*



*President Elect  
Carol Carmichael*



*VP Programs  
Martha Fulghum*



*VP Membership  
Jan Grant*



*Secretary  
Melanie O'Keefe*



*Treasurer  
Ed Wilson*



*Sr. Member at Large  
Ron Lewis*



*Corresponding Secretary  
Janet Sanders*

## Your New 2016 Club Staff



*Show Chairman  
Janet Sanders*



*Ass't Treasurer  
Sam Chiarella*



*Parliamentarian  
Kelly Alford*



*Layout Editor  
Beverly Bates*



*Content Editor  
Mara Jambor*



*Web Administrator  
Rebecca Moody*



*Club Photographer  
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*Historian  
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