



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S EASEL Mary Boeh

Spring is kicking in and I hope you are enjoying the emerging colors!

Our Spring meeting is April 20th at the the [Gary J. Arthur Community Center, Howard County, MD](#). Karen Margulis will be our guest artist. Karen is a full-time artist and art educator. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia and teaches workshops all over the world and on-line via Patreon. Karen is best known for her landscapes, but if you browse through her blog archive, you will find that she paints a variety of subjects. If you are not familiar with Karen's blog "[Painting My World](#)," check it out. She shares examples of her work, art tips, and inspirations.

Please check our [website](#) to stay current on upcoming activities. We have been experiencing problems with our present email platform, and we are aware that some members do not always receive our newsletters and email updates. The calendar on our website lists dates when the newsletter will be published. If you do not receive it, please notify our [newsletter editor](#). We also post our newsletters so you can always find the latest news there.

Heads-up! Planning is underway for our ALL Members (MPS Members Only) juried exhibition, to be held at the Kentlands Mansion in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The call for entries will come out later this spring, so be sure to check the [web page](#) for news.

Volunteers—Do you enjoy taking workshops? We need a new Workshop Coordinator to plan and organize workshops. We are fortunate to have volunteers who are glad to help find venues and assist with workshops, but we need someone to take on the leadership role. Please contact us if you want to serve in this position.

Mary

FEATURED ARTIST Stephanie Brown

Stephanie Brown is a largely self-taught pastelist who left a career in the legal profession to pursue art seriously. After dabbling in watercolors for several years, primarily focusing on still life and floral subjects, she picked up pastels in 2021 and never looked back. The change of medium also coincided with a move from California to Pennsylvania, which ignited a love for the landscape and a newfound enjoyment of painting plein air.





"Andora Gold"

Stephanie has recently enrolled at Studio Incamminati, an atelier in Philadelphia, PA, and is now studying there part-time. Feeling the need for a more formal education in representational art, she is grateful for this opportunity to study with contemporary masters trained by the school's founder, Nelson Shanks. Though the curriculum at Incamminati primarily focuses on the figure and still life, she is still painting her beloved landscapes on her own time.



"Blue Sky Day"



"Golden Rod, Golden Hour"

Stephanie explains, "I typically start each painting with a value study in charcoal and white pastel on toned paper in order to work out the composition and think carefully about big shapes and value masses. Sometimes I skip this step, but I almost always regret it when I do—I find compositional mistakes are the hardest ones for me to recover from."

"I like to explore and try different approaches. Sometimes I'll start with a wet underpainting (acrylic ink is my favorite), or I might use PanPastels for a soft and dreamy look, or I'll skip the underpainting entirely if I'm working on a toned surface and want to use the paper color to my advantage. When painting in the studio I typically switch between Pastelmat, LuxArchival and UArt. When painting plein air I prefer La Carte, which responds well to a direct approach."



"Yellow Radiance"



"In Full Bloom"

"I am very inspired by the natural world. I especially love painting plein air—there's just something about being outside, feeling the breeze and listening to the birds sing (and chatting with the occasional runner or hiker who stops by). My still lifes and florals are often painted from life using natural light, so it's more common for me to paint them in the spring and summer, when the days are longer. In the fall and winter I paint landscapes almost exclusively."

"Right now I'm in a period of transition. I'm learning new techniques and approaches through my classes at Studio Incamminati, and the figure is an entirely new subject for me. We're also moving into oil painting now, a medium I've been excited to learn. But I plan to continue painting in pastel as well—there's just nothing quite like it."



"Left Out"

Stephanie is a Signature member of the Maryland Pastel Society, the Philadelphia Pastel Society, and the Pastel Society of America. You can see more of her work on her website, stephaniejeanbrown.com.

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING: April 20th with Karen Margulis

Mark your calendars and join us at the Spring 2024 Members Meeting, Saturday, April 20th at Noon.

**Held at the Gary J Arthur Community Center in Howard County.
2400 MD 97, Glenwood, MD 21723 and on Zoom**

Karen Margulis will be our guest demonstrator. She considers herself a contemporary landscape painter. She works in most painting media but has received much recognition for her pastel paintings. She has exhibited her award winning work around the world and has been published in

Pastel Journal for her wildflower and landscape paintings. She is a Signature member of the Pastel Society of America (PSA) and a Masters Circle recipient of the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS). She has also been a faculty member at the prestigious IAPS Conventions. Visit <https://www.karenmargulis.com/>.



"Dreaming In Color" by Karen Margulis

A Zoom invitation will be sent out before the meeting. If you will be attending in-person, you may opt to bring a piece of art to show and a snack to share to have a chance to win a doorprize.

MPS now has a YouTube channel: [@marylandpastelsociety](#)

There is one public video there...Awards from our biennial 2023 Shades of Pastel exhibit, "The Language of Pastels ."

We also have private videos of demos from our meetings available only to our members who have the associated link.

UPCOMING MPS EXHIBITIONS

ALL MEMBERS JURIED EXHIBITION

July 31—October 1, 2024

Kentlands Mansion, Gaithersburg

This exhibition will be open to ALL MPS MEMBERS (Artist and Signature)

The schedule and prospectus will be posted after our Spring general meeting.

SIGNATURE MEMBERS ONLY EXHIBITION

September 2024

Tish Fine Art Plus Gallery, Chestertown

343 High St, Chestertown, MD 21620

Details to follow.

NOTE: It's a good idea to get into the habit of checking online juried shows (OLJS) [HERE](#) and ShowSubmit [HERE](#) on a regular basis to see what other exhibits besides MPS are offered for you to enter your work. Opportunities are also listed on our website [HERE](#).

OTHER CALLS FOR ENTRY

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Now—August 30th, 2024

The deadline for entry to the juried show is August 30th, 2024

The Lancaster County Art Association is hosting this



show Saturday, October 12th, 2024, 9am—4pm at the Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, PA. Go to www.lcaaonline.org for the prospectus and other information.

CALL FOR ARTISTS March 15th—May 15th, 2024!

Plein air painters are invited to apply for a position in the **10th Annual Harford Plein Air Festival**. This year's Entry Juror is [Dr. Jacalyn Beam](#). Details are available at [Harford Plein Air Festival](#).



UPCOMING MPS WORKSHOPS

Spring 3–Day Workshop, Ellicott City

Karen Margulis “Paint with More Expression: How to Loosen Up and Interpret you References ”

April 17—19, 2024 Fee: \$390

THIS WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL. Please contact us to be added to the waiting list.

Summer 2–Day Workshop, Gettysburg, Pa.

Stephie Clark “Painting Florals”

June 26—27, 2024

THIS WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL. Please contact us to be added to the waiting list.

Fall 3–Day Workshop, Ellicott City

Jeanne Rosier Smith “Composing Landscape: Plein Air to Studio”

October 16—18, 2024

In the fall, [Jeanne Rosier Smith returns to Maryland for a 3-day workshop](#)

Registration for this workshop will open in mid-late Summer.

OTHER WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring the Spirit of Place: Florence, Italy

Loriann Signori with Artensity

September 24—October 2, 2024

The ancients believed that everything is inhabited by its own spirit—the genius loci. It's the entity residing in a site and energizing it. Florence and its environs is the perfect place to begin to explore the connection between nature and the spirit of place. Steeped in history and wonder, Italy sings her soul. With a curious eye we will explore our muse.

Let me guide you into a deeper understanding of what it means to paint the spirit of a place. This workshop is a mix between outdoor discovery and studio exploration. We will paint in various places, create a series of paintings and involve ourselves in a written component that will help us know our thoughts. Deeper exploration can happen when you just listen to your heart and allow yourself to be guided by the soul of place. Be ready for spontaneity, adventure and opening your senses to beauty that is everywhere. In addition, there will be a studio component where we will learn how to move towards finished

paintings. So much to soak in—beauty, painting, adventure, and amazing food sponsored by the Artensity group. Join me as we enjoy a heavenly Italian experience. For questions contact Debra at artensityworkshops@gmail.com or sign up at <https://www.artensity.org/loriannsignori>



"Binnie" by Diane Rappisi

Structural Portrait Workshop
April 15-18, 2024
Diane Rappisi Fine Art Studio,
Chestertown, MD

To help build stronger portraits, this workshop takes an in-depth look at the form and features of the human head.

More information about workshops can be found here: [Diane Rappisi - Page - 2024 Spring/Summer Workshop Schedule \(rappisiart.com\)](#). (Workshops typically run for 2-4 consecutive days instead of weekly, allowing for a more immersive experience and ease of travel.)

NEWS FROM MPS MEMBERS



Loriann Signori's painting, "Winter Twilight" won First Place in the abstract division of the exhibition, "Pastel 100" featured annually in *Pastel Journal*.



Joan Dreicer's painting "Things are Looking Up" was juried in as a finalist in the Richeson75 International Small Works Exhibit. This piece is hanging at the Richeson School of Art and Gallery in Kimberly WI.



"Snow Day" by Joan Dreicer

In the same competition, she also received an Award of Merit for her painting, "Snow Day".



"Salt & Pepper" by Diane Rappisi

Diane Rappisi was honored to be accepted into the Oxford Fine Art Show, Oxford Community Center, Oxford, MD, for the second consecutive year. This year's event will run from May 17th through May 19th, and she will have a number of new pieces available for purchase. For more information about the Show, please see: 2024 Oxford Fine Arts at oxfordcc.org



"Cute Little Shop in Eze" by Bob Walter

Bob Walter's painting, "Cute Little Shop in Eze" was juried into the Philadelphia Pastel Society's 2024 Juried Members Exhibition. It was held at the Henry Gallery, Penn State Great Valley campus, Conference Center Building, 2nd Floor, 30 E. Swedesford Rd., Malvern, PA. The show was open January 18th through March 15th.



"Jerusalem Mill Garden Sol 4:16" by Denise Matuk-Kroupa

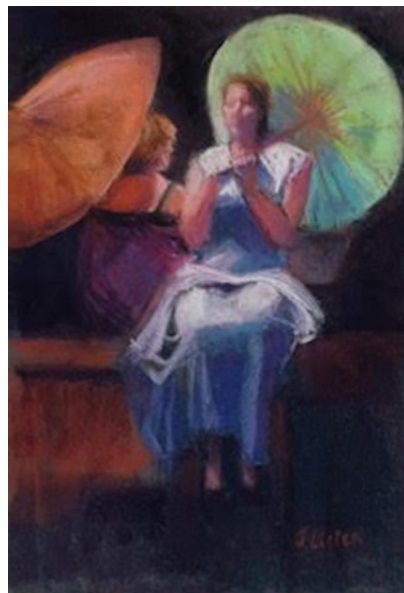
Denise Matuk-Kroupa will be included in a group exhibit with 2 other artists during April thru May. The exhibit will be held at the Jerusalem Mill McCartney's General Store. The exhibit will include 7 pastel paintings and one acrylic. The works are accomplished plein air paintings from the surrounding Gunpowder area.



"Fresh Spring Greens" by Denise Matuk-Kroupa

Also, Denise was juried into the Laurel Art Guild 55th Exhibition. Her pastel painting "Fresh Spring Greens" was one of 60 selected from 248 entries. The exhibit is open to the public at the Montpelier Arts Center and runs from April 17th through May 27th. The reception and awards presentation take place on Sunday, April 21st from 1—3pm.

Joyce Lister will have two paintings in the Columbia Art Center's 2024 Blossoms of Hope Annual Theme Invitational Show, on exhibit April 12th through May 4th, 2024. The goal of this annual exhibition is to help raise awareness for the Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center at Howard County General Hospital. The theme of this year's exhibit is "Courage Unfolding Through Dark and Light". One of the two paintings is "Parasol Girls", (16x12"). The opening reception is Friday, April 12th, from 6—8pm.



"Parasol Girls" by Joyce Lister (16" x 12")



Joanne Lamm is participating in "DC ARTOMATIC," room 7064, with pastel and oil paintings of "Spacescapes" inspired by Webb-Hubble telescope



Carol Wilk's painting of a child with baby ducks is one of four pastel paintings juried into "Art At The Mill" in Millwood, Virginia. The show runs from April 20th through May 5th.



Cheryl Clymer shares; "This just came off my easel this afternoon and I haven't even signed it! Various soft pastels on Anthracite Pastelmat. I will title it "Wildthing".



Kim Stone's painting "Remembrance" won the Dick Blick Award in the Philadelphia Pastel Society's 2024 Juried Members' Exhibition held in the Henry Gallery in Malvern, PA from January 16th through March 15th, 2024. She has also been awarded Signature status with PPS.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Currently there are 201 MPS members.

There are 91 Signature members and 110 Artist members.

MPS welcomes these new Members:

Kathleen Tynan

Nicole Kinzel

Deborah Braughler

Mary Scuka

Dawn Maloney

Lynn James

Paula Brown

Sara Mckelvey

Kathleen Ryan

Rebecca Kookan

Phyllis Donnelly

Paulette Hackman

Nick Myers

Cate McKissick

Evelyn Baskin

Sara Hamilton

To apply for **Signature Membership**, visit our MPS website [HERE](#) for details.
The next deadline to apply is June 9th, 2024.

CLASSES OFFERED BY SIGNATURE MEMBERS

Loriann Signori will be holding some upcoming classes and workshops:

IAPS Convention workshop: "Synchronicity: Skill plus Taking Risks," June 13—14, 2024

Dakota Pastels workshop: "Finding the Marvelous in the Mundane," July 22—26, 2024

Class in Italy, "Artensity," September 26—October 4, 2024

Contact Loriann for details at <https://loriann.fineartstudioonline.com/>

Donna Mitchell offers private lessons in beginner or advanced pastel painting in her home studio in Carlisle, PA. For more information call 717-258-0459.

Joyce Lister is continuing to teach a pastel class via Zoom and it has been going well. Everyone enjoys the weekly homework challenges. At present, the class is full.

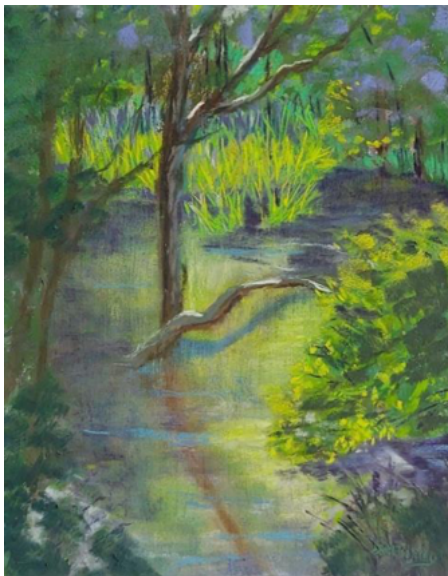
Kim Stone is teaching a six week class titled "Painting with Pastels" at the York Art Association, York, PA. April 10—May 15, 2024, Wednesdays, 1:00—4:00 pm. For more information visit yorkartassociation.org

FACEBOOK FUN

Join the Maryland Pastel Society Facebook Group!

This is a user friendly, members only page where we can post artwork, art news, and celebrate our fellow pastelists. This is not connected with our Business Facebook Page. Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/337479890605370> or search Maryland Pastel Society Facebook Group.

MPS now has an Instagram page. The address is @marylandpastelsociety.



"Tranquility" by **Donna Finley**

The MPS Facebook Members Group is holding **raffles** in 3-month sessions with **monthly themes**.

All MPS Members who enter by posting a painting with "raffle entry" in the post will be entered in a chance to win a \$25 gift e-card from one of our sponsors!

Each member is allowed 3 entries per raffle session. Please have a title and raffle entry written in the post.

Congratulations to MPS 2023 Spring Raffle winner, Donna Finley for her pastel painting, "Tranquility"!

PATRONS / SPONSORS

Maryland Pastel Society continues to thank our Patrons and sponsors.

We encourage you to patronize their businesses to thank them for pastels as a medium.

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artistsandframers.com

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greatpastels.com

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richesonart.com

Airfloat Systems, LLC
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Artist & Craftsman Supply
artistcraftsman.com

Connecticut Pastel Society
ctpastelsociety.org

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Terry Ludwig Pastels
terryludwig.com

**UART Premium
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uartpastelpaper.com

Strathmore Artist Papers
strathmoreartist.com

Philadelphia Pastel Society
philadelphiapastelsociety.org

To view a list of volunteers and MPS board members go to [Board](#). To see a complete calendar for the rest of 2024 visit [calendar](#).

PARTING THOUGHT

“To create one’s own world takes courage.” Georgia O’Keeffe

Maryland Pastel Society | P.O. Box 54, Riderwood, MD 21139

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