

May 2025



# NEWSLETTER

EDUCATE \* PROMOTE \* INSPIRE \* CONNECT



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 29**

Spring Show Online Submission Closes

**April 30**

Spring Show Drop off

**May 12**

Members Meeting and Spring Show Awards Presentation

**June 9**

Members Meeting



## ArtVerse

**CLA 2025 Spring Show Awards & Poetry Reading**  
Monday May 12th 5:30-8:30 at Faulkner County Library

We are excited to announce that entrants will have the opportunity to be published in *Slant* Magazine and Suzanne Underwood Rhodes, the current Poet Laureate of Arkansas is one of our featured poets.

### Our Poets



Suzanne Underwood Rhodes is a native of New York, she now lives in Fayetteville and has published several poetry collections.

Michael Blanchard is an Arkansas poet, teacher, editor, and event organizer, artist and advocate, mentor, promoter and performer.



Christopher Fettes

James Fowler



Paulette Guerin

Marie Kressin



Michelle Stoll

### Program

Reception and view artwork

Welcome and introduction of the Judge Thomas Fernandez, M.F.A.

Poetry reading and awards in the "At Large" Category

Poetry reading and awards in the Michael Blanchard Category

Poetry reading and awards in the Suzanne Underwood Rhodes Category

Closing and Thanks

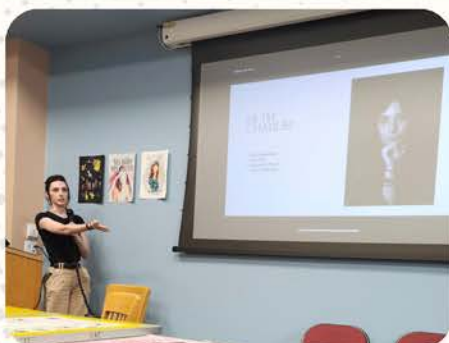
Visual artists should be prepared to share how the poem they chose inspired them  
Pick up artwork Monday June 9th

For more info visit [conwayleagueofartists.com](http://conwayleagueofartists.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS

**ELIZABETH CHARLIE COLBURN**  
**DORRIS CURTIS SCHOLARSHIP**  
**RECIPIENT**

Elizabeth Charlie Colburn, a senior BFA student with a studio concentration in printmaking received the 2025 Dorris Curtis Scholarship. She shared her projects, some details on printmaking, her story, and her goal to dedicate her work to her mother, who passed away recently.



## EVERY MONTH

### 3rd Thursday

Coffee & Conversation in Room 1 of the Faulkner County Library



### Thursdays are ART Days!!

### 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Thurs

Create together in the stage area of the Faulkner County Library. Bring whatever project you are working on. This is a great opportunity to learn from each other.

[www.conwayleagueofartists.com](http://www.conwayleagueofartists.com)



# OUR MEMBERS

## GUESS THE ARTIST



If you would like to be featured in "Guess the Artist", copy and paste this link <https://forms.gle/GKq5VvX8fcLg5iJAA> into your browser to share your information.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

PLAY, I made a few videos to go along with the watercolor class I am teaching at the library and at the end of each one I encouraged people to go out and play in the water. Play is so important. When I play hide and seek with my grandson, I am practicing for when I lose my keys. Sudoku sharpens my mind and helps when it is time to pay bills. Pickleball teaches me the value of winning and losing and giving myself and others grace. In the spring show we see poets playing with words until they can impersonate physical objects and abstract ideas, and inspired by that we play with paint, clay and other tools of our trade to represent the ideas the poets inspire. Our lives are livable when we have the basics but it is what we create when we play; music, art, relationships, and more, that helps us thrive.

I read a quote "Construction and destruction alike satisfy the will to power, but construction is more difficult as a rule, and therefore gives more satisfaction to the person who can achieve it." Bertrand Russel

I encourage you all to go out and play. Create something that transcends the day to day. You can do it!

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

Christina Blum  
[president@conwayleagueofartists.com](mailto:president@conwayleagueofartists.com)

### Contact Us

**Linda Hoff** [newsletter@conwayleagueofartists.com](mailto:newsletter@conwayleagueofartists.com)  
[membership@conwayleagueofartists.com](mailto:membership@conwayleagueofartists.com)

[showchair@conwayleagueofartists.com](mailto:showchair@conwayleagueofartists.com)  
[info@conwayleagueofartists.com](mailto:info@conwayleagueofartists.com)  
[events@conwayleagueofartists.com](mailto:events@conwayleagueofartists.com)



# ART OF THE MONTH



Bring your ready to hang artwork to a meeting for an opportunity to have it displayed in town.



## Around TOWN

### Members featured at Windgate Museum



Two of our members are featured at the Windgate Museum of Art January 21 - May 18th. Check website for more information. <https://www.windgatemuseum.org/>

### Figure drawing classes at A/MFA



Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts is having drop-in figure drawing classes in April and May. <https://arkmfa.org/learn/art-school/adult-classes-spring/>

### Nominate Artists for the CAFTA Awards



It is time to nominate artists in the area for their work! The Conway Alliance for the Arts are currently accepting nominations through a form on the website: <https://conwayarts.org/artsawards/>.

Conway Alliance for the Arts (CAFTA) will hold its **annual Arts Awards** on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Faulkner County Library, located at 1900 Tyler Street in Conway. This free event is expected to run until 8 p.m., with light refreshments provided

### Watercolor Classes at the Library



Christina Blum is providing basic watercolor classes at the Faulkner County Library Thursday mornings at 10:30 for more information check the Faulkner County Library website <https://fcl.libnet.info/events?>

### April Conway Art Walk



Visit 1100 Oak Street in downtown Conway, AR on 1st Fridays from 5-8pm to enjoy local art, music, food, & performers! Upcoming Events: March - November, 2025



# SPRING SHOW



artist Susan Peterson



## ArtVerse

### Conway League of Artists 2025 Spring Show

May 1st - June 9th at Faulkner County Library

All entries will have an opportunity to be published in a special edition of *Slant* Magazine

We are excited to announce that one of our featured poets this year is **Suzanne Underwood Rhodes**, the current Poet Laureate of Arkansas

We invite artists to enter up to three pieces. Each piece should be inspired by a work of poetry found on our website.



### Important Dates

- **Online entries open**
  - Tuesday April 1st
- **Online submission closes**
  - Tuesday April 29th
- **Drop off artwork**
  - April 30th 3:00PM to 6:00 PM
- **Artist Reception & Poetry Reading**
  - Monday May 12th
- **Pick up artwork**
  - Monday June 9th



### Our Featured Poets



**Suzanne Underwood Rhodes** is a native of New York; she now lives in Fayetteville and has published several poetry collections. Her poems appear regularly in journals and anthologies. In 2024, she won first prize in the annual Sybil Nash Poetry Contest sponsored by the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, and in March 2025 she will be honored with the Governor's Arts Award for an Individual Artist in the Natural State.

**Michael Blanchard** is an Arkansas poet, teacher, editor, and event organizer who relishes the balance of roles as an artist and advocate, teacher and mentor, promoter and performer. Recent publications include *The Pearl Diver's Daughter & Other Poems* (2023), a collection of 45 poems which an editor of *Southern Literary Review* described as "finely crafted and inventive" and "layered and lyrical."



Michelle Stoll



James Fowler



Paulette Guerin



Marie Kressin



Christopher Fettes

### POETS AT LARGE

For more info visit [conwayleagueofartists.com](https://conwayleagueofartists.com)

Drop off for the Spring Show is April 30th. You can register when you drop off your work or online anytime before the 30th.

Exciting news! Michael Blanchard, the editor of the online Poetry magazine "Slant" will be publishing a special edition that will feature the winning artwork from the show. What a great opportunity!

We will also have 1st (\$100), 2nd(\$75), 3rd (\$50), and an honorable mention award in each of three categories.

- Poems by Susanne Underwood Rhodes
- Poems by Michael Blanchard
- Poems by one of our Poets at Large

For information on the poems, copy and paste this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/conwayartpoems> into your browser to view the document.



# SPRING SHOW SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**CLA is excited to announce a \$500 purchase award for the Spring show!**

When members drop off their work Wednesday April 30th, they will be asked if they would like their work to be eligible for the purchase award. If your work is eligible you are agreeing to sell your work for \$500 no matter what price is listed on the piece. Items that are not for sale are not eligible for this award.

The purchase award will be in addition to 1st (\$100), 2nd(\$75), 3rd (\$50), and an honorable mention award in each of three categories.

Poems by Susanne Underwood Rhodes

Poems by Michael Blanchard

Poems by one of our Poets at Large

The online Poetry magazine "Slant" will be publishing a special edition featuring work from the show!





# CLA IN ACTION



Several members took work to Fairfield Bay to be displayed at the Conference Center



## CLA Spring Field Trip

Had our first quarterly "outing" of 2025 Saturday 3/29. We spent the day visiting art galleries in Little Rock. We made it to The Art Group Gallery, Gallery 26, and M2. We literally saw all types of art - some of it incredibly imaginative - all of it inspiring. And enjoyed meeting the gallery owners and employees - all gracious and so informative. And, of course, we also managed to fit in a yummy lunch at Cheers in the Heights and ice cream at Loblolly:) - quote from Mary Hicks



### Special Thanks

*Thank you to Susan Peterson and Pam Crowell for the snacks at the April meeting!*

*Guess The Artist is Shirley Bowen and Christina Blum*