

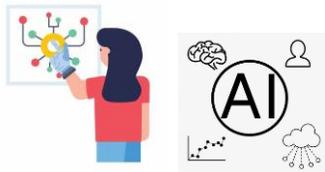
Conway League of Artists Newsletter

Conway, Arkansas

December 2023

Please join us . . .

January @ 6:00 "AI as Artist's Tool" Faulkner County Library - Meeting Room 1



January's CLA program will feature Patrick Edwards sharing information about Artificial Intelligence (AI). If you're not familiar with AI, there is no reason to feel intimidated. Patrick will explain that AI can be treated like a "tool," just like your cell phone, video editing software or anything else that helps you along your artistic journey.

Patrick primarily uses AI as a cost-effective means of getting reference material, and he will show how to get references that are impossible to obtain with a camera.

This is a "hot topic" in the art world.

Time to Renew

January means it's time to renew your annual CLA membership for 2024! Keeping your dues current means helping CLA maintain the financial resources to provide workshops, programs, and events throughout the coming year.

Dues (\$25) may be paid at the January meeting or paid online via PayPal at conwayleagueofartists.com.

For Your Calendar

January 8 – Members Meeting @ Faulkner County Library 6:00 pm Meeting – Patrick Edwards - Room 1.

February 12 – Karen Freeman – "Hands-on Exploration of Australian Aboriginal Art"

March - CLA's 50th Anniversary Celebration – Details to coming soon!

April Spring show

May Doris Curtis Awardee Presentation

Upcoming Figure Drawing Workshop with Robert Bean is in the planning stages. Stay tuned!

Google Drive

If anyone takes pictures at one of our events we would love to add them to our google drive. Please share pictures to our google drive: conwayartleage@gmail.com

A Letter from the President . . .



I lived in Iowa for 20 years and then we moved to Arkansas. Now I look outside and see leaves instead of snow and I am not quite convinced it is January, but here we are, starting a new year.

Before we talk about what the future holds, I would like to reflect on the past.

In December this year, I spent a lot of time thinking about gifts. Not the gifts of batteries and bright lights or tinsel and string, but the gifts of wonderful people in my life. I have a supportive husband and three adult children who all love the arts. My 4-year-old grandson is a gift who makes me laugh and helps me find joy in all the little things in life. Yesterday we balanced on a teeter totter from one end to the other and he thought it was a blast! I talk to my mom often and she helps me navigate all of life's little ups and downs. My family is a wonderful gift!

Another gift I have been given is the people in this art group. I joined the group right when things were beginning to open after COVID. I was welcomed into leadership. It is a great group! We laughed together, played together (pickleball anyone?), went to Art museums, put on Art shows, and painted outdoors. Not everything went perfectly but we dusted ourselves off and tried again. It has been a fun year filled with wonderful adventures.

I am excited to think about the gifts that 2024 will bring. More time with the same great people, and hopefully we will make many new art friends. We are planning another Poetry themed show in April, a figure drawing workshop, and a 50 year anniversary celebration. It is wonderful to think that a group that started with 5 women who just wanted to paint together has lasted 50 years, impacting hundreds of artists during that time.

I appreciate the opportunity to be 2024 president. Thank you so much, to those who have made this group possible through the years and to those who stepped forward to help it continue into the future.

I am looking forward to a year of learning, laughter, friendship, and community involvement. I am sure it will be an EPIC year!

Christina Blum
President, Conway League of Artist
~Educate, Promote, Inspire, Connect~



Why Renew Membership?

As a member of the League, you have the opportunity to:

- Enter artwork in competitive shows and sales scheduled in the fall and spring
- Have your artist profile, samples of your work, and contact information included on the CLA website
- Attend workshops conducted by artists working in various mediums
- Join other artists in "paint out" events and field trips
- Meet with artists monthly in an informal group to share your experiences and artwork
- Collaborate with other Conway art organizations

At monthly meetings, you can

- Get updates on what is happening with the art scene in Conway
- Participate in art related programs that educate and inspire
- Have the opportunity to be a presenter and share your skills with members
- Display your artwork in many locations in Conway through "Art of the Month"
- Win beautiful artwork by participating in the Dorris Curtis Raffle
- Bring a friend or make a new one!

Christmas Luncheon

On December 2nd CLA held a Christmas luncheon and gift exchange at Mike's Place Restaurant in Conway, and it was quite a success!



Apron, vases, and paintings . . . Lots of ooh's and aah's were heard as we opened our exchanged artwork.



"Pick a number" random exchange



Shirley Bowen admires her painting by Allen Caffrey.

Conway League of Artists' Art Show Online

Did you miss the show? No worries . . . photos of all the artwork may be seen online. Cut and paste this link into your browser: <https://conwayleagueofartists.com/2023-fall-show/>

Dry Media

- First Place – 1010 Front Street, Marti Evans
- Second Place – Morning Light, Christina Blum
- Third Place – Deep in the Ozarks, Virginia Miller

Wet Media

- First Place – An Early Snow, Lynn Thompson
- Second Place – Downhill Delight, Patrick Edwards
- Third Place – Triptych (Fifty-Six), Shirley Bowen
- Honorable Mention – Sweet Home Alabama, Virginia Potter

Photography

- First Place – Faith and Serenity, Benny Battles

3 Dimensional

- First Place – Ins and Outs of Time, Susan Peterson
- Second Place – The Moment before Marvelous Mayhem, Lisa Davis
- Third Place – Phantom of the Opera, Dimitri
- Papadimitriou

Suzann Waggoner Memorial Award "Keep giving the gift" The Barn on 65, Kristy Linville

Grand Prize - Linda Denny

Dorris Curtis Raffle

Susan Peterson is the generous artist who is donating this month's piece for the Dorris Curtis Raffle.

Appropriate for wall or table, it is approximately 8 x 12 inches. It has a multi-colored inside glaze with flecks of copper and turquoise with a white outer glaze and base. It could be yours for just \$1.



December Meeting

It was a moving and emotional night as CLA artists received their prizes and judge Christian Cutler, Director of Hendrix's Windgate Museum of Art, explained his choices of winning pieces.



The gavel was passed from past-president Karen Freeman to incoming president, Christina Blum.

Installation of new officers

Conway League of Artists elected new officers at the last meeting. The new slate of officers will be installed at the December meeting.

President – Christina Blum

Vice President – Karen Freeman

Secretary – Sara Shumaker

Treasurer / Membership- Shirley Bowen

Newsletter – Susan Peterson

Show Chairs- Alene Bynum, Katy Killingsworth

Art of the Month Virginia Potter

Publicity- Tracy McGarity, Cheri Pearson

Historian- Pepper Henthorne-Adams

Activities – Mary Hicks, Marilyn Rishkofski

Dorris Curtis – Marilyn Rishkofski

Hospitality- Lynn Thompson

Member at Large-Beth Simpson

New and previous officers and board members were recognized.



Linda Denny, Grand Prize winner, spoke from her heart about the importance of art throughout her life.



Christmas goodies were in abundance at the December meeting.



A Call for Art Submissions for K-12



Attention students, educators, and parents across the Natural State!

The Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College in Conway is opening a call for art submissions from Arkansas students, grades Kindergarten through 12th. Beginning in late January of 2024, the Windgate Museum of Art will be celebrating the upcoming total eclipse of the sun with an entire semester of space-based educational programming and exhibitions. *There's no better way to celebrate this momentous occasion than by opening our window gallery to the K-12 students of Arkansas!*

We are seeking 2D artworks in any medium that in some way depict an *eclipse, the cosmos, the solar system, or human interaction with space*. Submitted artworks will be juried, and 80 will be selected in total across all grades. We ask that no original pieces be sent in. We will be taking the digital submissions and printing those for display.

Students whose artwork is selected, as well as their families, will be honored at a reception following the exhibition opening. Exhibiting students will receive an award certificate and a limited-edition eclipse poster. Student artwork may be submitted by either the parent/guardian or the teacher. Limit 3 submissions per student. **Online submissions are due no later than 5:00 p.m., January 19, 2024.**

Visit: www.windgatemuseum.org > Events for more information and to complete the form.

Third Thursday Report

Everyone enjoyed December's Third Thursday Coffee. We talked about projects we have been working on, AI, book publishing with KDP, artist sales opportunities at Fine Art American, and the group *ABUN Artists and Biologists Unite for Nature*. A few of us are going to start January 1st, doing a sketch a day in the book *My Life in Sketches*.

We are planning to share again January 19th, the Third Thursday in January. Hope you can join us!

