

PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER

March 2025

THIS MONTH'S DEMO

Wren Neil will be demonstrating the art of sculpting, a captivating process that transforms raw materials into beautiful pieces of jewelry.



JOIN US

March 17, 2025

6:30 pm



At Creative Junk Therapy

776 W. Lumsden Road

Brandon, FL

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Inspiration sometimes comes from the strangest places. It's always out there floating around our faces, asking to be brought out using the special gift we have, for all to see.

A lonely vine growing up a brick wall in an unseen corner, a host of Saturday golfers on display through a glass window as you enjoy your waffles and fruit topping. A computerized glimpse of the known universe that oddly looks like a bouquet of flowers, the realization that a tree and its roots resemble a reflection of itself buried beneath the dark earth.

As an artist, you'll know it when you see it. Get out that camera most of us carry and document it! Create what you thought when you first saw it, and add that special spice we always add from our unique minds. It's all around us, make it your own!



David Bodo, President,
Brandon League of Fine Arts
bodoartworks@gmail.com

February Meeting



Bonnie Phillips - Stenciling 101 Project

Participants at the February meeting learned about different stenciling techniques and even got to create a greeting card using one of the techniques. Each table received stencils and other materials to practice.

Bonnie Phillips was a fun and patient teacher, showing us not to use too much paint to prevent smudges, and how to remove paint from our brushes on a paper towel in circular motion. If you missed this class, Bonnie has classes Wednesdays 10:00 AM and Thursdays 6:00 PM. If you would like to join or would like more information, she can be reached via email at iteachpainting@me.com.

Artist & SPOTLIGHT

Gunni (Nilsson) Price

Written by Guy Learn



Gunni with her first oil painting.

It was 1958, the last full year that our flag would fly with forty-eight stars. Two more wouldn't be added until 1959, but a new star was being added to our art world that year with Gunni arriving from her homeland of Sweden. Some of you may know Gunni as the league member that brings the home-made appetizers to our monthly meetings. Then again you may not since she does so quite humbly and quiet.

Gunni, born in Stockholm Sweden, said that even as a young girl she had an interest, and maybe even a fascination with art. She was in a country and continent rich in art and art history, and with no television in that era, it was more common for art to find its way into the eyes and hearts of youngsters. Living in Europe, she had the privilege of seeing fine works first-hand in churches and museums. During that era of her life, although she excelled at art in school, she didn't actively engage in any real method of creating her own art. Even so, for decades, she maintained a mindset that "One day I'm going to paint."



Finally, around 1970, while living in Fort Meade as the wife of a U.S. Army aviator, she came upon the catalyst that she needed. She had heard a lot of talk around the post about an instructor from Europe that held classes in oils and finally decided it was time to give it a try. She said that his instruction gave her the firm foundation that she needed for creating her own work.

I'm sure many of us can remember our first attempt at painting, and how amateur or unpolished it may have appeared, but this wasn't the case with Gunni. Her first piece looked more like it was done by someone more familiar with the medium, and was worthy of any art show living room wall.

To this day, Gunni paints solely in oils, and also says there's something enjoyable in creating large pieces that involve long graceful brush strokes. But while some of her pieces are quite large, in the vicinity of 2,500 square inches, she has also been very successful painting miniatures.

That class at Fort Meade was pretty much the extent of her art training. For the most part she has avoided other art classes because she doesn't want to be steered away from painting in her own style. Another thing she avoids is commissions, preferring to paint as she is so inspired. While she has done some excellent portraits and still-life, they are not her more likely subjects. In her larger pieces, her favorites tend to be tropical in nature, while for miniatures, she prefers landscapes. Her own style and subject matter has been a recipe that worked well, winning more awards than I can mention here. And aside from contests and such, she has had displays in the "Thunderdome" and at our Tampa International Airport where she said she was fortunate to have made her most lucrative sale.



While she doesn't often venture into portraits, this piece is one that Gunni said she is most proud of.

As mentioned above, she was the wife of an Army pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Robert (Bob) Price. The two were happily married for 58 years. His Army career was during a time when there was an expectation by the Army that the wives were to be supporting participants in post social functions. As such, another of her talents was frequently showcased as on occasion, she was asked to cook for generals and their foreign dignitaries. Perhaps this is something our league has benefited from as that same expertise often finds its way into the appetizers at the monthly meetings.

Gunni is truly a multi-faceted individual who speaks three languages. She is very health conscious working out at the gym three times a week. She used to enjoy the activity of "compass orienteering", but that's an event which unfortunately is all but gone now with the advent of the global positioning system (GPS) devices. Her other interests include crocheting, embroidery and on occasion, old furniture make-overs, all of which she does at a similar level to the quality of her art.

Well, it's now been fifty-five years since Gunni took those lessons, back at Fort Meade. In that span she's created countless quality pieces, and she's not done yet, slowing down just slightly. So, I'm sure it will be a pleasure seeing the wonders she'll have for our future shows.

Exciting Upcoming Events

Show and Tell

Show and Tell openings for the coming year are available. Share your personal creative insights with the membership along with current or past art.

Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with your preferred month, starting with April, or sign up at the next general meeting.

BLFA fundraiser

BLFA fundraiser is on April 27, 2025 at La Viva Shopping Center. We will need volunteers to assist with pickup, pricing and transport, and day of event participation. Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with your availability dates and times.

We had an incredible response to last year's fundraiser, let's put the 'FUN' in FUNDRAISER by donating and participating! (NO DROP OFFS AT CJT due to lack of storage space) the address to drop off donations will be provided by email, respond to BLFABrandon@gmail.com with request for address, availability to help, and if pick up is needed.



The next PAINT OUT will be at

SUNKEN  GARDENS

1825 4th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33704



Voting for the day and time of the next paint out will happen at the next meeting (March 17th).

PAIN T OUT!

Marietta Museum of Art & Whimsy

2121 N Tamiami Trl, Sarasota, FL 34234



March 6th, 2025



How many flamingos can you find in the newsletter?



Spring Art Show

Rules and Details



1 – Who can Enter?

Members in good standing may submit art for our show.

2 – What are the physical requirements and restrictions on the art?

- a. A member can submit up to two pieces of art.
- b. Each piece may not exceed:
 - 961 square inches (this includes the frame).
 - *31" x 31" happens to be 961 square inches.
 - 25 Pounds in weight.
- c. 3D works can only be accepted if they can be hung on the CJT display racks.
- d. All pieces must be properly fitted with wire for hanging.
As usual, this means no sawtooth or screw eyes. * (see photo below)
- e. All entries must be properly framed. Canvas wraps are considered to be properly framed.
- f. Pieces must not have tags, stickers or ribbons from previous shows.



3 – Are there any additional requirements or restrictions?

- a. All entries must be the original piece. Sorry, no reproductions or commercial prints.
- b. All entries must remain on exhibit throughout the entire length of the exhibit. Anything removed early may disqualify the member from prizes or future shows.
- c. All entries must have been completed within the last 5 years.
- d. All entries must not have received an award in a previous BLFA show.
- e. All entries must be ORIGINAL work and created solely by the artist. So:
No copies of the works of other artists,
No copies of instruction book lessons.
No copies of teacher demonstrated works or teacher assisted work will be accepted.
No works from commercial molds.
- f. Because children visit the gallery, works containing nudity, or horror are not accepted

4 – Is this a “juried show”?

No, this is not a juried show.

So, all works that meet the eligibility requirements within Rules 1,2 & 3 will be accepted.

5 – Will there be awards?

Yes, awards to be given will be determined at the discretion of the exhibit committee.

These are our expectations as we plan the show:

1st. place: 50% of taking in.

2nd. Place: 30% of taking in.

3rd. place: 15% of taking in.

Honorable Mention:

Prize money and number of awards will be determined by show participation.

From the Heart Award: TBD. Sponsored by the Bay Area Cardiologists.

People’s Choice Award: Free single person BLFA Membership for 2026.

*Note: There is no category distinction.

6 – How are winners determined?

A qualified professional will judge the show, except for the “People’s Choice Award”.

The “People’s Choice Award” is determined by votes of the members and public that view the show.

7 – Can we sell our work at the show?

Yes, you can sell your work. The price should be placed on the entry form.

Any sales will be handled directly with the artist and no commission due.

Keep in mind, all entries must remain on exhibit throughout the entire length of the exhibit.

8 – What other details do we need to know to enter?

a. The event location is: Creative Junk Therapy, 776 Lumsden Rd. LaViva Plaza – Brandon.

b. The Entry Fee is \$15.00 (cash or check).

*2 Entries for \$25.

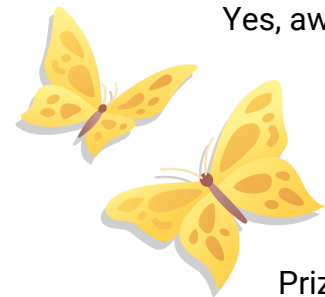
c. The Take-In day is : Sunday, March 30th 2025 1:00 to 4:00

d. The Pick-Up day is : Wednesday, April 30th. (Time TBD).

e. The Chairperson is Guy Learn.

You can contact him if you need further information: (813) 679-3863. Leave message.

f. IMPORTANT:



LIABILITY: At the time of delivery of artwork to Creative Junk Therapy and the Members' Show committee the artist must sign the entry slip, which acts as a declaration discharging the BLFA, its committee members and all other participating and sponsoring organization from any and all manner of actions, suits, damages or claims whatsoever arising from any loss or damage to the property of the artist while in the possession or supervision of the BLFA Members' Show committee. The artist agrees to abide by the Members' Show rules and understands the Committee reserves the right to make the final interpretation of the rules.

SIZE CALCULATIONS:

Figuring the square inch area of your piece is simple, assuming they are square or rectangular.

Simply multiply the length by the width. (Include the frame in the measurements)

If it happens to be round, use this formula: 3.14 times (the radius times the radius).



Current

BOARD MEMBERS & CHAIRS

Directors

David Bodo, President

Guy Learn, Vice President

Karen Koseck, Treasurer

Carol Stebbins, Secretary

Key Chairpersons

Photographer - Noel Villahermosa and Guy Learn (backup)

Membership - Carol Stebbins

Website - David Bahm



Newsletter - Jessica Castrodad

Refreshments - Carol Stebbins

BLFA Shows - Guy Learn



The purpose of the Brandon League of Fine Arts is to inspire interest in the arts through educational programs, to promote advancement of members by providing opportunities to exhibit their work, and to serve the community through enrichment of the cultural climate.

In 1959, a group of Brandon area artists and art lovers organized to support and encourage the cultural life of the greater Brandon area, these dedicated men and women formed an organization called the Brandon Area Art Center, but changed its name to the Brandon League of Fine Arts (BLFA) in 1977.

In the 1980s, the scope of activities and events changed and expanded to reflect the ever-evolving interests of League members. In addition to monthly meetings and fine art demonstrations, noteworthy activities included a student scholarship, an annual Members' Show, Artworks Show, and a national Square Off competition.

In 2023, the BLFA established a new collaboration with a highly creative and environmentally-conscience business and 5013c, Creative Junk Therapy. This location really helps the League spread our wings with more space and a wider audience.

General Membership meetings are held at Creative Junk Therapy, 772 West Lumsden Road, Brandon, FL 33511 on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. Our Membership application is on the next page.



CREATIVE JUNK THERAPY
776 W Lumsden Rd. in Brandon
In La Viva Plaza • (813) 324-9777

Hours of Operation
Closed Mondays
Tuesday - 12 pm - 5 pm
Wednesday - Friday 12 pm - 7 pm
Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 7 pm

[Facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy)
www.CreativeJunkTherapy.org



Bay Area Cardiology Associates, P.A.
Consultation, Diagnostic & Interventional Cardiology

BayAreaCardiology.com

Bay Area Cardiology Associates 13029 Summerfield Square Dr Riverview, FL 33578	Bay Area Cardiology TGH Health Plex - Off Falkenburg Dr. 10740 Palm River Road Tampa, FL 33619
Bay Area Cardiology Associates PA 635 Eichenfeld Dr Brandon, FL 33511	

Thank You Sponsors



This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts.
We're a not-for-profit art league serving the needs of the Greater Brandon Area art community for over 65 years.



Membership Application

Please print legibly.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Medium:

How did you find the BLFA?

Membership Type: Individual \$40 Family \$50

Cash or Check only please. Make checks payable to BLFA.

Please contact BLFA if you would like information about volunteer opportunities.

SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS!

From Membership

The best part of every BLFA meeting (besides a chance to spend time with one's artistic peers) is the chance to collaborate, and create art. Consider sharing your talent and expertise with members by signing up for Show and Tell, a five or ten minute introduction to your inspirations, tell us of your recent or earlier art projects, discoveries. Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com to get on the list for available dates.

From Fundraiser Chair

The BLFA Second Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 27, 10 AM - 2 PM, to be held at the monthly Market at The LaViva Shopping Center location where CJT is located. Karen Koseck reports The Rustic Door, who hosts the monthly Sunday Market, will not charge us for the space. For drop-off location or pick-up, or to volunteer to assist with sorting, pricing and event day sale please email BLFABrandon@gmail.com, to provide your availability and/or schedule donation delivery. PLEASE DO NOT BRING DONATIONS TO CJT DUE TO LACK OF SPACE AND FIRE MARSHAL RULES. Lets put the 'fun' in fundraising while we are raising money for BLFA projects and operations.

From Refreshments

For the upcoming April art exhibit, please bring a contribution of finger food, or appetizers, wine, spirits or other beverages.

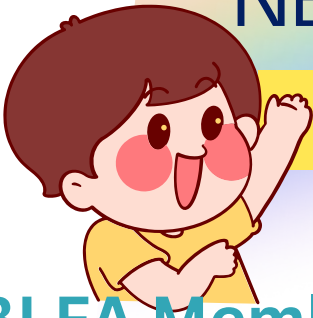
Seeking Public Relations Chairperson

The League's message of bringing art to the local community will be expanded once we have a Public Relations chairperson to represent League programs and benefits. This Chair will submit articles for publication in newspapers and interact with local community resources by email and in person to invite participation and sponsorship. Please consider lending your talent and interest in becoming more active in BLFA by emailing BLFABrandon@gmail.com for more information.



NEED MORE art in your life?

JOIN A CLASS!



BLFA Member Classes at Creative Junk Therapy

Visit Creative Junk Therapy's Event Facebook Page or Website for additional classes, schedules, and fees.

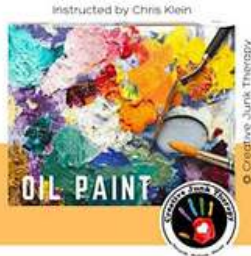
facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy

www.creativejunktherapy.org

Oil Painting Open Studio

Wednesdays 10.30am - 100pm
\$15 per session or \$56 for 4

Learn, share and develop
oil painting techniques



Storytellers Unite

Price \$15
Last Friday monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup
collaborating resources,
ideas, stories and images



Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision

3rd Wednesday 5-7pm
\$10 per session or 4 for \$35

Kids learn basic drawing
techniques and develop
their skill and style.



Art and Soul Collage

\$35 - Supplies included

Tap into your creativity and
create a unique dimensional
multi layered, multi medium
piece of art.



Drawing Beginners and Beyond

4th Saturday 3-6pm
\$25 per session or 4 for \$80

Explore different drawing
mediums with new
subjects each class



Beyond Basic Watercolor

\$25 Per Person
BYO Supplies

Ongoing class for painters
who want to go beyond the
basics of watercolor.



Inspired Acrylic Painting

\$25 BYO supplies
\$30 Supplies included

Ongoing class for beginners or
more experienced painters
wanting to go beyond the basics
in acrylic painting.



Watercolor Open Studio

\$25 BYO Supplies
\$5 supplies included

Learn watercolor
concepts, techniques
and develop your skills.



Beginner Watercolors

\$25 per person BYO supplies
+ \$5 supplies included



Colored Pencils, Pastels and More Basics and Beyond

Learn the Basics or Open Studio
4th Saturday 10.30 - 1.30
\$20 Beginner + Supplies \$5
OR \$15 Open Studio BYO Supplies



BLFA MEMBERS MEETING

February 17, 2025

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting with a welcome for members and guests. He reviewed the monthly Word Play exercise for the members, drawings | paintings | photographs | sculpture – all media is acceptable for producing the inspired art work. These will be displayed at the next meeting for members enjoyment.

Participation is optional.

Carol Stebbins (CS) announced renewing memberships please provide annual \$40 membership fee to Karen Koseck (KK). CS announced the new BLFA member Alana Brown, who expressed her interest in pastels, acrylics as her preferred medium. She was warmly welcomed by the attending members.

CS announced the Second Annual Garage Sale fundraiser will be held March 16, at the monthly market located in front of CJT, at LaViva shopping center. The garage sale fund raiser last year was a great success, please ask friends and family if they will contribute salable items. CS requests members not bring garage sale donations to CJT, due to lack of storage and impact to fire marshal requirements.

CS also asked members to sign up for the Show and Tell portion of each meeting to share their art experience with members.

KK provided the Treasurer's report, current bank balance is \$4,984.86. She announced a \$6 sale of member art. She announced BLFA will no longer offer a Venmo pay option due to the charges for the service diminishing the League's return. Payments for membership can be made in person at each meeting in cash or by check made out to BLFA[CS1] , or by mail c/o Creative Junk Therapy, 772 West Lumsden Road, Brandon, FL 33511 ATT: BLFA.

KK provided details of the paint out event for March 6, to the Marietta Museum of Art & Whimsy in Sarasota. There is no charge to visit, but KK suggested a donation from the League and from participants.

Roxanne Tobaison (RT) announced the February 27, change-over of art work at local Bay Area Cardiology offices. Reminded members who would like to submit their work to review requirements for hanging their art.

DB announced the upcoming April art exhibit, take-in is March 30. The show will run from April 1, to April 30.

DB announced his efforts to invite local high school art students to a BLFA exhibit and solicit their critiques.

Business classes prepare students for life after graduation. Per Lois Miller (LM) Ringling Art School also provides business prep.

KK announced the next month's workshop, a ceramics artist will demonstrate jewelry making, each member will make a pendant that will be fired off-site, and finished pieces returned at the next meeting.

KK advised members the Strawberry Festival needs volunteers if anyone would like to participate.

After members' break for refreshments, Bonnie Phillips (BP) demonstrated how to make stencils on greeting cards.

DB adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.