

# PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER

April 2025



## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

April's member meeting will be an occasion to enjoy member art works and share congratulations with the winners of BLFA's "Spring" exhibit, announced at the meeting.

Please contribute finger food snacks and/or beverages for the reception, and thanks to all the members who bring delicious treats to share at every meeting! We appreciate your generosity.



## JOIN US

April 21, 2025

6:30 pm



At Creative Junk Therapy

776 W. Lumsden Road

Brandon, FL



# Spring Art Show



## BLFA 2025 Spring Art Show - "Judge Judy Has Spoken"

The results are in for our Spring Art Show. The winners were determined by Judy Milsaps, of the Tampa Regional Artists, and evidently it wasn't easy. I waited as it took her about an hour and a half to assess the gallery. And when all was said and put to paper, the award winners included (in alphabetic order by title):

- "Clearwater Pelikan" by Christopher Klein
- "Forgiveness" by Dineen Roeller
- "Great White Egret Displaying" by Marsha Nelson
- "It's a Sign" by David Bodo
- "Lithia Sunrise" by Guy Learn
- "Pauls' Pond" by Douglas Steinbarger
- "Tiger Tiger" by Bobbi Ritter

While we have a list of "winners", the remaining pieces are far from losers. Following the judging, Judy spent a good bit of time highlighting a long list of what impressed her with our art. And that list was hardly limited to the pieces that received awards. As always seems to be the case, the quality of the entries far exceeded the quantity of ribbons to be awarded. That said, there is one remaining and undetermined winner and that is our "People's Choice" award. PLEASE bring your friends and family to the exhibit and have them vote!



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Fine art** /fīn 'ärt/

*noun*

noun: **fine art**; plural noun: **fine arts**

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1. creative art, especially visual art whose products are to be appreciated primarily or solely for their imaginative, aesthetic, or intellectual content.

"the convergence of popular culture and fine art"

2. an activity requiring great skill or accomplishment.

"he'll have to learn the fine art of persuasion"

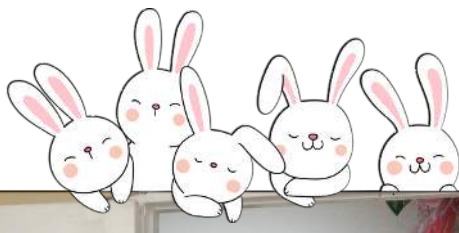
Well, there it is...sometimes we'll get a word or phrase in our vocabulary that we just say without thinking what it really means. So as many of us artists know, creating the art itself can sometimes be the easier part...persuasion to appease a client, convincing a browsing shopper, or explaining to someone what was going through your mysterious artist mind is usually a little more involved. Fine art can be created in a day, and if really imaginative, aesthetic, or intellectual, can be spoken about for weeks, years, or dare I say...centuries. Fine painting, sculpture, and architecture "the big guys" often shoot for aesthetic (appreciation of beauty) and visual appeal while general art will often emphasize intense concepts, raw emotions or an approach that is unconventional.

So get out there and show off your Fine Art, and hone your skills also in the fine art of persuasion.



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





# March Meeting



## Wren Neil - Sculpture Project

Participants at the March meeting enjoyed making clay pendants/sculptures with the guidance of Wren Neil (above left). The variety of decorative dowels to impress and incise the clay engaged everyone's creative attention.

Wren has delivered the fired clay art to CJT for pick up at the April 21, meeting.

If you missed this one, or would like to join Wren for another class, she will be at CJT the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month from 3PM -6PM. Sign up at [creativejunktherapy.org](http://creativejunktherapy.org).



# Artist SPOTLIGHT David Bahm

Written by Guy Learn



David says he's a fan of about anything "Route 66-related" which may be no surprise since he was born and raised in Albuquerque, the biggest city in the "Land of Enchantment" that this iconic highway passes through. Other interests include classic cars and U.S. history. And if you were to visit his website, you could easily see how this has influenced his art.

He started drawing around the age of 8, and although he claims not to have shown any real talent for it at that time, he enjoyed it to that point that he would frequently stay inside during recess just to draw. But when still young, he envisioned himself following in his father's footsteps and pursuing a career in drafting and architecture. In that light, he took drafting classes in high school. But he began to lean in a different direction when he got involved in the school newspaper and yearbook, which in retrospect was the seed for what would be his career in graphic design.

David went on to major in Commercial Art, earning a bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. But he hadn't abandoned his interest in traditional art, as he also took art classes in painting, figure drawing, ceramics, 2 and 3-D design, watercolor, and illustration.

Among his favorite artists are M.C. Escher, Claude Monet and Georges Seurat. He says that Seurat was probably the most influential with his style being in the use of stippling / pointillism.

In his art endeavors, he claims that he sometimes finds it challenging just finding motivation to create art. This is probably somewhat emphasized by a literal pain in the neck during the creation process due to his disability, Cerebral Palsy. But once started, the process eventually transforms from task to fun, and is fed by the anticipation of the satisfaction of placing his signature on yet another completed piece of art.

His work is primarily in “ink & watercolor on heavy watercolor paper”, and “acrylic on canvas”. His favorite is ink and watercolor where he really enjoys rendering the finer details in a composition. He claims that drawing people is not his strength and avoids them, but you sure wouldn’t know it from what you’ll find on his website, including one of the works he is most proud of, and that would be “Biker Chick”; a piece that hangs prominently in his living room.

I’ve mentioned his website a couple times, and what some of you may or may not know is that David is our league’s webmaster, and we really appreciate his time and efforts in this regard. But Dave’s appreciation for the web runs much deeper than it would for most of us. As it happens, he met his wife Jennifer via America Online back in 1997. He was still living in Albuquerque at the time, and she, in Denver. He said that, as a joke, he placed a personal ad in the Christianity Online section. And while the posting may have originated as a humor-based act, while there online, he talked sincerely about his faith, interests, career and art. He was also candid about his disability to the point of including a photo of himself with his walker. And ... Well to keep it brief, fast-forwarding to recent times, we see that their 27th wedding anniversary is this month, April 5th. And among he and Jen’s more enjoyable events in life are those spent with their three grandchildren.

Back to the subject of art, David does work on commission. As a matter of fact, 20 of the 78 originals that he has sold were commissioned pieces. Those figures were easy for him to figure since he started keeping a spreadsheet with details about every piece of art and sale since around 2003. Even more about his art can be found on his website, and I encourage all of you to take some time, relax and view his work at [www.davidabahm.com](http://www.davidabahm.com).

Thanks again David for all your work on our website, and Happy anniversary to you and Jennifer.



Happy Anniversary

# Exciting Upcoming Events

## *Show and Tell*

Show and Tell openings are available for April, May and June. We would love to see what's keeping your creativity going – past, present or future projects.

Email [BLFABrandon@gmail.com](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com) SUBJECT: SHOW AND TELL to sign up for your preferred date.



## *BLFA fundraiser*

The fundraiser garage sale event is already attracting generous donations from members, with a SECOND DATE ADDED - now shoppers can benefit from Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, location will be at my home in Bloomingdale East, a haven for weekend garage sales and shoppers. Here is my address (where you may drop off donations now) - 2642 Wrencrest Circle, Valrico, FL 33596. Call me first to ensure I'm home (813) 390-4551. Email [BLFABrandon@gmail.com](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com) if you need me to pick up your contribution

## *May's Member Time Machine*

May's member time machine art event - Members join in the BLFA "Time Machine" event at our May meeting! Bring an early art work you produced, whether original or a reproduction, along with a more recent work for display during the meeting. Members will try to guess who produced what masterpiece -- the art work goes home with you that evening and we will have fun and appreciate each member's progression as artists.



**BLFA ART  
EXCURSION**



**BOK TOWER  
GARDENS**

1151 Tower Blvd. Lake  
Wales, FL 33853  
January 10, 2025







**The rotating exhibits at the Bay Area Cardiology office TGH HealthPlex. Spots are limited.**

Bay Area Cardiology TGH HealthPlex - Changeover on May 2nd, Friday 12:00 - 1:00 NEW TIME (note: This is by request of office. Lunch hour - no patients.

Location: 10740 Palm River Rd, Tampa (next to Top Golf)

1 piece - FIRST register, 1st to get spot.

TAKE OUTS – IF you plan to take out their pieces or if you plan to replace them, I will need to know that you are doing this and the info on the pieces you will be replacing them with. I have to maintain correct inventory. Any sales: please contact me to adjust inventory.

Register by- Thursday May 1st.  
PLEASE EMAIL [roxtob@verizon.net](mailto:roxtob@verizon.net) with:  
your name,  
title,  
selling price  
and contact phone

ALSO, please provide plain white business card size with:  
Your Name:  
Title of the art,  
Price – to place on your art.

SIZE- prefer medium size:  
Maximum Size– 18 x 24. The spots accommodate smaller pieces.  
NOTHING too heavy as they are placed over people's chairs in the reception area  
and the walls doesn't support heavy weight.

Sorry, NO Eyehooks – strong wire.  
The reason is the screw eyes pull out easily and sawtooths as well. Safety & liability issues.





# Current

## *BOARD MEMBERS & CHAIRS*

### **Directors**

David Bodo, President

Guy Learn, Vice President

Karen Koseck, Treasurer

Carol Stebbins, Secretary

### **Key Chairpersons**

Photographer - Guy Learn

Membership - Carol Stebbins

Website - David Bahm

Newsletter - Jessica Castrodad

Refreshments - Carol Stebbins

BLFA Shows - Guy Learn

Revolving Exhibits - Roxanne

Tobaison - Marsha Nelson, back up



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](http://www.CreativeJunkTherapy.org)



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

[BayAreaCardiology.com](http://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.

Email us at: [BLFABrandon@gmail.com](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

# 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](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com) to get on the list for available dates.

## **From Fundraiser Chair**

All donations of salable items for our SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, are gratefully accepted. The proceeds will be used to fund BLFA projects for the benefit of our members.

## **From Refreshments**

April's member meeting will be an occasion to enjoy member art works and share congratulations with the winners of BLFA's "Spring" exhibit, announced at the meeting. Please contribute finger food snacks and/or beverages for the reception, and thanks to all the members who bring delicious treats to share at every meeting! We appreciate your generosity.

## **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](mailto: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.

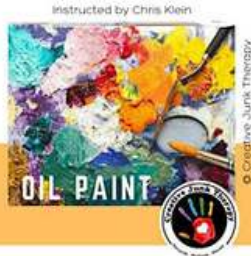
[facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy](https://facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy)

[www.creativejunktherapy.org](http://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

FREE  
4th 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 MARCH GENERAL MEETING

March 17, 2025

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting at 6:35 PM and greeted members and guests. DB reviewed the members' off-site trip to the Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsey last week, advised there are pictures of the event published in the current newsletter. He mentioned the next off-site paint out event will be April 12, at Bok Tower, organized by Karen Koseck (KK). KK continues a monthly paint-out off-site event, details are sent to all members via email from BLFABrandon@gmail.com.

DB mentioned the first BLFA art exhibit of 2025, take-in will be on Sunday, March 30. Details of guidelines for submission are published in the current newsletter.

DB reviewed for members the Word Play exercise in which members write an inspiring word of their choice on a slip of paper, then choose another member's word for their art creation inspired by the chosen word. These art works can include collage, any medium, sculpture, etc., and will be displayed at the next month's meeting.

DB introduced the evening's Show and Tell artist Guy Learn (GL), who brought in his recent art works created in BLFA member Michele Young's (MY) CJT colored pencil class. The members were interested to learn more about the basics of MY's class. GL gave a spirited endorsement of her class and the advantages of colored pencil as a medium, invited members to take her class. Roxanne Tobaison (RT) conducted the 50/50 raffle, announced the pot was \$25. Chris Klein (CK) won the \$13.50 and donated his winnings to the League.

DB introduced Wren Neil, the evening's workshop leader, who brought clay and supplies for members to create a pendant or art sculpture which she will fire then return to members by the next month's meeting date. The variety of decorative dowels to impress and incise the clay engaged everyone's creative attention.

BLFA photographers Noel Villahermosa (NV) and GL took many candid shots of members and their clay creations throughout the workshop.

Carol Stebbins (CS) reminded members of the upcoming BLFA Second Annual Fund Raiser garage sale, asked members to email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with notice of donations and requests for pickup.

Members enjoyed the refreshments provided by generous donors; DB thanked those who contributed to the evening's enjoyment with delicious snacks.

DB closed the meeting at 8:30 PM