



Perspectives Newsletter

March 2024

This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts

Volume 65 / Issue 3

A not-for-profit art league serving the needs of the Greater Brandon Area art community for over 55 years.

Join us on March 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at Creative Junk Therapy, 776 W. Lumsden Road



What is Fine Art Paper Mache?

Kathy Carrier shares her art and her creative process.

Creating art is not only about the finished piece, but the transformative process involved in making it. As a paper mache artist, my work is inspired by pieces of recyclable trash - from plastic bottles and aluminum cans to cardboard, plastics, scrap metal, wire and more. The magic of paper mache can turn waste into unique, colorful, whimsical and fun pieces of art. I try to use paper mache as a contemporary art form that's sustainable, ecologically responsible,

and incredibly creative to work with.

Paper mache offers me the most flexibility in combining all of my creative interests into one cohesive art form. I've found a huge sense of joy in creating my own work and sharing that joy with others.

To contact Kathy about classes email: KathyCarrierArt@gmail.com



Michele Stone, Gallery Manager at Florida Craft Art



Florida Craft Art is a statewide nonprofit representing Florida's fine craft artists, Florida Craft Art is a member-supported organization that helps mentor and advance artists

Michele Stone is the Gallery Manager. She will be showing a presentation about Florida Craft Art.

Come find out about Michele, Florida Craft Art and what makes Craft Art Fine. If you haven't been there, it really is a fabulous venue for Florida artists to show and sell their art. Hoping to schedule a field trip there very soon.



501 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
(727) 821-7391 • info@floridacraftart.org

***If you are not a member and have attended a workshop, the fee for additional workshops is \$20. If you join this year for \$40, workshops are free and you are paid for the year.**



Interested in Membership to the Brandon League of Fine Arts, please contact BLFABrandon@gmail.com.



BLFA.us



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Beth Smedley
Vice President: Guy Learn
Secretary: Carol Stebbins
Treasurer: Karen Koseck

Newsletter: Beth Smedley

Photography: Guy Learn

Promotional Committee:

Beth Smedley
Dineen Roeller
Roxanne Tobaison
Carol Stebbins

Membership: Guy Learn

Refreshments:

Dineen Roeller
Ren Hesse
Carol Stebbins

Hanging Committee:

Dineen Roeller, Chris Klein,
Roxanne Tobaison,
Karen Koseck, Carlene Earl,
Beth Smedley

Revolving Displays:

Roxanne Tobaison

Shows:

For the Love of Art Member
Exhibit
Member Show
ArtWorks (TBD)

Website: David Bahm

Paint Out, Field Trips:

Anyone interested in
volunteering to help out
on any committee, contact
BLFABrandon@gmail.com

Submit news, articles and
photos to: Beth Smedley at
Smedley.Creative@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Membership continues to grow. We have some very enthusiastic artists!

The take-in for "For the Love of Art" Member exhibit was awesome. Big thanks to everyone for helping set up for the workshop, hang the art, and put everything away. Deeply grateful that so many pitched in.

Several of our members entered and won prizes in the Florida State Fair and in the Strawberry Festival Art Show. Congratulations to all. The new building at the Strawberry Festival was perfect. Roomy and well lit.

Big thanks to our secretary, **Carol Stebbins** for creating and hosting a drop-in crafting event on March 16th for National Craft Month. She has worked very hard to create an event to draw new members and entertain our existing ones. Please come and bring a friend.

Karen Koseck has been doing a great job working on our Venmo account. We can now pay dues on line with a QR code. Appreciate you!

Our **garage sale fundraiser March 9** was a huge success netting more than \$250. Several members donated and our helpers were the best. Carol Stebbins, Guy Learn and daughter, Morgan got going early and stayed all day. Ren Hesse, Dineen Roeller and Chris Klein pitched in and helped make the day way more manageable. All profits benefit the League and will help with costs of workshops, shows, refreshments and business affairs. Thank you again for all the donations and help.

March 30 we have BLFA volunteer award winners to do mini workshops for National Craft Month. **Chris Klein, oil painting; Doug Steinbarger, pastels; Roxanne Tobaison, watercolor; and I'll represent mixed media.** This event was suggested by **Karen Koseck** and she made time for us at CJT to host this fundraiser event. Grateful!

March meeting is on the 18th. Very excited to have **Kathy Carrier** and **Michele Stone** address the League. Kathy's art is so unique and so fun. For those who are interested in showing or selling work, pay attention to the presentation from Florida Craft Art gallery manager, Michele. We gotta go there!

The March meeting is also the day after St. Patrick's Day. Wear green if you're still feeling Irish!

We will have a raffle basket at the March meeting.
Member show is in May. Let's get crackin on that.

Cheers!

Beth Smedley
BLFA President

smedley.creative@gmail.com



Beth Smedley, Dineen Roeller, Guy Learn, Carol Stebbins and Ren Hesse making the fundraiser a big success.

For the Love of ART

Member Exhibit & Prize Drawing Feb. 19 - March 18

Such a great turnout. I hope everyone has a chance to look at all the great member art.
At the last board meeting we put all the numbers in a hat and chose our winner.
Be sure to come to the meeting to see the award winner!





Brandon League of Fine Arts MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____

Medium _____

How did you find the BLFA? _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

Are you OK to have your information in the BLFA directory? Yes No

Membership type: Individual \$40 Family \$50

Make checks payable to: BLFA

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

For more information, email BLFABrandon@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting the Brandon League of Fine Arts

From Membership

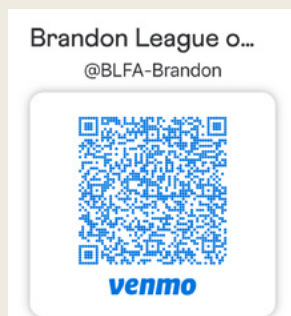
Thank you to everyone who has renewed their memberships. Applications are in all of the newsletters and at the meetings. Annual memberships will have rolling renewals. You will be reminded when your membership is up for renewal.

From **Treasurer** Our Venmo account is active!

From the Secretary

What a great news article on page 10, to raise community awareness for BLFA, and a great introduction to Beth Smedley's plans for the League!

There will be **take away memos** recapping events and info from the meetings. These will be available at the meeting.



From the Promotion Committee

Social: We had 398 views from NextDoor about the garage salet.

We had 383 views from NextDoor about the Craft Month event. Exciting.

MeetUp continues to grow.

We have flyers to hand out at meetings and events.

From Refreshment Chair

We really appreciate everyone who contributes goodies for our artsy meetings. Anyone can bring a snack or doughnuts, or cake, or cookies, or fruit, or danish, or chips, or pretzels, or chocolate, or.....

From Revolving Displays

Congrats to **Michele Young and Marsha Nelson**
Their art sold at BAC, Riverview.



Brandon League of Fine Arts Members' Show 2024

PLEASE REVIEW the NEW rules: sizes and weight, different venue with different rules.

This is not an exhibit, it is a show with awards. It is the first big show for the League since Covid.

Take-in day: THURSDAY, May 16, 2024. 10 a.m. to Noon.

RULES:

1. Members in good standing may submit ONE piece of art, not to exceed 30 inches in either dimension and not to exceed 25 lbs.
3D works must be hung on display racks. Also, cannot weigh over 25 lbs.
2. All works meeting the required criteria will be accepted.
All work to be hung. **ONLY works with proper hanging* wires (see images below) will be accepted.** Sawtooth or screw eyes hardware will be rejected. Do not include tags, stickers or ribbons from previous shows.
3. All work must have been completed within the last 5 years and has not been shown in a BLFA show.
4. All work must be **ORIGINAL** and created solely by the artist. No copies of the works of other artists, no copies of instruction book lessons, and no teacher demonstrated works or teacher-assisted works will be accepted.
5. Laser reproduction, commercial prints or works from commercial molds are **not eligible**.
6. All works must remain on exhibit throughout the entire length of the exhibit.
7. Awards will be determined at the discretion of the exhibit committee.
8. A qualified professional will judge the show.
9. Because children visit the gallery, works containing nudity or horror are not accepted.
10. There is no category distinction.
11. Any sales will be handled directly with the artist and no commissions are due.

ENTRY FEE: \$15.00 cash or check. This is not a juried show so all member work presented will be accepted.

AWARDS: 1st. place 50% of take-in. 2nd place 30% of take-in. 3rd place 15% of take-in. HM 2 ribbons at \$25 each.

Take-in day: THURSDAY, May 16, 2024. 10 a.m. to Noon. (See a BLFA board member if you cannot deliver yourself)

Pick-up day: MONDAY, June 17, after Member's monthly June meeting.

LOCATION: Creative Junk Therapy, 776 Lumsden Rd., Brandon

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.

Chairperson: Roxanne Tobaison

Further information, (813) 685-1627. Leave message.

***Do not use** eye screws or sawtooth hangers. If you bring your art to take-in, it will be rejected.



Proper framing hardware.



Christine Jacques



Chris Klein



Doug Steinbarger



Carlene Earl



Gunni Price



*Strawberry Theme
Beth Smedley*



Deborah Biasetti



Roxanne Tobaison



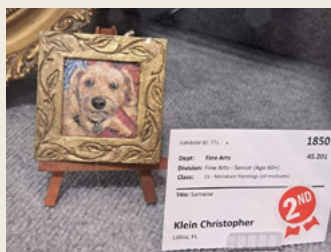
Deborah Biasetti



Doug Steinbarger



*Joseph & Edna Lessard Award
Barbara Tudek*



Chris Klein



Sue Allen

March is National Craft Month!

This is a great opportunity to start up a new hobby, tell your friends and family about one that you already have, or even introduce your kids to something crafty.

Mark
Your
Calendar

BLFA Celebrates National Craft Month

Saturday, March 16 • 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. • \$5, Free for members
Creative Junk Therapy, 776 W. Lumsden Road in Brandon

The BLFA is having a crafting event for families, groups and grownups. Join us for a workshop where we will create from natural materials, keepsakes and decorative items for gifts or personal use. All materials are provided. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

To register, please email BLFABrandon@gmail.com.



BRING YOUR CABOOSE TO AN ART STATION.

Mark your calendar and tell your friends. The Stations will be **OPEN**
So try something new..

Saturday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
\$40 per person

As part of the National Craft Month Celebration, BLFA and CJT are hosting mini **Art Sampler Workshops** with award winning artists. Try watercolor with Roxanne, oil painting with Chris Klein, pastels with Doug Steinbarger or mixed media with Beth Smedley.

10"



10"

10 x 10 Fundraiser

Thank you to all those who have committed to producing and donating their work to the BLFA. There are still canvas boards available to anyone who wants to use them. You can do your piece on paper or other substrate. Not necessary to add hardware – BLFA will take care of hanging. Finished donations and unused canvas boards are requested by the April Member Meeting on April 15.

Prices and sale venues are yet to be determined.

February Meeting Highlights



DON'T DRINK FROM THE GREEN CUPS!



BUBBLES!



JUST HANGING AROUND



ALL SMILES!



BLFA Member Art Classes

BLFA Member Classes at Creative Junk Therapy



CREATIVE JUNK THERAPY

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

Visit Creative Junk Therapy's FB page and/or website for additional classes and schedules.

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

www.CreativeJunkTherapy.org



National Craft Month Celebration

Carol Stebbins
Sat. March 16, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



Inspired Acrylic Painting

Karen Koseck
Saturday, March 30
3 p.m.



Colored Pencils, Pastels and More

Michelle Young
Saturday, March 23
10:30 a.m.



Watercolor Classes

Roxanne Tobaison
Beginner - Sat., April 13, 10:30 a.m.
Intermediate - Sat., April 13, 1:30 p.m.
NEW Mixed class - Thurs., April 18, 12:30 p.m.



Fine Art Sampler Watercolor, Oil Painting, Pastels and Mixed Media

BLFA
Sat. March 30, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



Oil Painting

Chris Klein
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Paint Along with Bonnie!

Classes in oil, acrylic, watercolor, textile painting, pouring, collage, pen & ink, colored pencil and more.

Limit 5 students.

Individual instruction. First class FREE supplies.



Whats on the Horizon for BLFA

March (National Craft Month)

- **March 16:** National Craft Month workshop
- **March 18** meeting speakers, Kathy Carrier, fine art paper mache and Michele Stone, manager Florida Craft Art.
- For the Love of Art member exhibit winner awarded
- **March 30:** Stations Workshop and **FUNDRAISER**

April

- **10 x 10 FUNDRAISER.** Members commit to producing at least one 10 x 10 piece of creativity that is donated to a BLFA sale. BLFA to supply the substrate if needed. Finished donations turn in at April meeting.
- Demo TBD. Suggestions and volunteers encouraged.

May

- Demo TBD. Suggestions and volunteers encouraged.
- **Member show - May 16 take-in.** This is the big annual BLFA Member show with monetary prizes. \$15 per entry, members only. One entry limit.





Beth Smedley: A Brush with Leadership in the Brandon League of Fine Arts

By Amanda Ragan

The Bloomingdale Gazette is excited to report a “win” for the arts community! Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association’s very own volunteer graphic designer, Beth Smedley, has been elected as the President of the Brandon League of Fine Arts (BLFA), which was founded in 1959 with a mission to, “promote the visual arts and artists of the Brandon, Florida Area.”

Beth, a retired graphic artist, is not only a proficient designer, but also a skilled artist in her own right. Her achievements include winning Best in Show for Mixed Media at the 2019 Strawberry Festival and, more recently, earning the 2023 prize for the Best Strawberry Themed Art Award.

One of Beth’s primary goals as president is to invigorate the BLFA by expanding its membership and reintroducing art shows to the Brandon area. Beth hopes to enlist a new generation of artists that can learn from seasoned professionals while simultaneously bringing a fresh perspective to the organization, thus revitalizing the local art scene.

In addition to gaining a new leader, the BLFA has also found a new home at Creative Junk Therapy, located at 772 W Lumsden Rd, Brandon. This space provides a nurturing environment for artists to explore and express their creativity. Every third Monday of the month, the league gathers at Creative Junk Therapy for an artistic workshop. These workshops not only serve as a creative outlet for members but also offer an opportunity for socializing with fellow art enthusiasts, accompanied by light refreshments. Beth characterizes these gatherings as “art parties that showcase a variety of art forms, guaranteeing an engaging artistic experience for everyone!”

Beth has ambitious plans for the BLFA. This month, she aims to set up a “For the Love of Art” display, a collaborative wall within Creative Junk Therapy, featuring art from every league member. This initiative will not only celebrate the diverse talents within the league, but also foster a sense of unity and shared passion.

To join the Brandon League of Fine Arts, visit <http://blfa.us>. To stay updated on BLFA events and activities, join the BLFA’s public Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.blfa.us/> or email Beth Smedley: Smedley.creative@gmail.com.





BLFA GENERAL MEETING NOTES

February, 2024

From Secretary, Carol Stebbins

Beth Smedley (BS) called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Guy Learn (GL) reported on attendance; four visitors and three new members.

BS recognized Nicki Rothenberger (NR) and Bonnie Phillips for their contribution to BLFA leadership in 2023, members applauded their efforts.

BS welcomed and introduced each visitor and new member, asked them to provide a brief description of their chosen medium.

BS mentioned the upcoming BLFA FUND RAISER GARAGE SALE Saturday, March 9, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, asking for donations for the sale to be brought to her residence, or delivered on the day of the sale.

BS mentioned the upcoming 10 x 10 BLFA FUNDRAISER, members are invited to produce one or more works of art to be sold, profits will benefit the League. Members are asked to sign up for each 10" x 10" canvas, and commit to producing art for the sale. Display at CJT and other venues TBD. She asked for completed art work to be turned in at the BLFA General Meeting, April 19, or arrange a drop-off, email BLFABrandon@gmail.com for assist.

Carol Stebbins (CS) announced the upcoming BLFA CELEBRATES MARCH CRAFT MONTH, hosted at CJT. Samples of three projects for the workshop were shown. CS asked members to volunteer to assist with the event, a meeting to detail each craft project and familiarize volunteers with assembling each project will be held at her home, date, and time TBD.

Roxanne Tobiason (RT) with assistance from Carlene Earl (CE) conducted the 50/50 drawing with \$48 collected, \$24 to the League.

Members contributed their art work for display FOR THE LOVE OF ART member exhibit displayed at CJT. RT cataloged each piece to identify the artist, title, and price. The art was hung after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Dineen Roeller conducted acrylic techniques workshop.

BULLETIN BOARD & FORUM

Question: Is there any way to remove dried acrylic paint from brushes?

Reply: Doreen Donovan suggests: Use acetone and soak the brush move it back-and-forth try to separate the bristles, then use soap and water and repeat that that helps. Remove dried up acrylic paint on brushes.

Chris Klein provides his 'hack' to keep oil paints on your palette from drying out too quickly. He recommends placing a cotton ball with a few drops of clove oil on it in a bottle cap or small container when you are ready to put away your palette. Cover the palette with plastic wrap to keep the clove oil fumes contained. Be careful not to get clove oil in your paint! This is a way to keep paint fresh longer, but not indefinitely.

Do you have an art related item to sell?

Are you looking for an art something?

Is there an art-related event to attend?

Is there a question for the membership?

Art-related issue needing a solution? How to ...?

Email:

BLFABrandon@gmail.com



**Bay Area Cardiology
Associates, P.A.**

Consultative, Diagnostic & Interventional Cardiology

BayAreaCardiology.com

Bay Area Cardiology Associates
13029 Summerfield Square Dr
Riverview, FL 33578

Bay Area Cardiology Associates PA
3920 Galen Ct
Sun City Center, FL 33573

Bay Area Cardiology Associates PA
635 Eichenfeld Dr
Brandon, FL 33511



**CREATIVE JUNK
THERAPY**

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

Facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy

www.CreativeJunkTherapy.org

Thank You Sponsors

Please patronize them and be sure to mention
the BLFA. We truly thank you.

**Advertise here
for only \$50 a year!**

Contact BLFABrandon.com for more information