



the society of layerists in multi-media

"...the relationships in art are not necessarily ones of outward form, but are founded on inner sympathy of meaning."--Wassily Kandinsky

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Message from the President

We can probably all agree that the year 2020 has been challenging to say the least! Hopefully everyone has found a way to stay connected with those in your personal lives and professions. Our board of directors has been meeting through Zoom and it has been great! We are very blessed to have such a hard-working, enthusiastic group and we hope our members will be happy with all that we wish to accomplish through the balance of this term ending June 30, 2021.

Since our last newsletter, two new exhibits are available to view on the SLMM website – *'Awakening – Together in Change'*, a gallery of members' work from the Pacific Coast/Canada Region and *'Free Floating'*, an exhibition of members' work from the Southwest/West Region. We hope you will find these shows enjoyable and inspiring. These online exhibits are new to our website and we hope to have all SLMM regions represented in the future.

The ability to renew memberships and join our society online has been very well received, in spite of a few glitches in the beginning, and we greatly appreciate the contributions we have been receiving through the website as well. That said, it is imperative for the future of SLMM that we increase our membership numbers even though it has always been our policy to let new artists find the society rather than to recruit members to expand the group. Keeping in mind, first and foremost, that it is the holistic perspective of our organization - that everything is ultimately connected, across time and space – which is the glue that bonds us on a level beyond the physical aspects of our work. This premise is what separates our society from other art organizations and will keep us together in the years to come. As the world evolves and cyberspace brings us closer together, we have a wonderful opportunity to help those 'like minded' artists out there to find us.

Many of us have found our artistic 'home' with SLMM through another artist or member who thought we would be a good fit and invited us to a meeting. But due to the coronavirus, returning to these physical meetings is uncertain for now. Fortunately, the use of social media can help us all stay connected. As your board of directors, we are working on ways to do this through future Zoom meetings, online demos, classes, and workshops. We would like for our members who are actively doing these activities already to share their expertise and knowledge with the rest of us through links on our website or other media platforms. Please give this some thought and as we get set up to host these function, we will ask for your participation. As always, we hope you

will reach out to artists you may know or come in contact with, and if you think their philosophy is in alignment with our premise, please invite them to check us out.

Since we may not be able to realistically hold an in-person conference until 2022, we will host a national Zoom meeting for members to share their work and become more familiar with the online process on [Friday, November 20, 2020](#) at 1:00 pm Mountain Time – mark your calendar!

Stay healthy and connected!



Laura Pope, SLMM President

Donations and Gifting

Jaleh & Galen Etemad Donation

Jaleh Etemad and her wonderfully generous husband, Galen, have bequeathed SLMM another \$5000 unrestricted contribution for the third consecutive year! Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the Etemad Family. Life is so rich in unexpected surprises.

Editors note: The website now gives all viewers the ability to make donations to SLMM throughout the year. Go to the website and you'll see the DONATE button. It is a great opportunity to help SLMM and to make a tax deductible contribution.

Welcome two new Board Members



Barbara Jo Stevens

Barbara is a member of the Deep South/South Central Region and lives in Downs, KS. She has been a member since 2017. *I learned about SLMM through meeting Kathleen Kuchar at one of her monotype workshops three years ago. We had a chance meeting after the workshop and spent some time together where both Kathleen and her description of SLMM made a huge impression on me. Her friendship, and the introduction to the Hays area SLMM members, where the layering of their kindness, their expertise in each of their chosen styles of art, and their philosophy of art and living meshed perfectly with what I was looking for, both in my personal life and in my art. The opportunities that SLMM offers its members has opened up a whole new world for me. I am eternally grateful to Kathleen for inviting me and am honored to be serving on the Board of Directors!*



Jean Warren

Jean is a member of the Pacific Coast/Canada Region and lives in Bodega Bay, CA. She has been a longtime member. *I first learned about SLMM in 1984 upon reading an enlightening article in **Southwest Art magazine** written by Mary Carroll Nelson. I thought, "This is what I believe!" Holistic awareness, the layering of meaning, and the connection we share—it was all there. I wanted to be part of this group. Now with deep gratitude, I look forward to helping us come together in these challenging times.*

Regional News

Deep South/South Central Region

The Hays, Kansas area group has adapted to these COVID times but is looking forward to getting together in person. The Mask Exhibition, "Hidden Stories," scheduled for April at the Deines Center in Russell, Kansas, became a virtual show with all the images online. This same show will be held at the Prairie Art and History Museum in Colby, Kansas, with an opening reception, November 12th. There are 12 members in this gallery exhibition: Barbara Jo Stevens, Cal Mahin, Terri MacDonald, Kathleen Kuchar, Von Pounds, Valerie Mills, Secily Cruse, Mary Kottman, Rebel Mathieu, Peggy Wambold, Linda Bittel, and Kari Schultz.

Southwest/West Region

The regional Exhibition, "Free Floating" is available for viewing on the SLMM website. Just click on the link below and enjoy the show. Laura Pope, SLMM president, asks us to share the link on your social media to help expose our great SLMM organization. www.slmm.org/exhibition-free-floating The theme of the show coincides with the annual International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM in October 2020 – unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the physical exhibit had to be cancelled. Thank you Gale Craig, Prescott, AZ and Sandra Duran Wilson, Santa Fe, NM for serving as the Selection Committee for this show!

Pacific Coast/Canada Region

Submitted by Jenny Badger Sultan, Coordinator

Our Region was looking forward to a traditional, physical exhibit at the Unitarian Church in San Francisco in Fall 2020 when the Coronavirus Pandemic hit. We had just completed a very successful group project on Global Warming/Climate Change. It was installed in the Tiburon Town Hall which then had to close after a week. When I polled the members they were very enthusiastic to go ahead with a virtual exhibit on the SLMM website. They expressed many ideas for a title for the show and we finally decided on "Awakening--Together in Change". I think that each person expressed their own feelings about and response to the extraordinary times we are living in, as well as the sense of connection that we have as artists sharing our creative process. Members sent in 1-2 images and a statement if they wished and Susan Dreiling, SLMM web administrator, organized them and put them up on the website September 1st. The Exhibit also went up on the Unitarian Church website October 1st for a month (uusf.org/art-committee).

We have had three Zoom meetings where we meet, talk about how our lives are going, and show some of our recent artwork. This has been a good way to have some fellowship and sharing during the isolation of this time. Some members have been teaching online and others have been taking interesting workshops. On September 25th, a few of us met on Zoom: Lynn Mikami, Jean Warren, Terri MacDonald, Kathleen Kuchar, Barbara Jo Stevens and I to share how a Zoom meeting works and discuss how this format can be used in other regions and for the membership at large. We feel this shows great potential for increasing communications and a sense of connectedness with SLMM.

Northeast/Midwest Region

There are 16 members in this region and the Regional Coordinator position is open. Hopefully, someone will step forward to carry the flag and promote/coordinate the membership in this region. Nancy Nikkal has done a wonderful job over the years but has stepped down to devote full-time to her studio. In the member news section, Nancy has submitted some of her gallery and class activities.

SLMM welcomes a new member, Nimi Trehan from Potomac, Maryland. According to Karen Van Hooser, SLMM Executive Administrator, Nimi was the first to apply for membership through the new features on our website: "Join SLMM" and paid her dues through PayPal.

Welcome 2 New Members

Caroline Shaw Ometz- Richardson, TX, Deep South/South Central
Nimi Trehan- Potomac, MD, Northeast/Midwest

MEMBER NEWS

Patricia Abraham

Patricia's painting, *An Artist's Still-life*, 22"x 30", has been accepted in the National Watercolor Exhibition show "The First 100 Years Exhibition" at the Hilbert Museum of California Art. This show is in celebration of the NWS 100th anniversary. As most shows this year, the exhibit will be online. It opens on Saturday, November 14, 2020 and ends February 20, 2021. It can be accessed by going to the website www.nationalwatercolorociety.org



Carol L. Adamec



After having her one-person exhibit cancelled that was scheduled for April in Memphis this past spring, Carol jumped on the chance to have eight paintings from her series "In a Japanese Garden" featured in an online venue for September. Sponsored by the Placates Art Series, the professional presentation created for Carol and the three other artists in the show included closeups of individual artworks and music written specifically for each individual artist's body of work. The exhibit still may be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/wGSOGoA>

Carol is also pleased to have two paintings in the Southwest/West Regional Exhibit, "Free Floating", online on the SLMM website, <http://www.slmm.org/exhibition-free-floating>

The artworks featured in both exhibits are available for additional viewing and purchase on Carol's new website, ArtByCarolAdamec.com

Brick and mortar galleries here in Albuquerque are easing back into traditional exhibitions, while observing mask wearing and social distancing and foregoing opening reception crowds.

Carol has paintings on exhibit at "Hindsight is 2020. Artists Respond" at Tortuga Gallery with the show ending October 23. *The Kitchen Window*, oil on canvas, 22"x28", is one of three paintings accepted in the New Mexico Art League's show, "Just a Moment—The Still Life", opening October 21st continuing through November 21st. The exhibit can be seen onsite in Albuquerque and online at <https://newmexicoartleague.wildapricot.org>

Renee Amitai

Renee is showing work in a group exhibition at the LA Artcore at Union Center for the Arts, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. The show runs from October 23-November 30, 2020. The title of the show is "Lydia Takeshita Legacy Series: Exhibit 1".

Barbara Chapman

This 13"x11" acrylic on watercolor paper painting was inspired by the power of kindness, of awareness and how light in a storm provides courage to keep going onward.



Linda C. Dumas

Linda belongs to a local art group called Lake Houston Area Artists and tells us about its first Zoom board meeting followed by a demonstration, also on Zoom, from Holly Hunter Berry working at her home studio. According to Linda, Holly had a camera for her face, but when she began the demo, she had a laptop rigged up that filmed directly on her hands and work.

She does layered stuff from a start she calls her "glorious mess," but for this demo Linda asked her to demo dog paintings as she does these canines that look as if they could bark. (*Editor's note: we are all needing to learn to use Zoom so we can connect with each other by demos like this and other show and tell events*).

The group is also making plans for a virtual fall show and competition. Their webmaster has done a great job with assisting. The artists will send photos of their work and the webmaster and show chair will submit them to the judge. As Linda says, "It is not as good as in person, but it speaks well of our determination to keep our art alive and on view."

Nancy Dunaway



The pandemic has affected all of us and Nancy has worked in spurts between productive and fallow. This piece, *Look Up the Sky is Dancing*, reminds us that no matter what is swirling around us there is always hope, and that we must look for the good to celebrate in each of life's moments no matter how dark they seem. It is a 44" x 16" mixed media work with mono print with collage, photos on silk gampo, silk ink, pencil and gel pen. The top pieces are wood fragments on support covered with photos on silk gampo with rusted metal pieces. Nancy did this piece for a new home in Maumelle, Arkansas and was inspired by a piece she had done previously.

At the end of October Nancy will show work in a virtual exhibition to open the new Windgate Museum on the campus of her alma mater, Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. The exhibition is called "Art@Hendrix" and will represent more than 100 works from alumni, current and former faculty, the Historic Arkansas Museum, and the WMA collection, with narrative labels and text panels by decade. Three short films were commissioned to highlight aspects of the exhibition and animate the exhibition experience for the visitors. Nancy says, "We



are also developing a variety of great programs (virtual lectures, panel discussions, films, and artist studio visits) as part of the exhibition and will be ready to announce those next month—stay tuned." The curatorial staff are also putting the finishing touches on a new website which should be up by the end of October—www.windgatmuseum.org. "I am truly excited to be part of this event. Last spring the curator, Mary Kennedy, came to my studio for a visit and selected for the show an artist book, *Embracing the Rain*, that I did for a sister city event in Hot Springs in 2017." Nancy has also been embracing Instagram and has a new site @nancydunawaystudio. Nancy's granddaughter, Madisson who is a social media marketing major at Western Kentucky University, helped her develop and learn how to use this past summer when both were quarantined together. "She is amazing and patient and even began a small business for herself to help older artists learn to market their work. My three months with her was truly my Covid gift." Nancy has some videos and photos of her art on Instagram@nancydunawaystudio.



Jaleh Etemad

Jaleh reports that she and her husband Galen have been keeping indoors all the time except for some visits by their children out on the patio. These unfortunate days of smoke are very unhealthy and making life even more isolated. Jaleh says "I miss my SLMM friends and pray for everyone's health and creativity." She says that she is busier than ever with all the Town meetings via Zoom which is a new way of going forward. "I try to paint as much as I can to bring my thoughts into focus. I do listen to audiobooks a lot and that has been more of a companion. I pray and hope to connect in person with my SLMM friends. The thought is comforting, if I might add."

On the left is one of Jaleh's latest works called *Peace*. In Jaleh's words, this painting is pleading for peace on our earth. The surrounding images show the confusion and hardships in the world. The white circle in the center is the Earth holding on to peace and equality. The symbol of justice is held by diversity and weighing on indigenous people seated in a row weighing on violence—trying to shout: Justice for All. The artwork is 24" x 24" and is acrylic, paper, photo, broken glass, and net on canvas.

Sharon Eley

Sharon spent six months in self isolation with her husband in Florida this past Spring staying “safe at home”, only venturing out to get groceries. No beach, no shopping, no theme parks, no visiting with family or friends. Wearing a mask and social distancing were the norm. She made 175 masks to give away to neighbors, friends, and medical personnel. Sharon also made a handmade quilt with the leftover mask fabric to use her time creatively while isolated in Florida with no art supplies.



They returned home to Ohio in July only to find her husband needed numerous doctor appointments and tests to diagnose the reason for his dizziness and frequent falls. Three months have passed going from one doctor to another and surgery is scheduled over Thanksgiving.

After rereading the Spring 2020 Newsletter, Sharon was inspired to go through her stacks of painted papers which she generally uses for collage and realized that two pieces stood out from the rest and weren't meant to be cut up. “I realized they stood alone, giving me a sense of peace, reminding me of the peace and the valued friendships I have felt through my SLMM membership. I've enjoyed meeting each of you at the St. Louis Conference last year and the camaraderie we all shared with each other.”

We're living in a strange time where staying safe means isolating ourselves from those we love. Family outings, class reunions, art workshops, along with travel, are cancelled. This is a necessity to staying safe and healthy. Allow your art to be your blessing to yourself and your expression for a creative outlet. Keep your mind at peace, find outlets that will continue to comfort and encourage you to write, photograph, paint and play with new materials.

This diptych of two paintings titled *At Peace in Isolation I and II*, want to stand alone, side by side, not touching but in harmony with each other.



Kathleen Kuchar



When COVID hit and isolation was the norm, Kathleen passed her time illustrating her first children's book. Hunkered down in the studio, she was bringing a friend's book alive with paintings of rabbits, squirrels, birds and other garden critters. The title of the book is “Millie's Garden—and the Great Carrot Mystery.” The author, Dr. Joyce Frey, International Psychologist with a focus on global cultures and indigenous peoples, is usually writing textbooks and writing and speaking for professional venues. So why a children's book? One day Joyce was chatting on the phone with Kathleen and saw this bunny out her window..the one that comes back every year and lives under a bush in Joyce's backyard. “When Joyce told me this, I said this would make a great children's book.” She replied, “If I write it would you illustrate it?” The rest is history.



The book is printed and ready for distribution at the Hays Arts Center, Hays, KS and [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) The 13 original illustrations will be on display at the Hays Arts Center from October 26th through November 18th with a book signing and reading by the author on October 31st.

Georgia Mason

Georgia says that despite these challenging times, we keep hope and love in our hearts and we keep painting. "I have been pulling out some old paintings and refurbishing them. It is interesting how we evolve and see things differently."



Her painting *Earthlyric Gray*, on the left, has been juried into the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia 2020. The venue has moved from Golden to Evergreen, CO. This is her fifth acceptance into this prestigious water media exhibition.

Her painting *Island Day* was juried into the Georgia Watercolor Society Member show and received "Juror's Choice Award".



Angela Muller



Angela and Barbara Jo Stevens had a dual show called "Spirit of Earth and Sky" at the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas, August 30-October 25. Due to COVID-19, the gallery was unable to host an opening reception, however on the website, both artists were interviewed with a video for all to see.

Beginning October 16th, her work is on display at the Strecker-Nelson-West Gallery in Manhattan, KS. Angela writes, "There is an obscure word called desideratum that describes a longing, especially for things lost. On the prairie, nature reminds me daily of change. It is in the arc of the tilting moon. The winding curve of a muddy river. The fossilized limestone that hints of gentle creatures that swam ancient oceans. Every day we awaken to a familiar but different world." The gallery's website www.snwgallery.com shows Angela's work.. *Moon of Unfolding Things*, 36"x36", is one of the paintings in the exhibition. This moon is made of stone texture, acrylic, Kansas lake clay, earth pigments and rust to remind you to seek the beauty in unfolding things.



Angela will have a solo show in December highlighting the winter prairie at CityArts in Wichita, KS. She is currently working on a series of paintings on vintage flour sack canvas with native stones collected from the prairie, including limestone, slate, and sandstone.



Shirley Nachtrieb

Shirley has been teaching a variety of art classes and workshops at the St. Peters Cultural Arts Center this past summer and this fall. To receive a schedule, contact her at snachtrieb@charter.net

She had three paintings juried into "Brilliant Color II", Framations Art Gallery, St. Charles, MO. Pictured on the left are two of the works, *August Sun* (sunflowers) and *Breaking Out* (tulips).

Shirley also has work in "Who is God? Virtual Exhibit", Gretchen Brigham Gallery, St. Louis from October 3-December 2020. She was the featured artist on October 12th. To see the show go to www.facebook.com/GretchenBrighamGallery/. There is information

on how to order a book on the exhibit: www.blurb.com/bookstore and type in Who is God 2020.

Other shows this fall include the St. Louis Watercolor Society juried "Big Splash" virtual exhibit, 23rd Annual Membership Exhibit (virtual), October-November, <https://stlws.org/exhibits/stlws@outlook.com>.



Shirley won an Award of Recognition for her painting, *Memories are Made of This*. (Pictured on left)



Shirley had *Magnolia Charm* juried into the "International Society of Experimental Artist Virtual Exhibit". This painting was described in the last newsletter. Other shows this year include "St. Louis Artists' Guild's Collector's Choice Exhibit" a

virtual show via YouTube, November 7th; "Pure Imagination" Exhibit at Framations Art Gallery in St. Charles; Shirley was featured artist at the Green Door Art Gallery from November 2nd-December 31st with a reception scheduled for November 20th from 5 to 8 p.m. This gallery is at 21 N. Gore, Webster Groves, MO. Another show Shirley has work juried in is "Paper Works VII" at the Foundry Art Center in St. Charles. It opens November 20th.

Nancy Nikkal

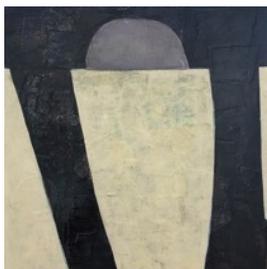
Nancy had a solo exhibition of 34 works at the Upstream Gallery, Hastings on Hudson, NY, October 1-25, 2020. The show titled "Then and Now" featured collage paintings created before the COVID 2019 shutdown and new collage paintings she created in a temporary studio in a small bedroom in her apartment in Pelham, NY while her regular studio was shut down due to COVID. The newer collage paintings in the show were created when her Media Loft studio was open again.



Pictured on the left are two new works installed on site at the gallery. (Photo by Janine Menlove). Both are mixed media collages on panel. The single panel is titled *Deep Dive* and is 24"x24". The diptych is titled *Lyrical*, 40"x40" (Each panel is 40"x20"). Nancy created these works in her studio in a technique that combines layers of collage papers and acrylic media, showing texture, gloss and semi-gloss surfaces and is done in a process called acrylic encaustic.



"Then and Now" included older works that are mixed media collage and were created in the studio before COVID. The newer works are both tiny and large and all on panel without frames. On the right are six collage paintings on panel, all part of the Curvy Geometric series that are installed as a grid. Nancy said she worked back into three of these works during COVID by adding new papers and acrylic paint. These are all 12"x12".



Pictured to the left, *Pillars*, 12"x12", is a mixed media collage with papers, canvas, paint and various acrylic and gel and fluid media. (Photo by John Maggiotto). "I started this collage painting in my temporary studio in May and finished it at my Media Loft studio in September."

"I feel lucky. I am well, safe and not personally affected by tragic loss of loved ones and colleagues due to COVID. I feel lucky because I found a way to work in a temporary studio and was actually productive during the lockdown. I feel lucky I found a way to stay connected with family, friends and colleagues via Zoom and FaceTime, and lucky I learned valuable new techniques for working with collage and acrylic paint media via Zoom classes in July and August. I learned new ways to work with acrylic media: gels,

fluid acrylics and Golden Paints GAC 800 to create works that look like acrylic encaustic paintings. I belong to several art groups that meet regularly on Zoom and it works well since we get to see each other often in boxes online." She is teaching a 9-session class in person this fall at the Pelham Art Center, Pelham, NY and has a very enthusiastic group of seven adult women who love to learn in person what Nancy learned online.

(Editor's note: You can see Nancy Nikkal's show online by clicking on <https://www.artsy.net/show/upstream-gallery-ny-nikkal-then-and-now>)

Win Ratz

Earlier this year and before the COVID pandemic, Win, as a part of a retired artists group, got together each month at Perkins Restaurant to critique artworks share tips, problem solve, and support each other. From time to time they collaborated on an artwork and donated it to a suitable facility, including the David Hospice Center. The latest piece (no available photo) was a donation to the Wyoming Room at the Governor's House. It is titled *Wyoming Echoes and Images* and is about Wyoming scenes, poems, thoughts, and musings. It is in a 9"x9"x3" box. The First Lady, Jennie Gordon, wrote to Win, "Thank you for donating such a wonderful piece to the Governor's Residence. We are so honored to receive something so beautiful that we can include in our collection. I am grateful you thought of this location to share your talent. Best, Jennie"

Win says she hasn't done much painting, but is cutting up old paintings and making Artists Books. She is also enjoying writing poetry once more. "I'm happily getting older... We are fine, getting up there in years but still upright." Pictured is a book she made and these photos show it viewed closed, partially open and fully open.



Janet Ruffin

Janet is part of the WiVLA 2020 Collaboration Event Now Live on Holocaust Museum Houston website, hmh.org. Scroll down to Temporary Exhibitions and when you see the WiVLA logo click to view the collaboration.

The website tells us that *Compassion*, a virtual exhibition, is presented in partnership by non-profit Women in the Visual and Literary Arts (WiVLA) and Holocaust Museum Houston and explores the meaning and manifestation of compassion in today's world through vivid, colorful paintings, sculptures and other visual works of art paired with complementary written pieces—original poetry, essays, short stories and plays.

The exhibition is a collaboration between writer and artist members of WiVLA, a Houston-based organization that since 1994 has united and supported women artists and writers in their creative endeavors. The writers and artists collaborated for months to create their own interpretations of compassion, a poignant theme as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and issues of racial injustice.

This virtual exhibition runs from October 8, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

(Editor's note: Pictured is Janet's artwork entitled *Opening the Door to Compassion*. If you go to the website hmh.org to see the virtual exhibition, you will find it very meaningful and make sure you have a box of tissues handy).

Janet has a body of work called "Healing the Earth" and was hoping to have an installation but did not get the grant or opportunity. She did post the show on Facebook with a different photo every Sunday. There were 13 works in total.

Jan Sitts

Last February Jan had a class in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. The workshops scheduled after that were cancelled because of COVID concerns. The class used a variety of mark-making tools and supports that added to each day's excitement. Some of the experimental projects were the use of foam core and soft craft metal incorporated into the acrylic painting.

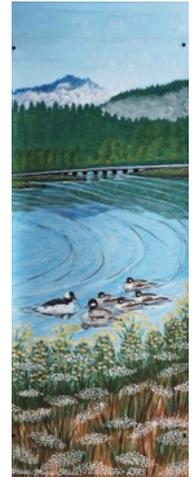


"When I came home from this workshop, I was hit with this feeling of what should I do first? Then I remembered somebody saying to me, 'You've got to know what's going on inside you...it's a quiet storm.' So I decided that I would do nothing for the month of March—except clean my studio and unpack my huge box of art supplies from my previous workshop. When

you don't know what to do next, sometimes it's best to regroup and prepare before you move on to the next big project." Check Jan's website for information concerning future workshops. www.jansitts.com

Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley

During this 2020 year before the pandemic, Teresa and her husband, Richard, traveled from March 12th to March 17th to Encinitas, California to participate in the 20th year of the "Arts Alive Banner" unveiling for the 101 Artists Colony. This began the series of shut downs and cancellations across our country. Fortunately all of the artists' banners sold, including Teresa's. Her Arts Alive Banner image pictured on the right is a scene of Highway 101 at Mud Bay in Olympia, WA.



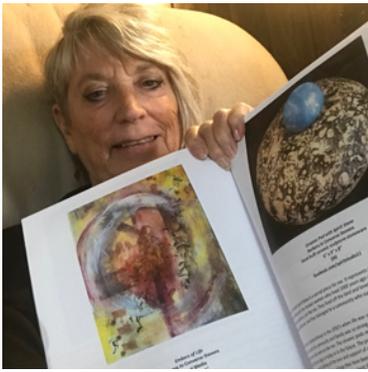
Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

Fall is always a busy time for Barbara, and this year proved extra special. She showed her hand-built ceramic sculptures in the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, KS in "Spirit of Earth and Sky" along with another SLMM member, Angela Muller, Russell, KS and her earth element paintings. "Our art works so well together as we both use earth elements and Native American lore to inspire us. We also use actual earth elements as part of our art. For me, this show is a landmark in my career as I have waited for over half of my life to have a show at the Sandzen Gallery."

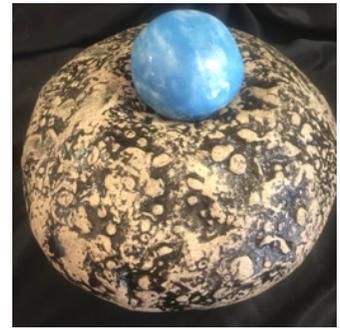


Ron Michaels, Director of the Sandzen Gallery, filmed a 10 min. video of Barbara talking about her history, her concepts and demonstrating the use of pieces of wood, rock, pine cones, fossils, etc., to make the textures in the very thin clay which make the primitive vessels that make up the body of her ceramic work. The video can be found on the Sandzen website. To the right is *Fringed Vessel*, ceramic 10"x18"x18" with clay as thin as a knife blade. It is displayed with found wood.

For the month of September, Barbara had two pieces in the "ART-rageous" exhibit at the Prairie Museum in Colby, KS. This was a show of OPPOSITES. Barbara contrasted a current fine-art work, thinly constructed clay, with a 40-year old functional bowl she created to be used, washed and stored in a kitchen cabinet.



During October-December Barbara has two pieces of hand-built ceramics in a group show at the Shafer Gallery at the Barton County Community College's "Friends and Acquaintances" exhibition. She had two pieces accepted in the juried "Who is God?" show at the Gretchen Brigham Gallery in St. Louis, MO for the month of October. Due to COVID-19 the exhibition was virtual with a Zoom opening, videos, and feature articles on the artists. "I was especially honored to have my ceramic *Pod with Spirit Ball* chosen as one of the five pieces from the show



used as an inspiration for the judge Father Terry Dempsey, to use for devotional pieces." Pictured on the right are *Pod with Spirit Ball* and *Embers of Life*.



"Who is God?" was started by Andrea Mastrangelo, SLMM member from Shelton, WA several years ago and is now featured during the month of October in seven US states. "This is my third 'Who is God?' show in which I have had pieces accepted."

From November, 2020-January, 2021, Barbara has ten pieces in the large group "Holiday Show at the Sandzen Gallery, Lindsborg, Kansas.

Jenny Badger Sultan



Jenny Badger Sultan's painting *Gaia Running* was selected to be in the "DeYoung Open" show which was part of the re-opening of the DeYoung Museum to the public on October 8. The show was open to artists in nine Bay Area counties; more than 11,000 works were submitted and fewer than 900 were selected.

Nimi Trehan

Nimi has had art selected for several shows this year including the Art League in Alexandria, VA ; Woman's Caucus for the Arts, DC chapter; Art in Healthcare, an initiative of Manhattan Arts International, NY.



Changing Course (on left) is acrylic, 40"x30", and was shown in the "Landscapes Exhibit" in Alexandria,VA in June. This painting was inspired by the Ganges river (a sacred river in India). The river has changed course dramatically over time due to tectonic forces, landslides or erosion. Every bend and twist has affected changes in its surrounding terrain, the vegetation and the culture in significant ways. Similarly, the current state of world events is causing turning points in people's lives bringing about transformation, and hopefully, growth and evolution.



"Alone/Together", an exhibit at the Women's Caucus for the Arts, DC Chapter, was in July. *Calm Within Chaos*, 40"x30", (on right) was a part of this show. Nimi says the last few months has become a whirlwind of anxiety and chaos with overwhelming news about

COVID-19 and racism. With the TV blaring disturbing news and creating panic, fear is getting just as contagious as the virus itself. Despite the chaos that is engulfing our lives, social isolation is offering us an opportunity to step back, have moments of observation and reflection, and re-assess our priorities. The isolation is highlighting the fact that we are not in this alone—we are all in it together.



Unwavering is an acrylic 40"x60" and is on display in "The Spirit of Resilience" exhibit at the Art in Healthcare, Initiative of Manhattan Arts International, NY from September 3-November 4. This artwork conveys the beauty and incredible resilience of the Banyan tree through scintillating light, linear and organic forms, variegated hues and tactile textures. In spite of many natural disasters that the Banyan tree encounters, it remains resolute, sending stilt-like roots toward the soil, supporting tremendous growth and emerging stronger than ever.

Nancy Young

In late December, 2019, Nancy moved to Kauai, Hawaii to be near her son, Michael and family. The house has a little house on the same property, so "when they asked if I wanted to come and look at it to see if I wanted to move in, I said YES as they are only about 30 feet away from my front door. As I will be 81 this November, I thought that it would be a good idea to live close to them and the grandkids who are 7 years old for the boy, and the girl will be 10 in the middle of December. As you know the virus struck a couple of months after I moved here, so I was lucky I moved here when I did." Nancy has a designated studio but it is not finished yet. She says that it won't be possible to do her paper sculpture here as it is too humid, so she brought some copper which she uses for patina and is hopeful she can find a use for it. Kauai usually has a very active art community so Nancy is hopeful when the virus is gone that she will be able to take advantage of it. She will have a hip replacement in the next several months. She can be reached at her original email (ayoung133@comcast.net) and she welcomes any correspondence.



Jean Warren

Jean continues to teach her "Creative Process in Watercolor" online class. Through emails, she sends her weekly lessons and a demonstration video. Students share their work by email that day and all through the week. "Alexander Nepote inspired one class recently as we interpreted and celebrated our expressive intent into our rocks."

Diana Shui-Iu Wong-Tang

Diana was included in an online and physical solo exhibition in Los Angeles at the Kylin Gallery in Beverly Hills, from June 1 - August 24, 2020. One of the paintings was sold. The show can be viewed on kylingallery.com (Editor's note: please check this out! The imagery is powerful.)

When opening the website click on Exhibitions (Past) and you will see Diana's show called "Contemplation". Double click on her painting and the online viewing room shows her exhibit. According to the website, the exhibition was a physical show with 13 works including painting, sculpture, and installation, all selected from Wong's three main series created from 1983-2020. Each series reflects the artist's understanding of art at the time, the deep exploration of self, and her perception of changes in the world. According to Wong, "My recent work is about the endless universe, imagining leaping, vivid colors and halos like the rolling sea. The planet in it's celestial orbit, impacted by falling meteors, creating celestial wonder, a fusion of real and unreal. There are paintings of a flowing landscape without a focal point, activated from many different angles. This gives me extraordinary freedom and boundless joy in creating. When I roam through the tunnel of time from the past, present, and future, my work intertwines with the teachings of the I Ching, exposing profound secrets of the universe."

Circle of Prayer

Let us offer a prayer for members who have passed and those going through difficult challenges.

There are so many storms, fires, and other natural disasters that we continually offer Prayers for those SLMM members affected. We must add COVID-19 to our list of prayers.

As your editor, I would like to share this email discourse, with permission, that took place on September 20, 21, 2020, between Janaia Donaldson and Jennifer Badger Sultan, both members of the Pacific Coast Region. Janaia and her family were among thousands on the west coast states that literally were/are fighting for their lives and their homes. Jenny asked to share Janaia's response with all SLMM members. The photo sent by Janaia will chill you to the bone. Although gorgeous colors, it is both beautiful and ominous at once.



Dear Jenny, Thank you for your note and concern. We are safe and well, and very happy for fresher air of the last few days.

We chose to evacuate for a few days. A lightning-strike to our west started the night of August 17th. Called the Jones Fire, its first day of prevailing winds pushed it in our direction. Rather than wait for an advisory evacuation order, we drove our RV (home) and vehicles to a friend's house well away from the fire zone. (We had practiced evacuating a year ago as part of a neighborhood fire drill, so we were pretty well prepared to untether and go).

In the last two weeks, winds from the Bear Fire portion of the North Complex north of us has seriously impacted our skies, darkening skies like in a full eclipse of the sun. It was the day

that the skies were orange in San Francisco from all the fires in northern California. That evening the fire exploded, consuming up to 1000 acres in an hour! We could see a ridge of flame even from fifty miles away (and with about 3 mountain ridges between us). Air quality has been extremely poor to dangerous until the last three days. We have stayed indoors more than usual, and worn our masks both due to COVID-19 and the smoke particles.

Against that backdrop, Robin and I have been working hard for more than eight months pile-burning and thinning a 17-acre portion of our 120-acre forest in preparation for a prescribed burn. Our goal is a "good burn" of low intensity, as the native peoples did on these forests for thousands of years quite successfully. Fire is part of the Sierra Nevada, and we want to return to the conditions and methods of burning they did so well. Our first step is to reduce the fuels load—so a lightning strike does not become a wildfire, a catastrophic wildfire like those we are seeing throughout the west.

As you know, Fire has been central in my thoughts for quite awhile. Not coincidentally, Fire was the theme of the square that I created for our SLMM shared banner in January.

At this point in my creative life, I am glad for SLMM themes to prod me to take a little time away from our thinning marathon to do a bit of creative play. Mostly I'm "destroying" these days—thinning out trees and brush to open the forest for the larger trees to have breathing. (Actually, it's more like giving them a haircut than rampant destruction.)

This is a longer answer than you may have wanted or needed. It has been a vivid experience, very real and personal. We remain alert for fires, since we are still in wildfire season until we get some good rains.

Thank you for sharing this with others, and thank you for reaching out to me and us. With Love, Janaia.



Update on Susan Dreiling, Website Administrator



This year has brought a little bit of everything. We have been so inspired seeing the good that comes along with the bad—from the ways our community here in Minneapolis have come together over civil unrest to take care of one another, to more time with our little family (Penelope will be 4 soon!) through continued stay at home orders as we ride out this

pandemic best we can. I've made a major job change which I'm grateful for, and our biggest news is that we're recently married (woohoo!). Focusing on the good is helping us power through the rest of 2020. We sincerely hope everyone has bits of beauty and hope in their lives as well. Here's to the year we've had!

How to use SLMM Website written by Susan Dreiling

As we are all finding ourselves turning to online spaces to connect, share, and seek information, I wanted to put a quick guide together about what our wonderful SLMM website has to offer.

You can begin at our home page: www.slm.org where you can find the latest news, including any new exhibitions and newsletters. There is also a new "Donation" button that takes you to a form where you have the option to make donations via PayPal or be invoiced to pay by check.

Speaking of forms and being able to use PayPal, we now have the SLMM Membership Renewal Form available online—and many have chosen to use it this past summer! We are still streamlining processes on the backend, so your continued kindness and patience is appreciated. If you'd like to check out the form, or perhaps submit your renewal if you haven't yet, take a peek here: slm.org/member-renewal-form

There's a **News** section on the site here: <https://www.slm.org/news> and it's a bit bare, but has so much potential—this is where we would love your participation. If you have any relevant news, exhibitions, etc. to share, please use the link found towards the bottom of that page (direct link here: slm.org/form-news-and-events).

Did you know that every member can have an **Artist Link** on the site? Check out the listing here: slm.org/artists and submit your info via the link at the bottom of the page (or access the form directly here: slm.org/form-artist-link).

One of the best ways to connect in real-time with the group is via our **Member Forum**, which you can sign up for by clicking on the "forum" in the menu across the top of any page on the site. This is a secure space where you can post and comment with other active SLMM members. Please note that you will need to create a password, and there will be a short waiting period for approval. This is another area of the site where direct participation makes all the difference, and many active members are excited to have more voices join the forum.

As we continue to use the site more and in new ways, we will stay nimble and flex our pages and sections as needed. Be sure to check back often for updates and to connect.

Wishing everyone health and peace,

Susan

Susan Dreiling, Web & Social Administrator

susya.dreiling@gmail.com

National Zoom Meeting

Friday, November 20, 1:00 PM Mountain time; 12 noon Pacific time; 2:00 PM Central time; 3:00 PM Eastern time.

As our President Laura Pope states, the future and strength of SLMM depends upon the energy of the society both nationally and regionally. Therefore, we must strive to stay active and connected with our members. *We will host this first national Zoom meeting to allow members to see new faces and reconnect with those that are familiar.* Artists are invited to share a piece of their work. We hope you will plan to participate. Please watch your future email for updates, instruction and more information.

Editors note: I am a rookie at Zooming, but after just two times, I have found it fun and not so intimidating. The first thing you need to do is go to www.zoom.us and sign up and create a password. There is an orange box that says, SIGN UP IT'S FREE. Start there and follow the directions. Then you are all set!! You will be ready for the November 20th meeting when Laura sends out her email invitation with the link to connect via Zoom.

Here are a few pictures that will bring back memories.



*Membership renewal is due annually by the 1st of July. Dues must be current to be eligible to participate in SLMM national and regional exhibitions, national conferences, website, web gallery, social media and newsletters. **Membership has its privileges!***

Officers

President

Laura Pope

Treasurer

Terri MacDonald

Board of Directors

Gale Craig

Kathy Farr

Barbara Jo Stevens

Jean Warren

ex Officio

Mary Carroll Nelson, founder

Alexander Nepote, past president

Richard Newman, past president

Nancy Dunaway, past president

Nina Mihm, past president

Jaleh Etemad, past president

Staff

Executive Administrator: Karen Van Hooser

Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Kuchar

Website & Social Administrator: Susan Dreiling

Regional coordinators

Deep South/South Central

Kathy Farr

Northeast/Midwest

Open

Pacific Coast/Canada

Jenny Badger Sultan

Southwest/West/International

Open

SLMM Mentors

Win Ratz, Committee Chair

Marilyn Christenson

Kathleen Kuchar

Nina Mihm

Lynn Mikami

Nancy Egol Nikkal

Mary Wilbanks

Suzan Kraus, digital imaging

Newsletter Editor. Please submit any inclusions directly to Kathleen Kuchar, Newsletter Editor, at kakuchar@hotmail.com. Newsletters are published two times a year, April and October at which time they will be emailed to all members. Hard copies can be mailed at \$10 but always free when found on the SLMM website. **The deadline for the Spring Newsletter is April 15th, 2021.**

Membership Roster is published once a year in September at which time it will be emailed to all members. Hard copies can be post mailed for an additional fee of \$10. The membership renewal notices will be sent via email in May with a deadline to renew of July 1st. The membership term runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Any updates to your contact informations should be sent directly to Karen Van Hooser, Executive Administrator, at karensvh@gmail.com

Membership Application

SLMM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the state of New Mexico in May 1982. Annual dues are \$50.00 for Individuals, additional \$25.00 for spouse/mate. The membership term begins July 1st and ends June 30th of the following year.

Karen Van Hooser, Executive Administrator, will send an application form by request. Her email is karensvh@gmail.com. Completed application and dues should be mailed to SLMM, PO Box 897, Guthrie, OK 73044. **Membership can now be renewed from the website using PayPal or invoiced.**

Reminders and information

Artist Link or Artists Page. Susan Dreiling is the person you need to contact when submitting work for your Artist Link or Artists Page. She reminds us that it is free to have an Artist Link that gives your name and contact information and one photo of an artwork plus an optional short statement. If you want an Artists Page, it will allow more information on the website such as additional photos, a vitae and bio. This will cost a one-time fee of \$60. payable directly to Susan. To get the ball rolling, here is Susan's email: susya.dreiling@gmail.com

Facebook. SLMM has now launched a Facebook page where members can connect with other members.

Website. www.slmm.org Check it often as it is our way of keeping in touch

Treasurer's report by Terri MacDonald

This year's Budget Overview reflects \$10,600 needed in membership dues revenue to support the projected expenses for the new fiscal year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. To date we have collected \$6,700....a shortfall of \$3900. This year, our saving grace will be the third annual endowment received from the Etemad Family Fund of \$5000. According to Karen Van Hooser, our Executive Administrator, this funding will put us on solid ground for the upcoming year. However, as appreciative as we are for the Etemad's generosity, it would be foolish to expect or depend on additional income to keep our heads above water. The immediate concern is the dwindling of our membership and it should be aggressively addressed.

5:07 PM
10/03/20
Cash Basis

...the society of layerists in multi-media
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
July 1 through October 3, 2020

	Jul 1 - Oct 3, 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Membership Dues	10,600.00
Postage Income	230.00
Total Income	10,830.00
Gross Profit	10,830.00
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	30.00
Contract Labor	
Newsletter Editor	500.00
Website Administrator	3,000.00
Total Contract Labor	3,500.00
Credit Card Processing Fee	100.00
Dues & Subscriptions	150.00
Internet	500.00
Licenses & Permits	10.00
Office Supplies	250.00
Postage & Delivery	300.00
Professional Services	
Accounting	6,000.00
Total Professional Services	6,000.00
Total Expense	10,840.00
Net Ordinary Income	(10.00)
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Earned	10.00
Total Other Income	10.00
Net Other Income	10.00
Net Income	0.00

4:19 PM
10/03/20
Cash Basis

...the society of layerists in multi-media
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2020

	<u>Jun 30, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of America-Checking Acct.	5,017.23
Bank of America-Savings Acct.	
Etemad Family Fund	5,000.00
Viola Memorial Fund	18,046.71
Total Bank of America-Savings Acct.	<u>23,046.71</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>28,063.94</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>28,063.94</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>28,063.94</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	31,767.70
Unrestricted Net Assets	(5,848.88)
Net Income	2,145.12
Total Equity	<u>28,063.94</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>28,063.94</u>

Editor's note:

Since SLMM relies on membership dues to keep afloat, it is imperative that we all get involved in making SLMM visible to those who might have a similar holistic view. As Laura Pope stated in her President's Message, reach out to artists you may know or come in contact with, and if you think their philosophy is in alignment with our premise, please invite them to check our website, www.slmm.org. And I might add, be sure to follow up with them to answer any questions they might have or to share a personal story. We are all connected.

Barbara Jo Stevens, board member, is working up a membership proposal as a means to reach out to the Regional Coordinators who in turn will develop various events that will stimulate interest and hopefully grow the membership. The future strength of SLMM rests upon the energy in local Regions. Barbara is energetically spreading the love for SLMM in the Kansas area and hopes that her ideas will generate enthusiasm for others to get on board. Her proposal is in the planning stages right now.

If my math is correct, we need 78 more members at \$50 to meet the budget. So, this is a goal we must embrace. If each member could share SLMM information to another artist, I do believe we can make this happen. (I have been a member since 1990—30 years and I don't want to see SLMM fold up because of lack of membership. I am doing what I can to help others find SLMM and hope you can jump on board!)