



ART GUILD INSIDER

DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY ART GUILD

WWW.WCAGTX.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynn Kessel, President

lynn.president@wcagtx.org



What a year it's been, and what a year to come!

As 2025 draws to a close and I reflect on the year, I want to take this opportunity to thank the numerous hardworking volunteers who make the Williamson County Art Guild and Gallery what it is today. You all have given your heart and soul to this organization, and as a result, grown this organization and served local artists with excellence. The impact that you've had on students, veterans, victims of crime, patients in the hospital, residents in assisted living facilities, people in our community, partners, and artists of all levels of skill is absolutely astounding. You've done everything from teaching a class to scheduling a speaker to designing a newsletter to curating an exhibit to staffing the gallery to informing the community to tabulating numbers or data to planning an event and much, much more. You have made a dramatic mark on our local artists and our community members at

large. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. ❤️

I personally invite all of you and your friends to our WCAG Holiday Gathering on **December 5th, 5-7pm**, at the gallery. Special music and holiday refreshments will be waiting for you...plus new art in the gallery. This is our time to celebrate and enjoy the holidays together. I look forward to seeing you there!

And then we hit 2026, the year WCAG turns 50! Read through the newsletter to learn more!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays everyone!

Lynn

Lynn Kessel, President
Williamson County Art Guild

THIS ISSUE AT A GLANCE

- 2** 50th Anniversary Calendar
Keller Williams Featured Artist
- 3** November Meeting Recap
Monthly Art Raffles in 2026
- WCAG Artist of the Month
- 4** December Gallery Reception
and Holiday Party
Recap: November Gallery Reception
- 5** Current Exhibits
Upcoming Exhibits/CFAs
- Volunteer Opportunities
- 6** Art Supplies for Sale
Interesting Art Resources
Art Classes/Workshops

WCAG'S WINTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE

We have some great programs in the 1st quarter of 2026! Here's the lineup:

- January 6th: Caroline Todd will talk about the History of Encaustic Painting (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)
Challenge Theme: "Primal"
- February 10th: Karyn Derby will give a demonstration of Gel Plate Printing (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)
Challenge Theme: "Friends"
- March 3rd: Allison Walker will discuss Social Media for Artists (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)
Challenge Theme: "Socializing"

Don't miss these upcoming events!

- Dec 5 5-7pm **WCAG Holiday Celebration at the Rock Street Gallery**
*There will be no member meeting in December. Our next meeting will be Jan 6.
- Jan 3 5-7pm **Rock Street Gallery Reception**
- Jan 6 6:15-8pm **Member Meeting (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)**
Carolyn Todd: Encaustic Painting History and Examples
Challenge Theme: "Primal"
*Meet and Greet at 6:15pm; Presentation starts at 6:30pm

WCAG TURNS 50 IN 2026

Join us for a full calendar year of celebration!

Get ready... our biggest year yet is about to begin!

As we prepare to celebrate our golden anniversary in 2026, we're excited to share a first look at our yearlong series of special events honoring five decades of creativity and community impact. From exhibitions and workshops to social gatherings and public art experiences, each month will offer something unique as we commemorate this milestone.

Below is a preliminary list of what's ahead. The final dates of some events may shift, so please watch for more details throughout the coming year on our website, in future newsletters, and in event flyers.

January

- Painting by Erin Hansen to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **January 2nd**

February

- Painting by Diane Fraser to be raffled
- 50th Anniversary Kickoff Art Exhibit at the WCAG Gallery
- Gallery reception on **February 6th**

March

- Painting by V. McConnell to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **March 6th**

April

- Painting by Theresa Wayne to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **April 3rd**
- Spring Art Stroll on **April 17th**
- Student exhibit at the art stroll
- Plein air event on the Square (Date TBA)

May

- Painting by Nancy Brown to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **May 1st**

June

- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **June 5th**

July

- Painting by Sue Bishop to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **July 3rd**
- Theme for WCAG gallery exhibit: America's 250th birthday, patriotism, etc.

August

- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **August 7th**
- Special exhibit: The Art of Us 2026: Celebrating African American Creativity in Williamson County

September

- Numbered print by Dalhart Windberg to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **September 4th**
- Peace, Love, and Art Affair (WCAG anniversary party) on **September 26th** for members and friends

October

- Painting by V. McConnell to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **October 2nd**
- Special exhibit: Waterloo Watercolor Society
- Autumn Art Stroll on **October 16th**
- Plein air event on the square (Date TBA)

November

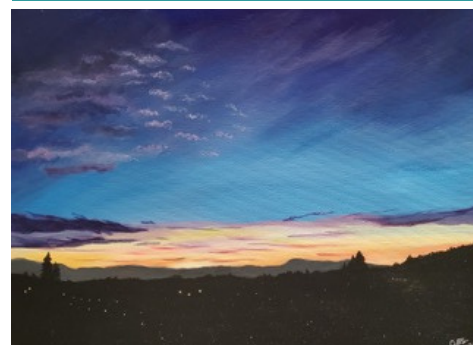
- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Large member juried art show at library and gallery
- Gallery/library receptions on **November 14th**

December

- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Gallery reception and holiday party on **December 4th**
- Large member juried show continues

KELLER WILLIAMS ARTIST SERIES

Featuring art by Jessica Snowden



The Keller-Williams Artist Series winner for December is Jessica Snowden with her beautiful landscape, *View from a Hill*. Each month, Keller Williams selects one image from a WCAG artist for their monthly postcard mailing. Jessica's work will grace more than 3000 Keller-Williams postcards sent to households in the Georgetown/ Round Rock area. Congratulations, Jessica!

Get Ready for WCAG's 50th Anniversary Kickoff Art Show!

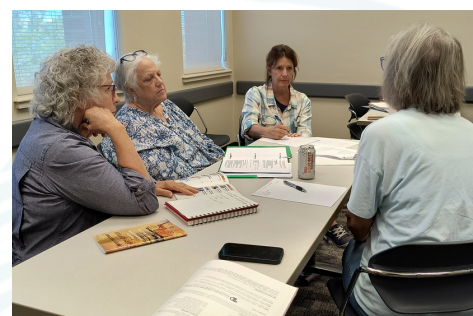
We're launching our anniversary year with a **special art exhibit in February**

Open to **all WCAG artists**

There's **no theme** and **no jury for entry**

Awards will be given by a panel of judges

Can't wait to see what you submit!



Some members of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee discuss ideas for a whole year of 50th anniversary festivities in 2026! From left to right, Carolyn Todd, Carolyn Rowland, Patti Wojtowecz, and Jennifer Polnaszek

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."

Vincent Van Gogh

THE NOVEMBER MEETING IN REVIEW

A meaningful conversation with our distinguished veteran artists

Our November members' meeting offered a profound reminder of how art can transform lives.

Attendees were treated to a powerful panel discussion featuring several veterans exhibiting at the WCAG Gallery's Distinguished Artist Veterans Exhibit during the month of November. Their topic was "Veterans Healing Through the Arts." The panel was moderated by Lauren Arrington Savage and included participants Wes Odell, a WCAG member; Judith Estrada Garcia, a veteran; and Peter Buotte, a veteran and art therapist. Celia Hughes, Executive Director of Art Spark Texas, and Kim Flor were also in attendance.



Our panel of veterans

In their moving presentation, the panelists shared personal stories about how art has helped them heal from the trauma, frustration, and depression many experienced after leaving military service. They noted that military life is highly regimented—everyone is expected to



The audience view during the panel presentation

show up, do their job, and set aside personal struggles. As one participant described, it is a very "linear" lifestyle. Transitioning to civilian life, with its lack of structure and different expectations, proved to be a significant challenge.

Those who connected with organizations such as Art Spark discovered how to express their emotions and experiences through art. They found a sense of community, learned self-care, and developed ways to create safe spaces for themselves and others. Many also realized that their art—and their connection to it—can serve as a source of healing for fellow veterans. All who attended were deeply moved and inspired by the veterans' stories and the transformative power of art.

After the panel discussion, several members participated in the monthly challenge by sharing their artwork on the theme "Patriotism." All members who participated entered their names in a drawing for the prize of a free \$10 entry into a future member exhibit at the WCAG Gallery. Thank you to all who participated, and a big congratulations to Craig Boegler who won the drawing!



Left to right, Ted Keller and his photograph "Thunderbirds," Wes Odell with a meaningful photo, and Craig Boegler and his painting "911"

Remember, no members' meeting in December!

We'll meet again on January 6th. See you then, and have a wonderful holiday season!

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Joseph Campbell

MONTHLY ART RAFFLES IN 2026

Our raffle series starts in January!

Our golden year brings a new raffle painting to the gallery window each month.

As part of WCAG's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2026, our gallery will raffle off a featured painting every month throughout the year. Beginning in January, each artwork will be displayed prominently in the gallery's front window, giving visitors a chance to view the piece up close before entering the monthly drawing.

The first painting to be raffled will be *Coastal Vista*, a professional giclée reproduction by renowned artist Erin Hansen. Founder of the Open Impressionism movement, Hansen is celebrated for her bold use of color, rhythmic brushwork, and emotionally charged interpretations of natural landscapes. Though her gallery is located in McMinnville, Oregon, her work has captivated collectors around the world, earning her praise as a "modern day Van Gogh."

Coastal Vista, measuring 28" x 37", brings Hansen's signature vibrance and energy to life.

Stay tuned for raffle details and for the unveiling of each month's featured artwork as we celebrate WCAG's milestone year.



A giclée print of Erin Hansen's "Coastal Vista" will be raffled by the WCAG Gallery in January

WCAG'S ROCK STREET GALLERY

708 S. Rock Street, Georgetown, TX 78626

Thursday-Saturday 11:00am-7:00pm

Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

CAPTURING INNER BEAUTY

Sonja Kever: WCAG's December Artist of the Month

Sonja Kever invites us to look beyond the surface and see the soul behind the portrait.

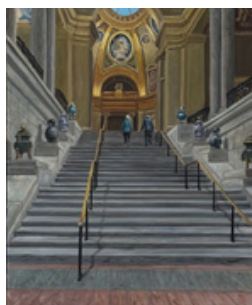
Sonja's artwork reflects a lifelong fascination with the beauty and character found in every face. Though she began her college years as a fine art major, she changed universities and majors and left art behind as she pursued career, marriage, and family. Years later, when her two daughters were grown, her passion for creating art resurfaced and she returned to it with renewed dedication. Largely



self-taught, Sonja has also studied with respected artists such as David Leffel, Sherrie McGraw, Stephanie Birdsall, and Dominique Medici.

Portraiture remains Sonja's passion, especially the challenge of revealing a subject's inner beauty through light, shadow, and sensitivity. She also enjoys commissioned pet portraits and has recently expanded into florals and landscapes, discovering new inspiration in the natural world.

Come visit Sonja's exhibit as our December Artist of the Month, on display starting **December 4th** at WCAG's Rock Street Gallery.



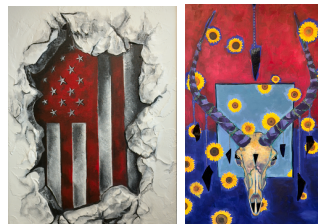
A LOOK BACK AT NOVEMBER'S FIRST FRIDAY RECEPTION

A moving First Friday reception honored veteran artists and celebrated the power of healing through art.

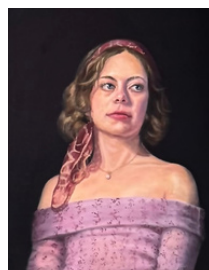
The November reception at the WCAG Gallery was a meaningful and memorable evening, featuring artwork created by veterans in partnership with Art Spark Texas. This special exhibit, now in its 16th year, showcases the creative voices of current and former military members—artists who use the arts to express experiences, emotions, and stories that often cannot be spoken aloud.

Guests at the reception enjoyed meeting the participating artists and learning more about the powerful role art plays in processing military experiences.

We also celebrated the October People's Choice winners. First place was awarded to Sonja Kever for her striking piece, *Jasper*. Second place went to



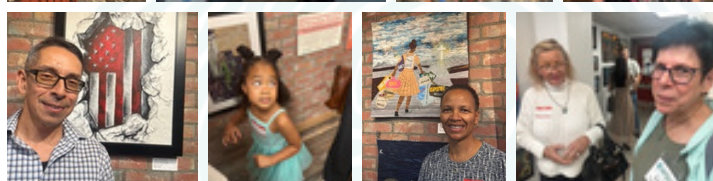
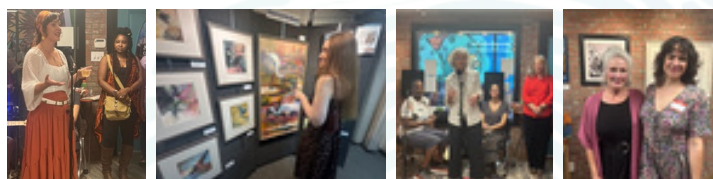
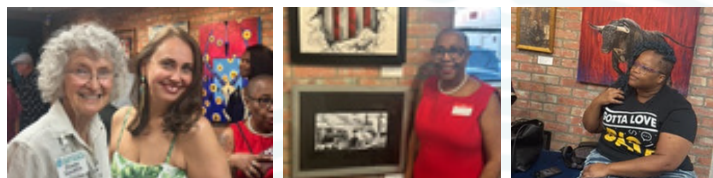
Some of the veteran-created artwork on display in the WCAG gallery during November



Left, Sonja Kever's work, "Jasper." Above, LaWann Tull's work, "Happy Ass"

LaWann Tull for her vibrant work, *Happy Ass*. Both works of art were featured during November in the special gallery space reserved for monthly award recipients.

A heartfelt thank you to the veteran artists, Art Spark Texas, and all who attended and supported this meaningful exhibit. Your presence helps celebrate both art and the people whose service inspires it. Let's continue honoring creativity, community, and healing through the arts.



RING IN THE SEASON AT OUR GALLERY RECEPTION AND HOLIDAY PARTY

A warm and art-filled holiday celebration awaits at our December First Friday.

Join us on **Friday, December 5 from 5-7pm**, as WCAG celebrates the season with a festive First Friday gallery reception and holiday party. Enjoy an evening of art, music, and conversation while sampling refreshments, including beer provided by local brewery Austin Beerworks. The event will feature live music by Michael Alexandersson, a Salado-based musician and recent performer on The Voice.

Wander through the gallery to experience new artwork by WCAG member artists, discover fresh favorites, and connect with fellow art lovers as we kick off the holidays in creative style.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

Visit any of these venues to view beautiful art by our members!

The Palace Theater, Springer Lobby

810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown

Production/theme: "Disney's Frozen" (Regional Premier!)

For more about the play:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frozen_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frozen_(musical))

Exhibit dates: November 13, 2025-February 5, 2026

Performances: November 21-February 1, 2026

Exhibits Chair/Coordinator: Patti Wojtowecz,

patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org



Some of the artwork in the display at The Palace Theater for "Disney's Frozen." From left to right, "Cabin in the Mountains" by Kyle Wright, "Pass Through" by Virginia Masserang, "Blue River" by Natalya Holbrook, and "Unicorn Forest" by Violet Nicklen.

Framer's Gallery

610 S. Main Street, Georgetown

Theme: Artist's choice

Exhibit dates: November 25, 2025-January 2, 2026

Coordinator: Debra Soule, debra.framersgallery@wcagtx.org



Some of the artwork in the display at Framer's Gallery this month. From left to right, "Staghorn Sumac" by Debra Soule, "Fireflies for Dinner" by Lisa Dickson, and "Old Country Road" by Debra Young.

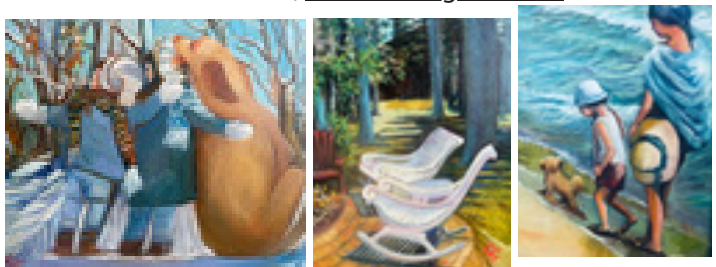
Truewood by Merrill's Truewood Gallery

Solo Exhibit by Lilly Ramphal Naley

Theme: "Thankfulness"

Exhibit dates: November 6-December 4

Coordinator: Susan West, smwtexas@gmail.com



Some of Lilly Ramphal Naley's artwork on display at the Truewood Gallery through December 4th.

And, same venue, coming later this month...

Group Exhibit

Theme: "Christmas-themed"

Exhibit dates: December 4-January 8, 2026

Artist reception: Friday, Nov. 14, 5-7pm, 2nd floor gallery

Coordinator: Susan West, smwtexas@gmail.com

The Palace Playhouse Lobby

216 W. 8th, Georgetown

Production/theme:

"Dashing Through the Snow"

For more about the play:

<https://www.georgetownpalace.com/shows/2025-season/>

Exhibit dates: November 18, 2025-December 30

Performances: November 28-December 28

Sadly, this will be our last exhibit at this venue as the Playhouse is changing locations at the end of this year.

Coordinator: Katrina King, kinggirlsmom@aol.com



UPCOMING EXHIBITS/CFAs

Put your art on display!

Framer's Gallery

610 S. Main Street, Georgetown

Theme: Artist's choice

Call for art: Watch for an email the first week of December

Submission deadline: December 23 or until exhibit is full

Exhibit dates: January 2, 2026-January 29, 2026

Coordinator: Debra Soule, debra.framersgallery@wcagtx.org

The Williamson Museum

716 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown

Group exhibit, about 15 pieces of art

(See CFA for size restrictions)

Theme: "Celebrating the Moments"

Call for art: October 30

Submission deadline: December 1 or until filled

Exhibit dates: January 6-February 3, 2026

Exhibits Chair/Coordinator: Patti Wojtowecz,

patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org

The Palace Theater, Springer Lobby

810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown

Production/theme: "Swing"

For more about the play:

Please Google "Swing Musical Synopsis"

Call for art: Coming out by email soon!

Submission deadline: January 10, 2026

Exhibit dates: February 5-March 12, 2026

Performances: February 13-March 1, 2026

Exhibits Chair/Coordinator: Patti Wojtowecz,

patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org

The Wilco Office of Victims of Crimes

National Crime Victims' Rights Exhibit

100 Wilco Way, Georgetown

We will be collaborating again with the Wilco Attorney's Office for their annual ceremony and art exhibit April 20-24, 2026. Watch for the call for art in a couple of months. The formal theme has not been announced yet, but anything suggesting safety, love, support, resilience, healing, faith, sympathy, etc will be appropriate. More details to be announced.

Exhibit dates: April 20-24, 2026

Coordinator: Lynn Kessel, lynn.president@wcagtx.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved and support the arts in Williamson County

For a rewarding experience, volunteer with our art community!

Exhibit Coordinator

We are always looking for exhibit help! If you would like to volunteer to coordinate or even co-coordinate a show or two for any exhibit opportunities that may come our way, please contact Patti Wojtowecz at patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org.

Monthly Presenters

Interested in presenting at an upcoming member meeting? If you would like to share your expertise with other WCAG members, we would love to have you! Contact our Programs Chair, Ruth Gamble, at ruth.programs@wcagtx.org.

Art Class Instructors

Teaching an art class is another great way to share your expertise with other WCAG members. If you'd like to offer an art class, contact Jennifer Polnaszek at jennifer.presidentelect@wcagtx.org.

ART SUPPLIES FOR SALE

Gently used tools, materials, and equipment available

Logan Graphic 650-1 Framers Edge Elite 40 Inch Mat Cutter

This cutter has been lightly used for several years. Includes all the bits and pieces, except for the Logan branded screwdriver. The Framer's Edge is for the serious volume artist or framer who has production repeat cuts to make, and for education environments with multiple users.

Asking \$500; 20% discount for guild members. If interested, please contact Mary-Ellen Thomas at (979) 236-2660 or maryellenbthomas@gmail.com.



FRAMER'S EDGE ELITE MAT CUTTER



THE ART WORLD

Interesting resources for artists

www.arts.texas.gov

Browse Calls for Texas Commission on the Arts

artdirect.com

Offers services to artists as well as opportunities to submit artwork to be exhibited in their online gallery

Know of something that would interest the art community?

Let me know so I can post it here! karyn.newsletter@wcagtx.org

ART CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Take advantage and sharpen your skills

Your Abstract Journey with Sue Bishop

A non-objective abstract painting is a painting that has no visual subject matter. "Are you telling me that this is a workshop that teaches you to paint nothing?"

"Yes, I am."

I know this sounds strange, but the paint is not just thrown on the canvas. This process takes thought and knowledge to produce "consistently" good non-objective paintings. I will guide you through the process of mixing colors, drawing lines, and painting shapes arbitrarily on your substrate. Once chaos is created, you will be shown a process that reins in the chaos and a well designed non-objective painting will be created.



This workshop benefits the artist that has some knowledge of painting in acrylic to the advanced artist. There will be demos to guide you through each step of the process, along with one-on-one instruction. You will be given a booklet that contains all the information from the class. While on this Abstract Journey, you will be shown a process that answers the question of how to paint nothing, and you will also have a lot of fun.

WCAG member Sue Bishop is leading this in-person workshop for beginners and advanced artists. It will take place **Saturday, January 24th from 10am to 5pm (with a lunch break) at The Nest (Georgetown Project Building), 2201 Old Airport Rd. in Georgetown.** Registration is \$95.

NOTE: This class is full! To be added to the waitlist for a future class, contact Sue by text 512-626-2408 or email artistsuebishop@gmail.com.

Beginning Acrylic Painting with Helena Hatch

While WCAG member Helena Hatch is an accomplished and experienced acrylic artist, she has a special place in her heart for teaching the absolute beginner painter! She will take you step by step through the process.

The workshop will take place in six sessions tentatively scheduled on **Mondays February 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 2, and Mar 9, 5:30 to 7:30pm** in the kitchen/break room on **2nd floor at The Nest (Georgetown Project Building).** The registration fee of \$225 includes all supplies. Contact Helena Hatch at jchchatch@gmail.com.

Still Life Drawing with Carolyn Todd

Coming in March. Watch this space for more information!

Want to teach a class? Want to learn a particular skill or type of art?

Contact Jennifer Polnaszek, jennifer.presidentelect@wcagtx.org, to share your ideas and she'll help make it happen!

CONNECT WITH US

Stay current on WCAG, members' news, and what's happening around the area



**WILLIAMSON COUNTY
ART GUILD**

Bookmark our website homepage:
www.wcagtx.org



[WCAG Facebook](#)



[@WCAG1976](#)

Williamson County Art Guild

Non-profit 501(c)(3)

P.O. Box 1158, Georgetown, TX 78627, United States

To unsubscribe, send an email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line to patrick.membership@wcagtx.org.