



The Art League of Germantown, Inc.
www.alog.org

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President's Message

April 2022

Dear Members,

This month, I would like to write a bit about how lucky we are to have BlackRock in our community and to have it as our organization's home base. With the exception of the nearly two years of the pandemic, we have held our meetings there every month since they opened in September 2002, and they have hosted two of our shows every year in the Kay gallery. In exchange, we have provided volunteers to help with the installations and receptions of their visual arts exhibits.

We should not take BlackRock for granted. I often find myself so wrapped up in my own work and projects, that I don't take advantage of their gallery as I should. It is only four miles away from my home, yet, admittedly, I now only get there once every month for our meetings. If the gallery is open, I have a look, but it is usually pretty empty, and I am preoccupied with having to soon run an ALOG meeting. They are always impressive shows.

Many of us have experienced having our own show and feeling like we could only get a few of our friends to show up. But, the biggest joy of having a solo show is meeting new people and experiencing their appreciation of the work you have created. Of course, I enjoy it when friends show up, but I have always found it especially rewarding when a stranger happens into the gallery and expresses how much they enjoyed my work.

Every month or so, BlackRock features an exciting new exhibit. What better way is there to support visual artists

than for all of us to show up and attend their receptions, meet the artists, and hear them speak about it. I personally pledge to stop taking this resource for granted. I will mark the reception dates on my calendar and making a point of attending. Wouldn't it be great if there was a large group of ALOG members at every reception, showing our support? Be sure to volunteer to work the reception, but if the slots are filled up, come anyways. I'm sure the artists would appreciate it. BlackRock would, too!

Please participate in our newsletter reading challenge! Go to <https://bit.ly/3sPeiG1> and answer a simple question taken from somewhere in this newsletter! From the responses, we will choose a random winner, who will receive a small token of appreciation. The drawing occurs on Tuesday, April 12 at 7 pm, so don't put it off! Last month, our winner was Ellen S.! (Board members cannot participate.)

Hope to see you soon!

Thom



Images from Our March Meeting Featuring Lucy Derickson - Instructor, Fine Jewelry & Metalsmith

April Meeting

By Carol Moore

Dear Members,

We will be holding our April 6, 2022 membership meeting both live at BlackRock and virtually on Zoom. BlackRock has a new mask requirement. Masks are a matter of preference, it is your decision whether to wear a mask at BlackRock. At this time, patrons and students 12 and older must provide proof of vaccination.

Our guest speaker will be presenting LIVE at BlackRock, if you are able, please attend the meeting in person to support our guest. She will be bringing many samples of works to look at live!

To join by Zoom, send an email to president@alog.org for details.

AGENDA

- **Our meeting begins at 7:15 pm** in the BlackRock Auditorium with ALOG announcements.
- **Monthly Featured ALOG Artist:** Kendra Biddick
- **Guest Artist Speaker:** Nancy Kamachaitis Walker | The Restless Artist
 - Fused Glass, Ceramics, Mandalas, Painting, Stained Glass, Multimedia & More!

About our Guest Speaker

Nancy Walker is a Multimedia Artist living in Eldersburg, MD. She is married, a mother and a grandmother. When she is not creating, she enjoys golf, bowling, and traveling. She has had a passion for creating art since a young girl and started taking painting lessons in third grade. She continued advanced art training through high school. Because she was a good student, she gravitated towards the sciences and worked to receive her BS in Laboratory Pathology from the University of Maryland Medical School. However, the call to learn and create took her back to college where she earned BAs in Illustration, Ceramics, Studio Painting, and a minor in Photography. With a lingering thirst for knowledge, she continued her education at ClayWorks in Baltimore, MD, Queen's Ink in Savage Mill, Md, and at Carroll County Community College. Nancy worked for many years in medical pathology before deciding to work as an artist full-time.

Her curiosity has taken her in many directions as an artist. She has made clay jewelry, polymer jewelry, handmade cards, ceramics, stained glass, mosaics, fused glass jewelry, mandala art, paintings, and multi-media art. She works from her home clay and mixed media studios. Nancy has taught workshops in clay, mosaics, stained glass, drawing, painting, and mixed media from her home,

Maryland Institute of Art, and the Carroll County Arts Council.

Nancy Walker exhibits her work at local craft fairs, the Carroll County Arts Council, and shops and galleries in the Baltimore area. Her newest endeavors are learning pyrography, gel plate printing, book making, and taking classes to improve her computer and social media skills.



Featured Artist - Kendra Biddick

By Carol Moore

Artist statement

I have been a fiber artist for about 10 years. I use embroidery on wet felting to create fiber paintings of both the energy in galaxies, and about my travels. I use my own travel photos as inspiration. My galaxy paintings are based on NASA photographs. In addition to felting and other fiber arts, I paint, draw using ink, pencil, charcoal, and pastel, and do block printing.

Bio

Alongside my careers as parent, librarian, teacher, and scientist I was actively exploring various art forms including a number of fiber arts, which gave me a vital outlet. Since retiring, I have taken up my journey as a serious artist, taking art classes at Montgomery College and branching out into figure drawing, printing, drawing, knitted wire, and painting, while continuing my major focus on felting.





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Sandra Bullock
"Apprentice"
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1st Floor - 20th Street





"Flower"

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Kordell 2021

Remembering Pina Greco-Scott

by Lynne Haussler Oakes

We are sad to let you know that long-time member Pina Greco-Scott has passed away on February 26 after a long illness. She was a faithful member for many years, participating in shows with her work as well as taking on being in charge of refreshments at both shows for a long stretch of time.

Her family always supported her involvement with ALOG, especially her husband Barry. I well remember her sweet grandchildren all dressed up to attend their grandmother's art shows.

Pina was not often in attendance in recent years, but came when she could. Those of us who knew her all those years will miss her sweet and cheerful presence. Pina always had a friendly smile and she loved painting and crafting.



Pina and her husband Barry in the early days of ALOG





Artlines

by Lynne Haussler Oakes

The Details

When you are painting or doing artwork of most any kind, the details are often what attracted you to the subject in the first place. But details are like putting jewelry on a plain dress! Without an appropriately beautiful dress, the jewelry (the details) are lost. You have to have a well-done foundation in place first. Good foundational work support the details. They don't make up for poorly done foundational painting!

But, even with that good base, the details, if done ineffectively, can ruin your work.

So here are some tips:

- Make sure that the details you put on something follows the perspective of that thing AND the tone changes in those things. This means that if you have painted a vase that is cylindrical, the décor around it needs to also follow the curving of it. If there is something that goes away from you, and there are details to put in, they must diminish in size and clarity as they go off into the distance. Regarding tone/value, be sure that you make what you have in the details echo the tone changes you have in the foundational items. Keep the illusion going!
- If there are words in your artwork, how you do them is important. Remember you are not doing an advertisement! So fudge them a bit so they don't jump out at the viewer. (We all tend to read words when they appear in an image which is why you need to soften them in a piece of fine art.) Here is where you can paint something in clearly and then after, while it is still wet you can soften it by blotting with a little sponge, or a soft brush.
- If something has a straight line (like sailboat masts in the distance) you can use a palette knife by putting a slim line of paint on the long edge and pressing it onto the painting.

I hope this is of help to you!

Contact Lynne at artlines@alog.org.

Remembering Fran Asbeck

Legendary Stained Glass Artist and Art League of Germantown Lifetime Member Fran Asbeck has died at the Age of 83, on February 7, 2022. His Memorial Mass can be viewed [here](#).

There was an additional remembrance received since the last newsletter and is included here.



The announcement in February about Fran was a shock, since I was looking forward to seeing him at the ALOG meetings once the situation went back to 'normal'.

I have known Fran for the better part of 25 years and lost a good friend, even though I did not see or interact with him all that regularly. As many ALOG members said, Fran initially came across as a crusty curmudgeon; but there was so much more beneath that gruff exterior: his poignant observations, dry sense-of-humor, and tenderness. All of that came across many times... Even after a brief conversation, something he said would stick with me.

Fran was kind and generous with his time. He and his wife came regularly to my Southwest travel slide shows and expressed interest in my travels and photography.

Fran was a master at his craft and created beautiful work. I have one of his panels that we collaborated on over 20 years ago. I remember the fun working with Fran on the design, the creative discussions we had about what could be done realistically from his craftsman's perspective, and his excitement about the types of glass that would set off the design. It was wonderful seeing the creation come to life, which is still gracing my kitchen window after so many years. I only wish I had done more projects with him.

The last time I saw Fran was in August 2020 when he repaired a glass lamp shade. Finding his home, that I visited before, was a challenge at that time due to the completely rearranged road system and new neighborhoods in Boyds. I became totally lost: GPS couldn't save me, and had me driving in circles ... Over the phone, Fran had to talk me in for the last mile ... all of this within a stone's throw from my home. Naturally, his sense of humor shined through during that phone conversation and visit.

Fran, you were a valuable part of ALOG and society as a whole, and we miss you.

- David McKeown



From the Drawing Board

By Bill Mapes

Last month I wrote about the Hood Portrait Group that I moderate at Hood College. It is one of a very few open art sessions that features the same model and pose for more than one week. Our group works in four-week sessions. I recently attended a similar group at the Howard County Art Center in Ellicott City where my good friend and excellent model Howard Smith is modeling for a five-week stint as a period golfer straight out of the F. Scott Fitzgerald "Great Gatsby" era. It is great fun and a wonderful creative adventure to draw and paint such a colorful and rich image. Unfortunately, this session also came with some sad news: The Arts Center has decided to cancel these weekly sessions due to lack of participation. The first week of the pose there were only two other artists plus myself, the moderator, and Howard our model. The second week we improved the attendance by two additional artists, but the low numbers just won't support this art endeavor. What a tragedy. To my knowledge, the Hood Portrait Group is now the only area open session that now features a model for extended weeks to finish a work of art. I am glad to report that the Hood group is working with its second model since returning from the pandemic break of many months and we have very good attendance thus far.

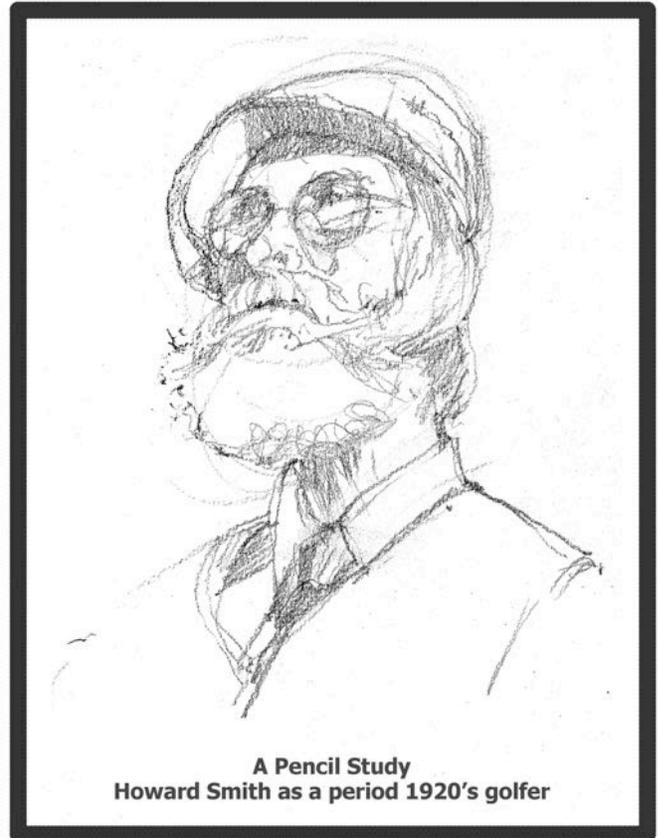
I have long advocated for this studio format so that a work can be thought through and brought to completion within ample time. Consistency of a longer-term project as well as working on a continual basis is one of the principles I advocate as an artist and instructor. I believe this format provide a greater learning curve than the more typical one model-one session format. Don't get me wrong, all these opportunities are valuable, I just think extended work on the same theme offers something extra and rewarding to the artist. On a personal note, many of my more successful submissions to exhibits over the years were products from the Hood group and other multi-session groups of the past, like the Howard County group and the long defunct Hagerstown group. Artists from ALOG and other area art leagues who have attended the Hood group have had equal success with their work in exhibits.

The value of working in this format is self-evident on many levels. As other groups have declined and disappeared, I am more resolute to continue working to keep the Hood Portrait Group operating and flourishing. Consider the value this group could do for your art and your growth as an artist. We have a strong base of artists who represent all mediums, including sculpture, from all skill levels. Although there is no formal instruction, the common bonding of the artists and the supportive atmosphere provides a fertile environment for individual growth. The ability to see how our artists handle all facets of the creative process as their work progresses is invaluable. I learn something every week and my confidence builds with each of my paintings.

Maybe something like the Hood group or other open sessions might be just the thing to get your art "jump-started" in a more positive and creative mode. Think about it...

Hood sessions are each Friday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Contact Bill at fromthedrawingboard@alog.org.



Formatting Guidelines for Submitting Photographs

Photographs of our artwork and events are an important way to publicize our craft and art league. Here is the format for submitting images for our newsletter, website Gallery page, Facebook, etc.

Each image should be 180 dpi or greater and 4" or larger on the longest dimension of the image



BlackRock News

BlackRock Center

**Hours: Monday – Friday
10 AM – 6 PM**

BlackRock Art Classes and Workshops

Available online www.blackrockcenter.org

Basics of Watercolor

Learn the fundamentals of Watercolor painting! Students will become familiarized with basic watercolor materials and equipment, use transparent watercolor medium to learn basic painting techniques, such as soft and hard edges, creating a sense of light, depth, dimension, and weight by applying tonal values, glazing and layering.

When: Apr 28, 2022 to Jun 2, 2022

Time: Thu 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Cost: \$216

Location: Wet Studio

Instructor: Fariba Niazi

[Enroll](#)

Upcoming Art Opportunities

Transforming the Prototype

Baltimore Jewelry Center, Montgomery College, and Towson University invite students, alumni, emerging and established artists to apply for the group exhibition, Transforming the Prototype. Participants are asked to reimagine a traditional ring by radically altering a provided vintage wax pattern. The objective is to reimagine the prototype wax pattern into a bespoke object(s) or jewelry. Participants can integrate new components using wax and have the ring cast; have the ring cast as is and alter it with soldering, sawing, adding stones, etc. or a combination of these processes. Spring is one of the most magical times of the year, as the earth comes back to life after a long winter's nap. Go outside and breathe in your surroundings. Use what you see, hear, smell, and feel to create your art.

Submission Deadline: April 20 2022

Entry Fee: Unknown

[More Information](#)

Portals

Portals are openings to new places, new experiences, and new sensations. We are seeking your interpretation of a "portal" – literally or metaphorically. Share your insights and experiences with the concept of "portal" as you see it. Entries are open internationally for Maryland Federation of Art's (MFA) online-only exhibition. Following exhibition guidelines, any 2D or 3D work is eligible for entry.

Submission Deadline: May 4 2022

Entry Fee: 1 or 2 entries \$35 (MFA Members \$20).

Additional 4 entries \$5 each

[More Information](#)

Fiber Options: Material Explorations

Maryland Federation of Art (MFA) invites all artists residing in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico to enter its 6th biennial Fiber Options: Material Explorations exhibition. Any original 2D or 3D artwork created with fiber is eligible.

Submission Deadline: May 4 2022

Entry Fee: 1 or 2 entries \$40 (MFA Members \$25).

Additional 4 entries \$5 each

[More Information](#)

Calendar of Events

View www.alog.org for updated information.
Our meetings are currently held virtually.
Watch our monthly announcements for confirmed speakers and other details.

Apr 6, 2022	Nancy Walker – Glass, Ceramics, Multi-Media, “The Restless Artist”
May 4, 2022	Jeanne Sullivan

ALOG Goals

- Provide members with the stimulation to thrive in their personal art goals, and to foster creativity.
- Encourage enthusiastic support and appreciation for art and for other artists' work.
- Contribute to the surrounding community in furthering art awareness and education.

Our meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of each month, September through May, at 7:15 p.m. at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Center Drive, Germantown, MD, in the Germantown Town Center on the corner of Rt. 118 and Middlebrook Road (across from the Safeway) or online during Covid-19 restrictions.

ALOG is a group of professional and amateur visual artists fine crafters and art appreciators organized to further the careers of its members and to bring an appreciation of fine art and crafts to the community. ALOG draws members from throughout Montgomery County. Learn more at www.alog.org or www.blackrockcenter.org.

ALOG Cares

Ruth Sentelle has a large parcel of cards, notes and good wishes waiting to be sent to any ALOG friends and family members who could use a little encouragement, thoughtful praises or even some sunshine.

Kindly let her know at ruthiam@yahoo.com or text to 240-449-9063.

She is eagerly waiting to send out positive thoughts in the mail. Receiving a note in the mail could brighten someone's day.

Let's remember to show that ALOG CARES!