

General Meeting

Sunday March 9

1:00pm
Near Northwest
Neighborhood Community
Center
1007 Portage Ave.
South Bend

Speaker: David Baker
Painter

President

Laura Elliott
elliottsb4@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Kristen O'Dell
klostudioart@gmail.com

Secretary

Elisabeth Simeri
elisabethsimeri@gmail.com

Treasurer

Paul Thornton
pt1953@att.net

Exhibits

Jude Phillips
judephillips@att.net

Historian

Donna Shoberg
rogershoberg@hotmail.com

Hospitality

Dee Thornton
deethorn@att.net

Membership

Kimberly DeNolf
denolf@comcast.net

Publicity

Catherine McCormick
CAMcCorm@aol.com

Publications

Joan Spohrer
jfspohrer@ameritech.net

Past President

Dee Thornton
deethorn@att.net

President's Corner

Dear Fellow Artists –

As we “March” into Spring and out of Winter, the sunlight returns and energy to go with it! Our NIA Board has planned many wonderful opportunities for our members to participate in. We have already had our first show, our first General Meeting, we welcomed six new members, provided awards to four young emerging student artists!



Our NIA Board gave their time, energy and talent to staff, finance, plan and prepare for this year's upcoming events. Be sure to read the list in this newsletter and mark your calendar.

At February's NIA Board Meeting we confirmed many of our current members and nominated some new members to fill vacancies. A scrapbook of our NIA printed archives was acquired from the museum and we are making plans to catalogue and share some of it with you in the future. We have a rich history to be proud of and a great future.

Laura Elliott
President

NIA Board Elections

NIA will hold elections for the 2025-26 Board of Directors at our General Meeting in March. According to our bylaws, On each odd year a President, Vice President, Membership Chair, Exhibit Chair, Publicity Chair, and Publications Chair shall be elected to serve for a two year term.

The slate of officers is as follows

President: Laura Elliott
Vice President: Kristen O'Dell
Membership Chair: Emily Thomas
Exhibit Chair: Jude Phillips
Publicity Chair: Catherine McCormick
Publications Chair: Joan Spohrer

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

NIA Dues

NIA Dues of \$30 are payable by March 31 . You may pay online at our website nia-art.org or send a check to NIA Treasurer, PO Box 906, South Bend, IN 46624.

Dues are \$35 if paid after March 31. Dues must be current in order to participate in NIA exhibits.

Art Matters

Kerri Bash is working on a commission for a friend in Kentucky, painting a life size thoroughbred fiberglass horse. It is a tribute to Jimmy Buffett.



Ramiro Rodriguez will have work in a group show at La Casa de Amistad in an exhibition entitled "Resistencia | Resistance." The exhibition runs from March 19 - April 19. He will have a solo exhibition at the South Bend Museum of Art entitled "Lineaje a Línea | Lineage to Line" from April 12 - June 15.

Dan Slattery is exhibiting watercolors and pastels at Roti Roti Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan, MI, February 19-March 29, with a reception March 2 from 2-4pm. The gallery is open W-F noon-5 and Sat-Sun noon-4.

Scholastic Awards

NIA presented 2 awards to deserving young artists at the annual

Scholastic Art Awards, Feb 8-Apr 13, Warner & Crowley Community Gallery, South Bend Museum of Art. (l) Alex Choinacky, Grade 11, St. Joseph High School, A Love to Grow Old With, Painting, Silver Key; (r) Anna Hammond, Grade 11, Elkhart High School, Reflections of Sight, Photography, Silver Key.



Art League Luncheon

March 18 2025, 11:30 - 2:00

Beiger Mansion, 317 Lincolnway E., Mishawaka
Presenter: Michelle McCosky, director of education at Fernwood Botanical Garden, will talk about the life and art of Beatrix Potter who created Peter Rabbit and broke boundaries as a scientist and naturalist, making 350 drawings of mushrooms.

Logan Mat Cutter Available

Dan Slattery has a Logan mat cutter available to whomever can use it. It accommodates a full sheet, 30x40" and comes with a bevel cutter and extra blades. Contact him at slatterydan@hotmail.com



In Memoriam, Jim Cooke

Longtime NIA member, friend and accomplished artist Jim Cooke passed away February 17. View his obituary at southbendtribune.com.

May Social

Our annual May Social will take place May 3 at Pinhook Park Pavilion, 2801 Riverside Drive in South Bend. As in past years we'll be joined by members of the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society and the Northern Indiana Pastel Society.

Meet and greet will begin at 11:30, followed by a potluck lunch from noon-2. Please bring a dish to share. More details to follow.

Classes

For those experienced in soft pastels, Mary Firtl leads the Continued Practice in Soft Pastels class at the South Bend Museum of Art beginning Tuesday, March 18, 1-4 pm, for six weeks. Register at southbendart.org

Cathy McCormick will teach a beginning pastels class for six weeks, Tuesdays, starting March 18 at South Bend Museum of Art.

Dan Slattery will teach a 6-week class in watercolor Landscape techniques at SBMA Mondays from 1-4pm beginning March 17. More at southbendart.org

Exhibits

"Inspirations" is the theme of the Northern Indiana Pastel Society members' exhibit at Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles, Michigan, from March 21 to June 1. The reception and awards will be 2-4 p.m., Sunday, April 27. Gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

The Cass County Artists 8th Annual Open Art Exhibit runs through Friday, May 23 at the Cass County Administration Building, 120 North Broadway, Cassopolis, MI. Several NIA members are participating in the show.

Call for Art

Michiana Annual Art Competition

Box Factory for the Arts
1101 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI
boxfactoryforthearts.org

Submission/Payment Deadline: April 6, 2025

Online Judging: April 7-14, 2025

Artist Notification: April 20-25, 2025

Art Drop-Off: May 4, 4:00 – 6:00PM;

May 5 & 6, 12:00 – 4:00PM

Exhibit Dates: May 16 – July 6, 2025

Opening Reception: May 16 5:00PM – 6:30PM

March Speaker David Baker

David Baker is a lifelong artist and teacher. He has taught public school art in Michigan and Indiana, and upon earning an MFA at Indiana State taught at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac, including courses in painting, drawing, design, watercolor, color theory, and art appreciation. During that time he also managed the College Art Gallery, curated the College Art Collection, and did mural commissions. He has mounted over three dozen exhibitions, and has won numerous regional awards.

Baker has worked in a wide variety of media, explored most painting mediums, preferring oil, watercolor, and charcoal, and worked in a variety of genres – Post-Impressionism, Color Field Abstraction, Expressionism, and recently landscape, or fragments found in the natural landscape.

He has held a long association with Ox-Bow School of Art in Saugatuck, MI, is on the faculty of Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, MI, and teaches workshops in drawing, painting, watercolor, and design.

NIA Winter Exhibit, 1st Unitarian Church

Thank you to all who participated in our winter exhibit at the 1st Unitarian Church. The Judge's Statement can be found on our website, nia-art.org. Pick up of artwork is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 10 - 1.

Congratulations to the award winners:

Judge's Awards

Mary Pence Bagiackas, *Didn't Listen*, Acrylic on canvas
Anne Marie Peck, *Tranquility*, Watercolor
Laurie Rousseau, *Femininity*, Monotype print

Merit Awards

Sunday Mahaja, *Unbroken*, Painted steel
Susan Pelka, *The Creek on Trowbridge's Farm*, Acrylic
Barbara Walsh, *Gliding Through Winter*, Watercolor



Mary Pence Bagiackas



Sunday Mahaja



Laurie Rousseau



Susan Pelka



Barbara Walsh



Anne Marie Peck



Northern Indiana Artists NIA Spring Exhibit

Heartland Art Center
214 N Michigan Street, Plymouth, Indiana

April 1-26, 2025 • Drop-Off: Saturday, March 29, 10 am-1 p.m.
Reception & Awards • January 26, 11:30-1 1-3 pm • Pick-Up – April 26, 3 p.m.
Gallery Hours: Tues. – Fri., 11-6 • Sat., 11-4

Mark Rospenda, Gallery Director, IUSB
Exhibit judge: Kolt Lucius Sizer, MFA, Curator of Education and Public Programming at the South Bend Museum of Art.

With the larger Gallery space, depending on the number of large-size artwork, one or two works will be accepted. The art should not have been shown in a previous NIA Exhibit and must be your own original art. No AI work will be accepted. The Gallery retains a 30% Commission. Help will be needed to accept artwork.

All artwork must ready to hang with wire. See proper hanging method on the nia-art.org website. Artwork content must be appropriate for a family gallery space. The Northern Indiana Artists or Heartland will not accept financial liability for accidents or loss.

Dues must be current to participate in any NIA show. If your dues were not current (March 1, 2024) you will need to pay \$35 before entering. Pay on-line at nia-art.org or mail your dues to NIA Treasurer, PO Box 906, South Bend, IN 46624.

For questions about the show or help transporting artwork to the show, please contact Jude Phillips, 574-309-7222, or judephillips@att.net. Refreshments will be needed for the reception. Please bring an appetizer or dessert.

Please fill out (PRINT) two forms for EACH piece of artwork. Attach one to the lower right back of artwork, and hand in the duplicate form during receiving along with your payment of \$10 for the first piece and \$5 for the second.

Entry (1)

Name _____ (NIA Heartland, 2025)
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Title of Work _____
Medium _____
Price _____ Or, Not for Sale _____

Entry (2)

Name _____ (NIA Heartland, 2025)
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Title of Work _____
Medium _____
Price _____ Or, Not for Sale _____