



ART GUILD INSIDER

JANUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY ART GUILD

WWW.WCAGTX.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynn Kessel, President
lynn.president@wcagtx.org



Happy New Year and Happy Anniversary everyone!

2026 has arrived, the year WCAG turns 50! It promises to be a year of creativity, passion, adventure and forward momentum; and well positioned I might say, as many of you have shared with me that 2025 was a year of introspection, growth, shedding the old and moving toward new beginnings. This could prove to be a year of high energy and mind-blowing creativity, so don't forget to harmonize that intensity with self-care and solid footing.

The WCAG is functioning at a high level to meet our missions and stimulate interest in art in Williamson County and beyond. Let's work together to bring art to the community and bring the community to art this year.

Lynn

Lynn Kessel, President
Williamson County Art Guild

BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN 2026

Did you know? WCAG board meetings are open to all members!

In keeping with our bylaws, we strive for transparency and active member participation; and we always welcome your attendance and feedback. Board meetings take place at the Rock Street Gallery from 6:30-8pm. The dates of board meetings for the spring semester of 2026 are as follows:

- January 13th
- February 10th
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th
- June 9th

Whether you want insight into how choices are made or have suggestions to contribute, you're welcome to join us!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

A strong guild depends on the service of dedicated volunteers.

To sustain the exhibit opportunities and community outreach WCAG has built in recent years, we need more helpers. Without continued volunteer support, we risk losing exhibits, activities, and status in the community. Please consider volunteering and join this vibrant team of passionate artists! Remember, having these kinds of activities on your résumé is attractive to those reviewing exhibit submissions, proposals, and other art-related positions you may be interested in.

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We're currently seeking curators.

Consider curating a small show such as at the Williamson Museum or the WCAG exhibit at Art Direct (both only once a year); or partner with a friend to curate the ongoing exhibit at the Palace Theater, one of WCAG's longtime community partners. If interested, please contact Patti Wojtowecz at patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org.

Don't miss these upcoming events!

- | | | |
|--------|----------|--|
| Jan 2 | 5-7pm | Rock Street Gallery Reception |
| Jan 6 | 6:15-8pm | Member Meeting (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)
Carolyn Todd: Encaustic Painting, History and Process
Challenge Theme: "Primal"
<i>*Meet and Greet at 6:15pm; Presentation starts at 6:30pm</i> |
| Feb 6 | 5-7pm | 50th Anniversary Kickoff Art Exhibit/Reception: WCAG Gallery |
| Feb 10 | 6:15-8pm | Member Meeting (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)
Karyn Derby: Gel Printing Techniques and Hands-On Demo
Challenge Theme: "Friends"
<i>*Meet and Greet at 6:15pm; Presentation starts at 6:30pm</i> |

THIS IS IT! WE'RE STARTING OUR 50TH YEAR!

Join us for a full calendar year of celebration!

Our biggest year begins now!

As WCAG begins our 50th year in 2026, we're delighted to share our yearlong series of special events celebrating five decades of creativity and community impact. Here is the list of what's planned. Final dates for some events may change, so please watch for updates throughout the year on our website, in upcoming newsletters, and on 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
- BIG Exhibit at the WCAG Gallery
- 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

- Numbered print by Dalhart Windberg to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **August 7th**

September

- Painting by Kathleen Stafford to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **September 4th**
- Peace, Love, and Art Affair (WCAG anniversary party) on **September 26th** for members and friends
- Special exhibit: The Art of Us 2026: Celebrating African American Creativity in Williamson County (*note, this has switched from its original date in August*)

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

BIG EXHIBIT TO BE HELD IN MAY

You asked, we listened!

The WCAG Gallery will host a BIG exhibit in May 2026. In response to member feedback, this show will provide an opportunity for artists who work on larger canvases to exhibit their work.

Because of space limitations and the need for a cohesive presentation, the exhibition will be juried. Additional details will be shared as they become available, but we wanted to give you an early look at this exciting opportunity!

MONTHLY ART RAFFLES IN 2026

Our raffle series starts this month!

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 one featured painting every month throughout the year. The current month's artwork to be raffled will be displayed prominently in the gallery's front window, giving visitors a chance to view the piece up-close before entering the drawing.

January's painting is *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

Mesquite Creek Outfitters FEATURED ARTIST

This month, we feature the luminous oil paintings of LaWann Tull.

LaWann's art captures emotion and mood through radiant light and a dreamlike atmosphere—an



impression noted during a show in Italy and a testament to her creative imagination. Working in oils to paint idealism with an Old Master's approach, her award-winning paintings often reflect her Texas heritage.



Although formally trained, her career began with a camera, not a paint brush, when she landed her dream job as a Sales Agent for two international airlines.

Visiting art museums worldwide and studying with the nation's most eminent painters has shaped her unique style. She has taught and been featured in publications and exhibitions, including a number of one-woman shows.



LaWann's art work will be on display at Mesquite Creek Outfitters from **January 5th to February 9th**.



KELLER WILLIAMS ARTIST SERIES

Featuring art by Geri Heringer



Congratulations to Geri Heringer, whose image, *Isn't Snow Grand*, was selected by Keller Williams Realty for the January Artist Series post card. The post card will be mailed to 3000+ residents in the Round Rock/Georgetown area.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS RESUME!

Next meeting on January 6th

Kick off the new year at our January members' meeting!

After a short break in December, members' meetings will resume **Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm** in the **Hewlett Room at the Georgetown Public Library**.

This month, Carolyn Todd will present *Encaustic Painting: History and Process*, exploring the evolution of encaustic art from prehistory to today. Using engaging visuals along with actual tools, materials, and finished works, she'll demonstrate how vibrant, textured pieces are created with heated beeswax, damar resin, and oil pigments.

And don't forget—January's challenge theme is *Primal*. Interpret it through image, color, or emotion and bring a piece to share. One participating member will be selected by drawing to receive a free \$10 entry into the next member exhibit at the WCAG Gallery. Looking forward to seeing you there!

A friendly reminder...

While the calendar year has just begun, WCAG's fiscal year doesn't begin until June 1st. Membership renewals will be accepted starting then—no need to renew right now.

This year's NCVRW EXHIBIT

Coming up in April 2026

An invitation to create artwork that speaks to healing and hope.

WCAG is honored to once again collaborate with the Williamson County Attorney's Office to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). The 2026 ceremony and art exhibit will take place **April 20–24, 2026**, using art to support, honor, and give voice to victims and survivors.

While the theme for this year's exhibit has not yet been announced, artists are encouraged to consider work that reflects ideas of safety, love, support, resilience, healing, faith, sympathy, and hope. These guiding concepts align with the spirit of NCVRW and the purpose of the NCVRW ceremony.

A call for art will be released later this month with full details regarding submission guidelines and important dates. We invite you to begin reflecting on how your work might contribute to this powerful and compassionate community event. We look forward to sharing more information as plans are finalized.

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER ON CANVAS

Raffled art won by Iker Macias

As part of the Georgetown Art Stroll last October, the WCAG Gallery hosted a public participation painting event. The project began with an outline drawing of the Georgetown Dome created by Guild artist Theresa Wayne. Throughout the daylong event, the large canvas was set up on the sidewalk, inviting passersby of all ages to add their own brushstrokes. Guest artists ranged from two years old to local seniors.

The completed painting was raffled at the end of November, and the lucky winner was Iker Macias. According to his mother, he is thrilled to have this joyful, one-of-a-kind artwork in their home.



Iker Macias with the WCAG public participation painting he proudly won in November's raffle. Iker's name and photo are printed with his parents' permission.

WCAG's ROCK STREET GALLERY

708 S. Rock Street, Georgetown, TX 78626

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

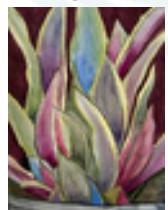
Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

CAPTURING INNER BEAUTY

Carolyn Rowland: WCAG's January Artist of the Month

Carolyn Rowland finds light, color, and the sacred within everyday moments.

Carolyn Rowland, January's Artist of the Month, brings a thoughtful and lighthearted approach



to her work. She began her formal art training in 1997 at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Alongside her artistic pursuits, Carolyn spent more than 30 years as a registered nurse and nurse educator in the Dallas area.



A Texas native, she and her husband now enjoy retirement in Sun City where she continues to explore her creative practice. Over the years, Carolyn has worked in a wide range of media. Her current focus is on watercolor and line-and-wash techniques. Her work is colorful, light-filled, and often carries a touch of whimsy.



At the heart of Carolyn's work is a desire to notice meaning in everyday moments. Through

her art, she strives to reveal the sacred within ordinary days.

Carolyn's exhibit as our January Artist of the Month will be on display starting **January 2nd** at WCAG's Rock Street Gallery. Come visit!



JANUARY GALLERY RECEPTION

A creative start to the new year!

Enjoy new artwork, live music, and a relaxed First Friday vibe.

Join us **Friday, January 2nd from 5-7 pm** for an evening of fresh artwork and lively atmosphere at WCAG's Rock Street Gallery. Enjoy live music by The Discount Pills, whose sound has been described as "Cowboy Lounge Dream Pop"—a fun and engaging vibe to complement the art-filled evening.

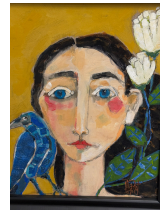
Guests are invited to explore new work by WCAG member artists throughout the gallery while enjoying refreshments, including beer provided by the Power Brewing Project. Be sure to participate in our monthly raffle for a chance to win a beautiful piece of artwork by Erin Hansen. It's the perfect way to welcome the year ahead, surrounded by creativity, music, and friendly faces.

A LOOK BACK AT DECEMBER'S RECEPTION AND HOLIDAY PARTY

Art, music, and holiday cheer to close out the year.

The December First Friday reception and holiday party at the WCAG Gallery was a warm and festive celebration. Members and guests gathered to enjoy an evening filled with seasonal cheer, lively conversation, and a fresh display of artwork by WCAG member artists.

Live music from Salado artist Michael Alexandersson set a joyful and relaxed tone for the evening. Guests enjoyed refreshments throughout the event, including beer provided by Austin Beerworks, while connecting with artists and fellow art lovers throughout the gallery.



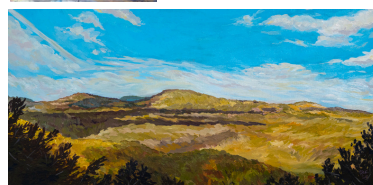
Some of the artwork on display in the gallery during December

We also celebrated the November People's Choice winners. First place was awarded to

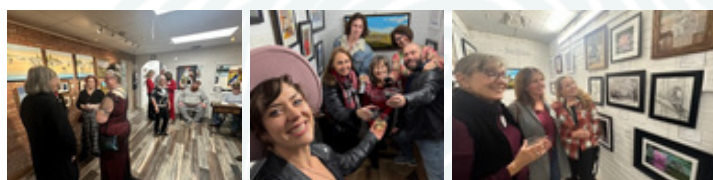


Left, Jessica Cook's work, "A Trace of Light." Below, Allison Eve's work, "Wolf Mountain Trail."

Jessica Cook for her piece, *A Trace of Light*. Second place went to Allison Eve for her work, *Wolf Mountain Trail*. Both works of art were featured during December in the special gallery space reserved for monthly award recipients.



The reception offered a welcoming space to close out the year together. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening festive and special!



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.

The Williamson Museum

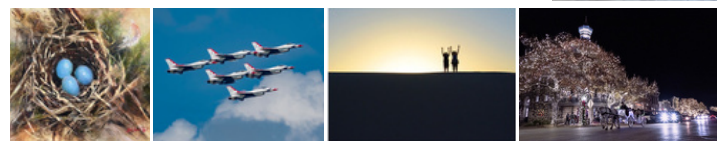
716 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown

Theme: "Celebrating the Moments"

Exhibit dates: January 6-February 3, 2026

Exhibits Chair/Coordinator: Patti Wojtowecz,

patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org



Some of the artwork on display at The Williamson Museum. Counterclockwise from left, "Three's a Crowd" by LaWann Tull, "USAF Thunderbirds" by Steven Thomas, "Life is Wonderful" by Ted Keller, "Christmas on the Square" by Patti Wojtowicz, and "Cheers" by Mary-Ellen Thomas.

Truewood by Merrill's Truewood Gallery

4907 Williams Dr., Georgetown

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

Thank you, Susan, for helping to keep this exhibit space thriving!

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

Solo Exhibit by Jolaine Chatham

Theme: "The Nurture of Nature, Ceramics"

Exhibit dates: January 8-February 5

New Coordinator for Truewood: Katrina King,

kinggirlsmom@aol.com



Some of Jolaine Chatham's ceramics on display at the Truewood Gallery through February 5th.



Framer's Gallery

610 S. Main Street, Georgetown

Theme: Artist's choice

Exhibit dates: January 2-January 29

Coordinator: Debra Soule,

debra.framersgallery@wcagtx.org

One of the pieces on display at Framer's Gallery this month: "1990 Pool Party" by Susan Craig.



"Art, undeniably, is conducive to happiness."

Unknown

UPCOMING EXHIBITS/CFAs

Put your art on display!

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

Framer's Gallery

610 S. Main Street, Georgetown

Theme: Artist's choice

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

Submission deadline: January 26 or until exhibit is full

Exhibit dates: January 29- February 26

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

Truewood by Merrill's Truewood Gallery

4907 Williams Dr., Georgetown

Solo Exhibit by Leora Forstein

Theme: "Flowers and Fantasy"

Exhibit dates: February 5 - March 5

Coordinator: Katrina King, kinggirlsmom@aol.com

The Wilco Office of Victims of Crimes

National Crime Victims' Rights Exhibit

100 Wilco Way, Georgetown

Theme: TBA

The formal theme has not been announced yet, but anything suggesting safety, love, support, resilience, healing, faith, sympathy, etc will be appropriate.

Call for art: Coming out by email in January

Exhibit dates: April 20-24, 2026

Coordinator: Lynn Kessel, lynn.president@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!

PART OF THE WCAG
ART WORKSHOP SERIES

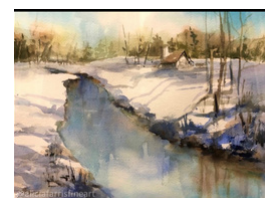
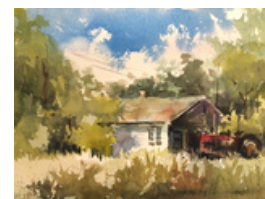
PART OF THE WCAG
ART WORKSHOP SERIES

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BRUSH UP on Landscapes with Alicia Farris

With the holidays soon behind us, it will be time to take a breath and take out our paintbrushes.

Landscape painting with watercolor can produce spectacular results, especially when you discover new techniques and fresh perspectives from an excellent instructor, internationally known, like Alicia Farris. In addition to landscapes, we'll tackle pet portraits and experiment with yupo, so there's a lot to look forward to!



Sponsored by the Waterloo Watercolor Group of Austin, the class will be held **Wednesday, April 22nd to Friday, April 24th from 9am to 4pm each day at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 North Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, TX.** Tickets are \$400 each. To register, please visit waterloowatercolor.org/event/3-day-alicia-farris-workshop.

To learn more about instructor Alicia Farris, view her recent feature in *Watercolor Magazine* and visit her website at www.afarris.com.

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

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

THE ART WORLD

Interesting resources for artists

www.arts.texas.gov

Browse Calls for Texas Commission on the Arts

Glasstire.com

Lots of art news, podcasts, calls for art, art receptions and exhibits statewide with a special Austin section. Free subscription.

ChateauGallery.com

Interesting online exhibits. Explore other opportunities and expand your reach.

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.

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.

"Life obliges me to do something, so I paint."

Rene Magritte

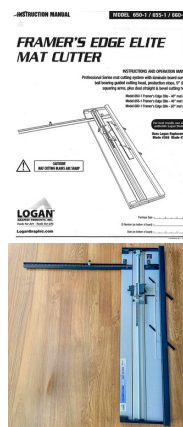
ART SUPPLIES ON OFFER

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.



Free Mat Cutter

Kimi at Framer's Gallery has a free mat cutter for anyone interested. Contact Kimi at 512-287-0505.

CONNECT WITH US

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



Bookmark our website homepage:
www.wcagtx.org



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Williamson County Art Guild

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