

Newsletter



The Dupage Art League • September 2026

Dear Members,

I'm writing fresh on the heels of the reception for our September exhibition, The **Best of the Best Fine Art Exhibition**, in Galleries 1 and 2.

Hosted by DuPage Art League, this invitational exhibition showcases Best of Show-winning artwork from twelve area suburban arts organizations. It's a wonderful opportunity for artists to gain additional exposure and recognition for their award-winning work. This year, we welcomed **57 participating artists representing a wide range of media.**

Each participating art league may submit up to seven pieces that have received a Best of Show award during the past year. DuPage Art League was proudly represented by **Debbie Birhanu, Greg Bockheim, Dan Danielson, Jacky DeClute, Tom Finn, Robert Koch, and Sue Krzyzanowski.**

Visitors from the other participating leagues commented on our bright, welcoming gallery spaces and our excellent downtown Wheaton location. Their enthusiasm was a wonderful reminder of what a special organization we have created together.

We are truly blessed by the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors over the years. Their contributions have helped make DuPage Art League the vibrant organization it is today.

As Vice President of Exhibits, I am continually looking for ways to increase the visibility of our retail gallery—not only as a place where our artist members can show and sell their work, but also as a destination where members of the community can discover and purchase original art created by local artists.

Thank you for being part of the DuPage Art League and for helping us continue to grow, support our artists, and share the joy of original art with our community.

Danielle Crilly, VP Exhibits

Pastels by
Danielle Crilly

Millie
Pastel



Three Graces
Pastel



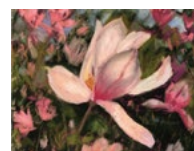
Cover Art Contest

♪♪ We have all kinds of brushes that give us all kinds of rushes, But the rush we've never known, Is the rush that'll get ya when you get your picture on the cover of the Activity Guide. ♪♪
(name that tune)

Activity Guide...wanna see your art on the cover? Submit your art to: dpalmembership@gmail.com

Deadline: September 30

The art will be printed in one-color (black ink) on a colored cover stock. Work on your values! Winner gets a DPAL T-shirt too.



Cover Art 2025, Nancy Anderson,
Magnolia Blossom, pastel

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Board Meeting Notes - August

Treasurer: Jennifer Bayer said we continue to do well. Jennifer Bayer introduced **Roxanne Leahy**, our new treasurer. Roxanne and Jennifer have been working together, and Roxanne will take over when Jennifer leaves the position.

President: Barb Finn appointed Johanna Rebman as our VP of Technology.

Education: Margaret Bucholz gave a brief overview of the classes for Fall Session A and is planning the classes for Fall Session B.

Membership: Amy Tran reported we have 533 members.

Yuletide Treasures: Darlene Edwards has been organizing and planning for the event.

Activities: Holly Tyson is planning for the Yuletide Treasures Kick Off event in November.

Gallery I Schedule

September - NEGATIVE SPACE

Entry: Aug 26-27

Pick-up: Sept 23-24

Description: Show off your skill in utilizing negative space in your work.

October - THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Entry: Sept 23-24

Pick-up: Oct 26-27

(note Monday, Tuesday pick-up).

Explore your ideas of expansiveness, verticality, horizons.

REMINDER: ALL members who exhibit in the gallery are expected to help at the DPAL in some capacity for a minimum of FOUR hours per year. (Yuletide hours are additional).

DPAL Plein Air Calendar

August 28 Mayslake Peabody Estate 1717 31st St. Oak Brook

Sept. 4 Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Road West Chicago

Sept. 11 * Cantigny Park 1S 151 Winfield Rd. Wheaton

Sept. 18 Graue Mill & Museum 3800 York Rd. Oak Brook

Sept. 25 * Morton Arboretum, east side, Visitor Center Area,

October 2 St James Farm, Warrenville IL. (closing event)

*fee required to enter location

Are you a People Person?

For more than 70 years, our Art League has been a welcoming community where artists of all levels come together to learn, create, exhibit, and encourage one another. As we look to fill the position of **Vice President of Membership** we are seeking someone who enjoys:

- ♥ meeting people,
- ♥ making others feel welcome
- ♥ helping members have a positive experience in our League.

Many of the administrative responsibilities are already managed by dedicated volunteers. The **Vice President of Membership** role is to provide leadership in creating an atmosphere where every member feels valued and connected, and to work collaboratively with our Board and volunteer team to strengthen the member experience.

This is an opportunity to help shape the future of our League by fostering the warm, inclusive spirit that has been our hallmark for seven decades. If you have a passion for people, enjoy building community, and would like to help our members feel inspired and connected, we would love to talk with you.

Contact: marylynn.sullivan@yahoo.com or

dpalpresident.bf@gmail.com

DPAL Board 2026

President: Barbara Finn

Secretary: Maeva Cook

Treasurer: position filled !!!

VP Activities: Holly Tyson

VP Building & Grounds: Mark Galli

VP Education: Margaret Bucholz

VP Exhibits: Gallery I: Danielle Crilly

Gallery II: Stephanie Dalton

VP Finance: Carol Kincaid

VP Membership: **NEEDED**, w/ Amy Tran

VP Office Management: Adele Dunn

VP Publicity & Promotions: Patricia Kosar

VP Safety & Security: Darlene Edwards

VP Technology: Johanna Rebman

Presidents Emeritae: Mary Lynn Sullivan

Yuletide Treasures: Darlene Edwards

Newsletter: Lori Tucker

dpalmembershipt@gmail.com

Newsletter/E-Blast Submittals

To submit email blast information and newsletter articles, send your information to: dpalmembershipt@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. Acceptable formats include Word documents or PDF files for text and 300dpi .JPG form images. Please proof and verify your copy before submitting. Send photos, flyers and other images as attachments to email.

Best of the Best

Congratulations to the winners!



Best of Show: Darlene Hoekstra "The Lake District" Oil

Comments: This landscape of a pastoral countryside stood out for its masterful execution of atmospheric perspective. The rich, green palette of the patchwork fields against the soft, luminous cloudscape are an exploration of light and its effects on color. The application of contrasts—the deep shades of green against the soft hues of the sky, the tangible nature of the grazing sheep in the foreground and the ephemeral nature of the moving clouds—ultimately unifies the scene to create a sensation of harmony and balance.

FIRST PLACE: Brad Purse "Fun With the Moai of Easter Island" Oil

Evoking the Surrealist style, this piece uses bold, saturated color and dynamic patterns to guide the viewer's eye through this original and witty scene. The artist transforms the mysterious, ancient statues of Easter Island into objects of theatricality and humor, creating a scene that is both dreamlike and subversive. The ancient, spiritual mystery is taken over by a more immediate and pressing one, whose clues (the discarded paint cans and ladder) are left to the viewer to decipher.



SECOND PLACE: Bruce Webber "Flaming Head" Bronze. Masterfully sculpted in bronze, this piece emanates a pulsing energy through the interplay of elements: organic versus geometric shapes, positive versus negative space, and sharp line versus the curve of the profile. This tension creates a heightened sense of conflict between the warrior facade and the human behind it, exposing a vulnerability and humanity behind this fiery symbol of power.



THIRD PLACE: Dorothy Bury Shaw "In Your Eyes" mixed media. This kaleidoscopic piece commands the eyes of the viewer through its meticulous layering of textures and repetition of intricate patterns and form. The circular composition of these elements creates a visual sensation of a piece of music that is at once intimate, epic and universal.



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Debbie Birhanu "Autumn Leaves" colored pencil

Kim Laurel "Indigo Cherry Blossom Sode Kite" mixed media

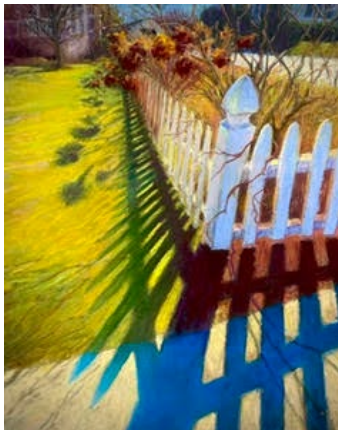
Dan Danielson "BFF" watercolor

Tom Finn "Basket of Gold" scratch-board and watercolor



Gallery II is proud to showcase the artistic talent of Francine Pugliese

In her words: "Making art is hard! Like working a crossword puzzle and solving a murder simultaneously. You think about composition, value, color and personal perspective, the last is the reason I paint."



I enjoy being a 'perpetual observer' of ordinary things as I move through the day. I will take a photo and it morphs into something new. Fun begins with cropping and emphasizing parts that will draw the viewer. I tell the story of everyday, overlooked moments. "

This wonderful show will run the month of September in Gallery II. Come and meet the artist at her reception on September 13th, 2:00-4:00 at the Dupage Art League.



Calendar

September

Aug 30 – Sept 13 – Holiday break

Sept 1–22 – Gallery I: Negative Space

Sept 1–22 – Gallery II: Fran Pugliese

Sept 14 – First day of Fall A Sessions

Sept 21 – Monday Night Art Demo: Dale Olsen
— Acrylics, Glazing, Layers, Broken Color. See page 5

Sept 23 – 24 – Gallery pick up and drop off

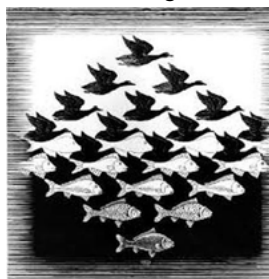


Information for Yvonne's Memorial Mass:

Saturday, September 19th at
10am

Holy Angels Catholic Church
180 S. Russell Road
Aurora, IL 60506

Art History Corner



M. C. Escher was a Dutch graphic design artist. Escher liked to play with positive and negative shapes. The bird at the top appears as positive space (a main subject, yet its shape is echoed in the dark negative shapes between the fish. Likewise, the positive shape of the fish at the bottom has its shape repeated in the white spaces between the birds.

Sky and Water

credit to: EscherExplained.com



Art Demo: **ACRYLIC GLAZING AND LAYERING**

Monday - Sept 21 - 6:30 to 8:30 /

In-person and virtual

Acrylic paint dries fast! Dale Olsen shows how to make the most of that characteristic using glazing liquids, layering, and color over color to create a rich sophisticated surface with depth and visual texture.



Register to attend in-person or via Zoom:

LINK: <https://www.wheatonlibrary.org/event/art-demo-acrylic-glazing-and-layering-148207>

Provided by:
Wheaton Public Library in
Partnership with DuPage Art
League.
225 N. Cross St., Wheaton
Meeting Room A

Welcome New Members

Just in time for the holidays and new classes, the DuPage Art League is opening the online logo store soon.

Shirts, aprons and more!



Watch your Email for details.

The following members joined between June and August 2026

Lifetime Members

Kristi Billman
Yogini Shah

Single Memberships

Jennifer Adams
Karen Aiello
Anthony Alonzo
Plettau Annette
Sue Bachman
Kevin Barillas-Addams
Linda Baumeister
Jennifer Benkert
Eileen Bousquet
Sara Castillo
Margaret Collins
Lory Curry
Kathryn Deiss
Sofia Demusaj
Mary Dolce
Miranda Drake
Christine Ekwall
Sue Erdman
Angela Ertoprak
David Ferguson
Carol Lynn Fiene
Cheryl Fisher
Mary Fleming

Erin Franklin
Kimberly Gartlan
Daniel Gray
Linda Hack
Jean Hammershaimb
Denise Havlan
Lalita Jagadeesan
Sarah Johnson
Christina Jones
Sarah Kempin
Lucy King
Allison Klein
Roxanne Leahy
Pat Lewis
Pamela Locke
Jenna Macdonald
Dave Martin
Cherie Matousek
Louise Miller
Alicia Myrick
Susan O'Connell
Rosemary Orbegoso
Taiwo Owoniyi
Michelle Parks
Marianne Patrevito
Kerry Pentecost
Lucia Pioppo
Judy Ransford

Mark Romanwitz
Steven Ross
Karen Rugg
Marge Sekowski
Pam Shanley
Stacy Slater
Loreta Tvrdy
Tammy Van Cleave
Lizette Velazquez
Tricia Webber
Frances Wilkison
Judith Zimmerman
Family Memberships
Caroline Cacchillo
Michaelle Cacchillo
Laurel Chahir
Mahmoud Chahir
Agnes Costello
Charlotte Dath
Mira Dath
Autumn Kulas
Julie Kulas
Brian Morris
Suzanne Morris
Emmanuella Otiono
Joann Seckus
Karen Winter

DPAL Always Needs Volunteers...

Two or three volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up **League receptions and get togethers**.

The **front desk** can use more trained staff to fill in as needed

Our Building and grounds person needs a back up for **snow removal**.

Our VP of Education would appreciate a **scheduling assistant**.

Diana Mitchell will help any new volunteer to get in touch with the appropriate officer or member.

Contact her at diamitc4@aol.com, contact the front desk or ask a board member.

**It's September
so it's back to school**

**The Dupage Art League has many openings
in a variety of classes for children and
adults. Check it out!**

DPAL CLASSES

Safety Seconds

A few seconds can make a big difference!

Darlene Edwards, VP Safety and Security

Back-to-School Safety Tips for Parents and Grandparents

As a new school year begins, every family wants children to feel safe, confident, and ready to learn. Whether your child is starting kindergarten or heading to high school, a few simple conversations can make a big difference.

Keep communication open. Let your child know they can come to you with worries, questions, or anything that feels uncomfortable. Ask simple questions about their day and listen closely to what they share.

Talk about personal safety. Review what to do if your child feels unsafe or needs help. Instead of focusing only on “stranger danger,” remind them that safety rules apply with everyone. Make sure they know which trusted adults they can turn to in an emergency.

Practice emergency contacts. Help your child memorize their full name, a parent or caregiver’s phone number, and one trusted emergency contact. Also talk about who they can safely ask for help, such as a teacher, school staff member, police officer, or another trusted adult.

Discuss bullying and kindness. Talk about bullying, including online bullying, in a calm and age-appropriate way. Remind your child to treat others with kindness and respect, and to tell a trusted adult if they are bullied or see someone else being hurt.

Review emergency plans. Schools often practice safety drills at the start of the year. Talk with your child about what to expect, why drills matter, and how staying calm and listening to adults can help them stay safe.

