

Conway League of Artists Newsletter

Conway, Arkansas

May 2024

Please join us . . .

May 13, 2024 @ 6:00 pm Member Meeting, Faulkner County Library “Metamorphosis, Revealed”

Forty-three works were entered into the “Metamorphosis” show, 25 entries in the artists choice award, 12 based on Sandy's poetry, and 6 based on Acie's works.

At this meeting, we will

- celebrate and award the entrants
- view the works
- hear show judge Brian Young speak about his choices
- enjoy the company of Conway creatives
- receive information about the fall show
- get information on upcoming programs and field trips

Reminder: Show entries should be picked up prior to the meeting.

For Your Calendar

May 13 – Show pick up 5:00-6:00 pm & Meeting / Awards Ceremony 6:00 pm

May 16 - BYOC: Bring Your Own Coffee @ Faulkner County Library

June 6 (Tentative): Field trip to Leslie Arkansas to visit Jamie Craddock-Johnson's Buffalo River Gallery. Details available at meeting.

June 10 - Member meeting, 6:00 pm, Faulkner County Library “Paint Pouring”

July 8 - Member meeting, 6:00 pm, Faulkner County Library “Make Your Paintings Pop” with Kenneth Williams

CAFTA AWARDS

The Conway Alliance for the Arts (CAFTA) 2024 Arts Awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. at the Red Curtain Theatre in downtown Conway. Note: Last year, Marilyn Rishkofski was the recipient of the Advocate for the Arts award.

Art Outfitters Little Rock

The ARTextravaganza event is June 1 at their store in Little Rock at 917 W. 7th Street. It's an all-day event from 10-8, with demos running until about 4 pm.

April Meeting

April 15th meeting showcased a presentation by Natalie Kitchen, the 2024 Dorris Curtis Scholarship recipient. Natalie is a BFA major who works in ceramics and printmaking.

CLA donated \$500 toward the scholarship thanks to the generosity of members who gave items for the monthly raffles or made additional donations.





A Letter from the President

A friend sent me an inspirational quote she found on a bottle of kombucha, which shows you can find inspiration anywhere. Then I looked on the internet to find a few more.

"Create without expectations. Your expectations are the only limit" - Samantha Medore

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." - Thomas Merton.

"Life is the art of drawing without an eraser." - John W.

"Art is the lie that enables us to realize the truth." - Pablo Picasso.

"Life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one." - Stella Adler.

I am sure you can read the quote by Stella Adler many ways, but it makes me think about all the ways that art makes life better. When I am unhappy, I draw, when I am frustrated, I draw when I am feeling unseen, I draw, and when I am feeling lonely, I turn to our community whose interest in all things art draws us together. When life presents challenges, art reminds me of the joys.

Art can be a journey inward. Our scholarship winner Natalie Kitchen illustrated that in the beautifully detailed and thought-provoking artwork she shared. Her artwork allows her to better understand how she feels about her body in a world of airbrushed models. As visitors last night introduced themselves, one said she has been an artist for a long time but she is looking for community. I hope we are that community to each of our members. Art can be a journey outward, into each other's lives where we can support, encourage, and inspire each other.

This has been a full month with the reception and poetry reading for the spring show and the Dorris Curtis Scholarship award. These things couldn't have happened without a lot of hard work from a lot of people, but I would like to especially thank our Dorris Curtis Scholarship Chair Marilyn Rishkofski. She planned the reception and worked with CLA members, the library, Natalie, and Dr. Bryan W. Massey, SR from UCA to coordinate the event and make sure the evening went well. Thank you, Marilyn!

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



Conway Art Walk Opportunities

Mikayla Stiles, ArtWalk Coordinator at the Creative Institute of Central Arkansas, is looking for volunteers for upcoming ArtWalks. The volunteer form is available on the cover email you received.

If interested in being an artist at the event, please visit the Artist Application form, which can also be found in the email. Please note there is a \$25 charge to participate as an artist.

In addition, Art Walk is initiating monthly thematic shows as part of a gallery experience. June's theme is "Underwater and/or Ocean." If interested in participating in June's show, please contact Mikayla or Jennie McNulty by May 20. They will then give details about the show and answer any other questions you may have:

Mikayla -
mikayla@creativeinstituteart.org
Jennie -
jennie@creativeinstituteart.org

More information about the Creative Institute and their upcoming events may be found at creativeinstituteart.org.

It Takes a Village . . .



New Member Introduction – Patty Phelps

"As a child, my interest in art was sparked when I took ceramics classes at a local community center near our home in Shreveport, Louisiana. I always enjoyed participating in the activities. Now as an adult, I consider myself more of an appreciator of art rather than a producer. However, a renewed interest in artistic endeavors emerged shortly before my retirement from UCA when I took an art journaling class. I found the process of using mixed media to be helpful in expressing my mixed emotions as I faced no longer being an educator (after 42 years).

Then during the days of COVID shutdown, I was looking for a way to make a positive impact on area students and teachers. I started painting "happy rocks" and leaving them on the UCA campus as well as on the school grounds of Carl Stuart Middle School. These small art tokens seemed to be appreciated by those who discovered them. Around the same time, I decided to enhance my morning walks by sharing an image from nature on my FaceBook page. I labeled each post "Today's greeter" and I have continued to take these photos a few times weekly. My intent was and is to make someone else smile by posting a photograph of something that has made me smile at the start of the day. In short, I find art as an ideal way to enrich my life and the lives of others."

(Photos: left – Happy Rocks; right – a sample Morning Greeter)



Many thanks go to those who made last month's show and its ties to Poetry Month and our two local poets so successful. Specifically:

- Show Chair Alene Bynum and Assistant Show Chair Katy Killingsworth for chairing
- Jen Beritich, Faulkner Co. Library, for hosting us, helping coordinate the poetry reading, setting up the space, printing the posters and innumerable other things.
- Marilyn Rishkofski for the delicious refreshments
- Our wonderful Poets for sharing their work: Sandy Longhorn and Acie Clark
- Michael Blanchard for all his help with the poetry reading
- Our Artists for sharing their fantastic works inspired by poetry
- All those who attended or supported us in any way