

Mailing Address
 P.O Box 3403
 Galveston, Texas 77552
 Galveston
 409.621.1008

The NEWS BRUSH

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Strokes and Dabs Message from our President

Margo Donaldson Snider



The spring juried show scheduled for June will be here before we know it. I want to alert you that during this show the President's Award will be selected from music-themed art entries. This award is a purchase award which means the recipient receives \$500 and the art becomes the property of the Galveston Art League. GAL will raffle the artwork at a later date. This is the second year for the award and, if you remember last year, Fontaine Jacobs was the recipient. Her watercolor "Brass Section" was the winner and was displayed at the gallery until it was raffled at the December ArtWalk. I hope you all are remembering a musical event that will inspire you to produce the winning selection this year.

Each year I am delighted to recognize the outstanding volunteers for GAL. We have set the date for this year's event for May 16. In my view

all volunteers are outstanding but for this event we use the data from the sign-in log. If you did not sign in when you worked, obviously you will not get credit for the hours contributed.

The celebration this year will be with chocolate and champagne. The event will be held at the gallery. Cost to attend this event \$10--so go to the website and sign up. It is always a fun filled evening when we get to share stories with colleagues.

I look forward to seeing you on May 16.

Margo

MARIE RAGONE EXHIBIT AT GALLERY IN APRIL

The story behind the special Marie Ragone exhibit at the GAL gallery begins in 1611 when a Roman marble statue of either a gladiator or a warrior was exhumed from a dig near Rome. That statue is now in the Louvre.

However, at some point plaster copies were made, one of the whole statue and the other a bust of the head and shoulders. One of the late 19th century copies of the bust made its way to the studio of Paul R. Schumann, one of Galveston leading artists and a fervent supporter of the Galveston Art League.

Schumann gave the bust to Marie Ragone, one of his favorite pupils (and also active in GAL). She, in turn, gave it to one of her students. That student left it to her daughter, Kathy Magers. In late 2025, Kathy contacted GAL about exhibiting the bust and other artworks by Ragone as an important piece of Galveston's art history, and we agreed.

Thanks to Kathy and GAL members, the bust will be on exhibit through April 26th. The show includes the bust, a photo of Schumann in his gallery seated next to the bust, and a photo of Ragone and her portrait of Schumann. From there, the exhibit follows Ragone with examples of her work and a photo of her and her students. For those of you who are admirers of the painting by the late Gay Paratore, she was one of Marie's students for over twenty years. We are hoping to discover more about Ragone's history and other examples of her painting (and she was also a teacher and photographer) as a result of this exhibit.

Ragone is best known for her murals in the Balinese Room, a famous (and infamous) nightclub on a pier that jutted out into the Gulf. There are examples of those murals and paintings of the Balinese included in the exhibit, including a photo of what was left of the club and Marie's murals after Hurricane Ike.



APRIL FEATURED ARTIST

DAVID WHEELER

David Wheeler is a native of Texas City and a graduate of University of Houston. David has been painting since he was a child. He enjoys all aspects of art and has taken painting holidays in France and Italy. Currently, David teaches oil painting at College of the Mainland in the Life-Long Learning program.

David continues to study with other instructors because learning never stops. A former teacher always said, “Art isn’t about being good, art is about having fun.” If you enjoy what you do, you are a great artist.



MAY FEATURED ARTIST

BRIDGET DE FLORA



Like many artists, I knew early on that the visual appealed to me and excited me more than any of my other senses. So, all through my life, beginning with "How to Draw" books up to the fascinating workshops so readily available in Texas, I gobbled up all the inspiration and skill anyone was willing to share.

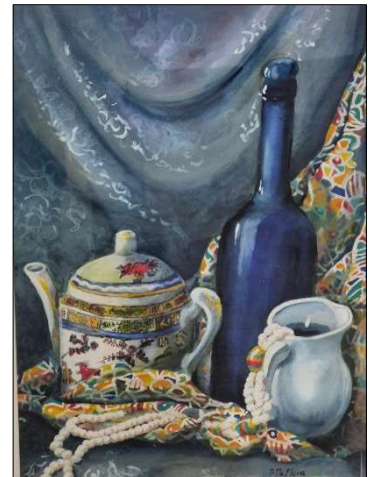
I wish I could say it was a straight line from there to here, but life happened and I'm glad it did! I went to school, married, worked and had children with the predictable result that free time disappeared. But then fate stepped in and we moved to Houston just as our youngest turned five. That meant kindergarten for

him and some free time for me! Most importantly, this happened in a part of the country which was full of great artists who were very generous in sharing their knowledge and skill. I joined many art groups and attended demonstrations and workshops where I discovered watercolors and all they could do. As I watched the watercolors mingle and blend, I fell in love with the beauty and versatility of the medium.

I tried everything presented. Some took, some didn't, but I learned from each and am still open to experimenting and trying to improve. That is because, for me, the greatest beauty of all is that there is no "end point" where I will "arrive". There is always a path going forward to new and exciting discoveries.

I am learning to look and really see the world around me differently. To see relationships and not just people, to see, not just grey but all the other colors that are a part of it, and to see not just objects but instead odd and different shapes. To be able to express it and share it with others through placing watercolor using a variety of methods on many different surfaces is my goal.

Today, that five-year-old is forty-two (still not going to tell my age) and I would like to share with you some of the visual excitement I have found in the world around me.



Scenes from Featured Artist Reception



2026 Winter Juried Show



Best of Show

And I Took the One Less Traveled
 watercolor
 Maureen Lewis

Judge

Amanda Barry Jones

Amanda Jones is an award-winning artist specializing in ceramics. She currently serves as head of the Visual Arts Department and Gallery at Galveston College. She holds a BFA in Ceramics from Lamar University and an MFA in Sculpture and Ceramics from Houston Christian University.

3-D

First Place

Russell Mai

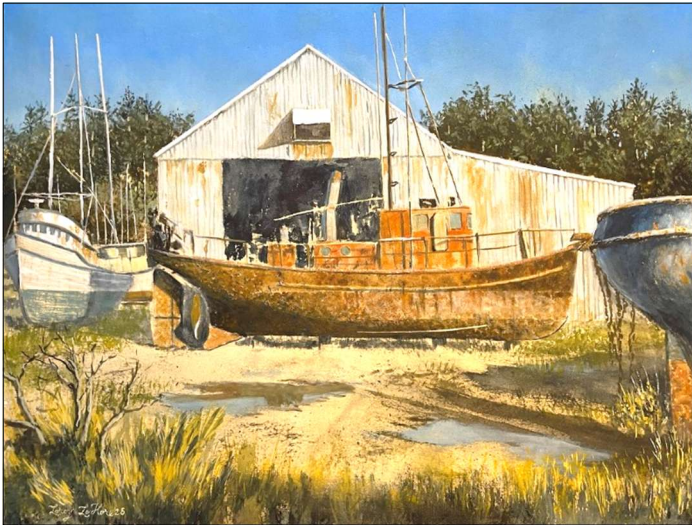
Stegamosaurus

Second Place

Billie VanDeBerghe

Under the Sea





Works on Paper

First Place

Leroy LeFlore *Old Red*

Second Place

Sandra Cornwall *Mom's Patio*

Honorable Mention

Jackie Liddell *Snow Shine*

Jackie Liddell *Phenomenon*

Dianne Duggan *Iris Afterimage*

Marsha Krohn *Bird on a Branch*

Mixed Media

First Place

Paula Freeman *Bad Hair Day*

Second Place

Suzette Tardif *Spring Migration at
Dos Vacas Muertas*

Honorable Mention

Karen Rees *Woman with Glasses*

Karen Rees *Sun Worshipers*



Photography

First Place

Stephen Rassenfoss *Feather & Flow*

Second Place

Matt Logmann *The Way*

Honorable Mention

David Rives *Serenity*

Dianne Owen *Koi Polloi #2*

Pat Jakobi *Rain Lilies at Cemetery*

Works on Canvas/Panel	
First Place	
Ray Poquette	<i>Memories</i>
Second Place	
Jorge Fajardo	<i>Paradise Pass</i>
Honorable Mention	
Robert McBride	<i>Erykah Badu</i>
Barbara Kremenezky	<i>Contained</i>



Digital	
Honorable Mention	
Mark Myers	<i>Forgotten Ceremonies</i> <i>Remembered</i>

NAMES IN THE NEWS

GAL member **Julie Chapa** was a Featured Photographer at the annual Texas Photography Festival, held on March 21, 2026, in Georgetown, Texas. She exhibited twelve of her top images captured over the past decade. Her photo exhibit featured a collection of landscapes, architectural scenes, and Julie's favorite subject—birds.

The festival experienced record attendance, providing Julie opportunities to engage with a wide range of photographers, from enthusiastic beginners to seasoned professionals.



GAL member photographers recently shared their talents and time with residents of newly opened Agape Village, a non-profit facility for low-income mothers and children. **Becky Webster, Chris Torres, Steve Dudley, David Rives, Tracy Mathis, and Gaylynn Naiser** teamed up to photograph six families at the facility. Each family subsequently received baskets containing family portraits in the form of two 8"x10" framed photos and ten 4"x6" photos. The baskets also included extra treats: \$25 gift cards and Easter candy.

Citgo, a major sponsor of the Galveston Island non-profit Artist Boat, purchased one of the 3 foot diameter soccer ball from the FIFA World Cup 26 Houston Host Committee distributed as part of their "Art of Soccer" campaign. Dozens of these soccer balls will be on display throughout the Houston/Galveston region.

The Artist Boat asked GAL's **Leroy LeFlore** for assistance. Leroy volunteered for the job. The ball pictured here will be displayed in Houston, location to be announced. It will eventually reside permanently with the Artist Boat at an island location.



Peggy Marie Bryan

March 18, 1931 – February 8, 2026

Peggy Bryan was born in Nashville, Tennessee, to Maxie Elva and Carl Marks Graham. She graduated from George Peabody College for Teachers and was an art teacher in schools in Tennessee and Maryland before moving to Galveston. A celebrated watercolor artist, she was mostly self-taught but did study with noted watercolor artists such as Edward Bett, Edgar Whitney, and Robert E. Wood.

Peggy Bryan was an active member of the Galveston Art League from 1970 until the late 1990s. From 1971 to 1983 she taught painting classes for children and adults and was active in Art League events including the annual Art and Fashion Shows at Nathan's, the annual juried exhibitions, the Fire Prevention Poster Contest, student art shows, and Old Time Bargain Days. Mrs. Bryan also served as on the board as recording secretary and vice president.

Peggy was a celebrated watercolor artist and a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was preceded in death by her sister, Mildred Graham, and reunited with her beloved husband, Dr. George T. Bryan. She is survived by her children, Ralph Bryan and Janice Longoria, as well as five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with one more on the way. In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to the George T. Bryan Scholars Endowment Fund at UTMB Galveston through the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, or to the Macular Degeneration Association.

This is from the 100 anniversary book (updated)

Peggy M. Bryan (1931- 2026) is a graduate of George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee. As an artist, she is mostly self-taught, but studied with noted watercolor artists such as Edward Betts, Edgar Whitney, and Robert E. Wood. She was an active participant in the Art League from 1970 until the late 1990s when she and her husband, George T. Bryan, M.D., Dean of Medicine and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Texas Medical Branch, moved to Sandia Park, New Mexico. Peggy Bryan was an art teacher in the Tennessee and Maryland public school systems before moving to Galveston. From 1971-1983, she taught painting classes for children and adults, specializing in watercolor painting. She was active in Art League events, including the annual Art and Fashion Shows at Nathan's, the annual juried exhibitions, the Fire Prevention Poster Contest, student art shows, and Old Time Bargain Days.

Peggy also served on the board as recording secretary and vice president. As a watercolor artist, she received awards in juried exhibitions, both locally and nationally, including Art League juried shows, Texas Watercolor Society, Watercolor Art Society Houston, Baytown Annual Exhibition, Adirondack National Exhibition of American Watercolors, International Society of Artists, West Texas Watercolor Association, and Southwestern Watercolor Society. She was elected into the American Watercolor Society in 1979 and was selected to exhibit in their annual traveling show. Bryan is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, Texas Watercolor Society, and Southwestern Watercolor Society. Her work is represented in corporate, museum, university, and private collections. In 2014, she left New Mexico and now lives in Dickinson, Texas.



The Quandary of Originality

Leroy LeFlore

Norman Rockwell needs no introduction. And if Norman Rockwell were alive today, and if he were to submit a painting into one of our juried shows, we would be stunned beyond belief! But would it meet our criteria for originality which, as stated in our prospectus, must be “original work of the artist who physically integrates/manipulates every component of the original concept and design.”



Michaelangelo’s “Prophet Isaiah” (a component of the Sistine Chapel ceiling paintings) is placed side by side with Norman Rockwell’s take on “Rosie the Riveter.” The allegorical character “Rosie the Riveter” came from a song and was made into an iconic image by a J. Howard Miller poster from the WWII era with the headline of “We can do it!” So, the concept is not original and the design is not original.

Here is the quandary. Norman Rockwell’s conceptual leap of turning an early sixteenth century Michelangelo masterpiece into an arousing theme to suit the times is very original. The attitude of Rockwell’s character is a diversion from the character of Michaelangelo’s Isaiah. Even the poses, as similar as they may be, communicate different messages.

Whether it be the visual arts, performance art, literature or music, originality rarely is the brainchild of a single individual. The great stage sensation “West Side Story” is a take on Shakespear’s “Romeo and Juliet” whose theme certainly didn’t spring new-born out of Shakespear’s head. The rock group “Led Zeppelin” was sued for borrowing another musician’s musical phrase in the acoustic guitar opening of one of their biggest hits: “Stairway to Heaven.” In court it was proven that that musical phrase was in use since the Middle Ages of European culture. The case was thrown out of court!

Here is a painting everyone should be familiar with.



Ha ha! Fooled you! This is not Rembrandt's "Night Watch." This is a copy done a few years later by an artist named Gerrit Lundens. The original "Night Watch" was cropped on three sides so as to geometrically fit in a certain location. The cropped pieces are lost. But we know what the original, uncropped painting looked like because of this copy. Here is Rembrandt's "Night Watch."



By the way, the little dog, on the right, appearing to bark at the drummer? It is suspected that Rembrandt borrowed that detail from a popular sketch of the time by another artist!

MARINE DEBRIS ART CONTEST

Once again, the Galveston Art League Gallery hosted the display of selected art pieces entered in the annual Artist Boat's Marine Debris Art Contest. Participants created art pieces from marine debris. Entries were judged on both artistic merit and portraying the effects aquatic trash on ocean life. GAL member **Leroy LeFlore** was the judge. Selected works were on display at the gallery during the month of January. Awards were announced at a reception on January 24.



OUTDOOR PAINTERS SOCIETY 3-DAY PLEIN AIR WORKSHOP BILL DAVIDSON

The Outdoor Painters Society will be painting in Galveston from May 3 – 9. They will hold an exposition on May 9 at Ashton Villa. Among planned activities is a three-day workshop featuring California artist Bill Davidson, OPA, AIS, LPAPA. The workshop will be held May 5-7. For more information or to register go to outdoorpainterssociety.com.



www.billdavidson.biz

AN EXCITING CONTEST!

GAL vice president Pat Jakobi took this photo during the hanging of the April member show. Like all of Pat's photos, it tells a story. But what is that story? That's for you to decide. When you have thought about your story, you can complete the job by coming up with the caption for the photo. Write down your caption for the photo and send it via email to gallery2117@gmail.com. Please put "caption entry" on the subject line. Deadline for submission is April 20. The winner will be selected by an impartial panel of soon-to-be appointed-judges and announced via a membership-wide email. The GAL member submitting the winning title will receive a framed and signed copy of the photo AND a FREE GLASS of WINE at the ArtWalk of choice. Get your imaginations working!



YOUR ARTWORK CAN BE SOLD THROUGH THE GALLERY AND THE WEB!

Fontaine Jacobs

With our newly designed website you can showcase your work and sell it online. Those who send work to be posted on the web can direct potential clients to galvestonartleague.com each month for a possible purchase. It worked for me and it can work for you. I sold *Blue Face Iguana* for \$1000, you guessed it, right off the website.

The web is responsive so it will work on any platform (desktop, phone, iPad, PC, and Mac). It will also be controlled by a database, thus reducing errors. This gives the site better rankings on Google and allow us to have a much more sophisticated shopping cart for the purchase of art, workshops, and ticket sales.

BETTER IMAGES TO SHOWCASE YOUR WORK

Clickable images are much larger than before and other examples of your work are featured on the site. This is the perfect site for you to showcase your work. I advertise my work online through Facebook each month to increase my chances of sales and you, too, can as well. Thanks to those of you who submit your images. Currently only about 30-50% do. I encourage more of you to do this as it will result in a better image of your work on the site.

FILE NAMING NEEDS TO MATCH THE DATABASE

File naming is important. So that the database can properly translate your file names and match them to the images on Dropbox, you should rename your files with the following: First Name Last Name Title of Work.jpeg

That means:

No underscores

No punctuation such as periods or commas

No special characters such as ~ ! @ # \$ % ^ & * () ? > <

AND

You Must Use Initial Caps for the First Letter of Each Major Word. Using the same painting name or similar name may cause the wrong image to appear online. Be creative—**Use a different name for each painting.**

Email the image with its new title and actual size to gallery2117@gmail.com by midnight the day of changeover in a member show and by midnight the day after notifications go out for a juried show. Thank you all for helping the new and improved site run smoothly.

IF YOU DON'T SEND YOUR IMAGES PEOPLE WILL NOT SEE YOUR WORK AND YOU WON'T SELL YOUR WORK ON THE WEB!! SEND YOUR IMAGES.

2026 CALENDAR

April 2026	Featured Artist: David Wheeler 11 – ArtWalk 27 – Changeover for May member show
May 2026	Featured Artist: Bridget DeFlora 09 – ArtWalk 25 – Changeover for June Juried Show 29 – Juried Show Awards Reception, 6:00 - 7:30
June 2026	Juried Show 13 - ArtWalk 29 – changeover for July member show
July 2026	Featured Artist: Susan Pinkerton 11 – ArtWalk 27 – Changeover for August member show
August 2026	Featured Artist: Dot Alford 08 – ArtWalk 31 – Changeover for September member show
September 2026	Featured Artist: Doug Booker 12 – ArtWalk 28 – Changeover for October Juried Show
October 2026	Juried Show 02 – Juried Show Reception 6:00 – 7:30 pm 10 – ArtWalk 26 – Changeover for November member show
November 2026	Featured Artist: Sara Nygard 14 – ArtWalk 30 – Changeover for December member show
December 2026	Featured Artist: 12 – ArtWalk 28 – Changeover for January 2027 member show
Check out your MailChimp emails, visit GalvestonArtLeague.com, and read future issues of <i>The NewsBrush</i> for updates.	