



Newsletter

nia-art.org • facebook.com/NorthernIndianaArtists • instagram.com/northernindianaartists42

March, 2026

General Meeting March 14

10:00am
Francis Branch
St. Joseph County Public
Library Pasture Room

Speaker
Lee Bauman
Artist/Illustrator

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
Laura Elliott
(interim)

Historian
open

Hospitality
Dee Thornton
deelthorn@att.net

Membership
Emily Thomas
emily96thomas@gmail.com

Publicity
Catherine McCormick
CAMcCorm@aol.com

Publications
Joan Spohrer
jfspohrer@ameritech.net

Past President
Dee Thornton
deelthorn@att.net

President's Corner

This new year is sailing forward with vibes of spring in the air! There is much to look forward to in terms of exhibits, guest speakers, workshops and receptions that build our connection and community as fellow Artists. This coming Saturday, March 14th we will offer our General Meeting in our new location at Roger B. Francis Library on N. Ironwood Dr. After our guest speaker, you will be able to participate in the election of officers with your vote. I am grateful for continued support of all our Board Members. They really keep our organization moving forward with fresh ideas and opportunities. I also appreciate Joan Spohrer, who is Chair of our Publications committee. She has collected news, designed and delivered our NIA Newsletters numerous times each year with accuracy and style. Joan also maintains our website and emails exhibit forms and reminders.



Flowers speak to us if we listen. Appreciating the blossom in hand or pausing in the garden to admire the beauty quiets our outer selves till we hear something new, something we did not hear before - the still, small voice of Nature herself.

At the opening reception of the show at 1st Unitarian Church, I shared this poem about spring by Jean Hersey. I think it speaks to what we experience in the Art making process and what inspires us. Often the process begins with the natural world we live in.

I look forward to seeing all of you at this Saturday's General Meeting and other opportunities we have to connect with each other through Art.

Happy Spring,
Laura Elliott, President

Arbor & Earth Day Celebration
Howard Park - April 25th, 10-1:30
Artists welcome to display. Contact 574-310-9428

May Social

Our annual May Social is Saturday, May 2 from 11:30am - 2:00pm at Sacred Heart Parish Center, Notre Dame campus. We will again share the date with members of the Northern Indiana Pastel Society and St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society

Pay NIA Dues this Month

NIA Dues must be paid by March 31. Annual dues are \$30 (\$35 after March 31) and can be paid via check to: NIA Treasurer, PO Box 906, South Bend, IN 46624. Dues may also be paid online at our website nia-art.org, using PayPal or a credit card.

Art Matters

Cara Lawson-Ball's painting "Journey Towards Light" was included in the Artlink Midwest Regional 2026 Exhibition in Fort Wayne. She also had two paintings, "Where 'Sorries' Are Washed About" and "A Not So Small Cacophony," in the 2026 Honeywell Annual Fine Art Competition in Wabash, IN. "A Not So Small Cacophony" received an award. Cara also gave a noontime talk, Presence & Place, reflecting on three decades of exploration in sculpture and painting at the Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart, Indiana.



A Not so Small Cacophony

Ginny Scott will be exhibiting at the Laporte Convention Center in Michigan City with the Area Artists Association this April - May. She had paintings featured again in two juried art books, "American Artwork" and "Studio Visit Book." She has a solo show coming up at the Michigan City Library in September and a solo gallery exhibit at the Box Factory in St. Joseph, MI, in November-December.

Perry Olshein received an honorable mention for his painting in the Honeywell Annual Fine Art Competition, Wabash, IN



Kathleen Pettijean will be at BookCon at the St. Joseph County Public Library, 305 S. Main Street, South Bend on Saturday, March 21 from 11 AM - 3 PM. She will have her updated ABC book, signed prints, ABC stickers and latest original art greeting cards available for sale.

Laura Hensley and Laura Elliott were accepted into an exhibition for "Journey of the Mind" traveling exhibit on display now at Elkhart Public Library and then at the St. Joseph Co. Public Library March 12-26. All proceeds will go towards mental health services.



Laura Hensley, "Abstract Sunflower"

Mary Ann Roach Butkovich will have a solo show at Saint Mary's College Moreau Gallery April 23-May 30. "You Paint Too Pretty - My Art Journey" is the gallery's 2026 Alumna Exhibition, with an opening reception 4:30-6 April 23. Mary Ann will present two in-gallery talks, at 5:00 April 23 and at 2:15 May 30.

Anne Marie Peck's exhibition "Of Presence and Light" will be at Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan until March 29th in the Hess Library Gallery.

Calls for Art

MAAC – Michiana Annual Art Competition

Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI
May 15 - July 5
Entry deadline: April 5
Information and prospectus: [gallery@boxfactoryforthearts.org](mailto:gALLERY@boxfactoryforthearts.org)

Heartland Art Center Small Wonders Exhibit

214 N. Michigan St., Plymouth, IN
April 28 – May 29
Entry deadline April 18
Information and Prospectus: heartlandartgallery.com

Art Barn School of Art Annual Juried Exhibition

695 N. 400 E., Valparaiso, IN
June 8 - August 13
Entry Deadline April 23
Information and Prospectus: artbarnschool.org

South Bend Museum of Art Around the Bend

120 S. Dr. MLK Jr. Boulevard, South Bend
May 23 - August 23
Entry deadline March 27
Information and prospectus southbendart.org/opportunities/

Festival of Banners

Entry Deadline: May 15
Local artists are invited to design original banner artwork inspired by the theme "Our Ecosystem." southbendart.org/

Attend

Anne Marie Peck is teaching "Painting with Gouache: Discovering a Versatile Medium" through the SBMA, March 22 - April 26, Sundays 9AM - 12PM. Registration is through SBMA at <https://www.ultracamp.com/info/upcomingSessions.aspx?idCamp=1217&campCode=174>.

The **Midwest Museum of American Art**, 429 S Main St., Elkhart, offers a weekly Sketch Club Wednesdays 10-11:30. \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers. midwestmuseum.org

Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Midwest Museum (YAM) runs from March 8th (open to public March 11th) through April 5th midwestmuseum.org. NIA chose two entries for awards, below.



*"Scarlet Fate," Charcoal and chalk paste
Xiomara Salinas
11th grade, Concord*



*"Engulfed," Mixed Media
Kennedy Todd
12th Grade, Fairfield High School*

Congratulations

Congratulations to the award winners of our 1st Unitarian Church exhibit, "Thinking about Spring," February 20-April 11. 1st Unitarian Church, 801 E. Washington Street, South Bend.

Judge's Awards

"Arrest at Broadview ICE Facility"
Lisa Kiselevich, Photograph

"I'm Listening"
Martha Hollett, Acrylic

"Footprints in the Sand"
Diann Nelson, Pastel

Merit Awards

"Working Hard"
Sunday Mahaja, Metal

"We All Come from Immigrants"
Dan Slattery, Watercolor

"Peach Blossom"
Olga Orlovska Soaltys, Inverse Painting on Glass, Oil



Lisa Kiselevich



Martha Hollett



Diann Nelson



Sunday Mahaja



Dan Slattery



Olga Orlovska Soaltys

NIA Calendar 2026

May

2

May Social

11:30am - 2:00pm

Sacred Heart Parish Center
Notre Dame campus

June

1-27

Exhibit

Heartland Art Center

214 N. Michigan

Plymouth

September

26

General Meeting

Francis Branch, SJCPL

October

Exhibit

Fernwood Gallery

13988 Rangeline Road,

Niles, MI

November

14

General Meeting

Francis Branch, SJCPL

March General Meeting Speaker Lee Bauman



Autumn at the Park, Mixed Media

A lifelong painter, Lee Bauman is an artist and illustrator who creates colorful, uplifting work. Prior to creating her own work and commissions for authors, Lee worked as a graphic artist at St. Andrew's Products, Michigan City.

She has shown her work at midwest art festivals, been awarded funding from the IAC to teach older adults and collaborate with area art centers. She has recently retired from teaching.

At our March meeting Lee will demonstrate her painting practice, including mixed media, acrylic and watercolor.

Scholastics Art Awards

NIA presented awards to two artists exhibiting at the Scholastics Art Awards, South Bend Museum of Art. The exhibit is on display at the Warner and Community Galleries through April 12.



"Metamorphosis," Digital painting, Drawing & Collage, Ava Packer, Fairfield Jr/Senior High School, Grade 12, gold key



Snow Day!, Painting, Kennedy Todd, Grade 12, Fairfield High School, Silver key

2026 ALUMNA EXHIBITION

Mary Ann Roach Butkovich '64
You Paint Too Pretty - My Art Journey

Moreau Gallery
April 23 - May 30, 2026

Thursday, April 23
4:30-6 PM: Opening Reception, Moreau Gallery
5:00 PM: In-gallery Talk, Moreau Gallery

Saturday, May 30
2:15 PM: In-gallery Talk, Moreau Gallery



The Alumna Exhibition is presented by the Department of Art and Moreau Gallery.



OF PRESENCE AND LIGHT
ANNE MARIE PECK ~ SOLO EXHIBITION

ROTI ROTI ART CENTER OF BUCHANAN
FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 29, 2026

ARTIST RECEPTION
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 ~ 2-4 PM

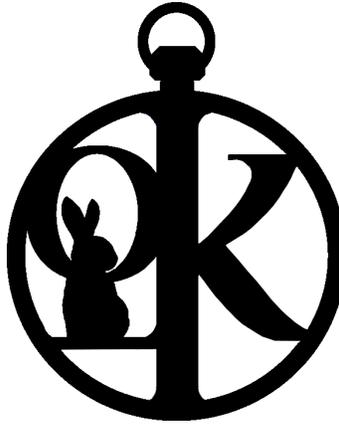




Leeper Park Art Fair

June 20-21, 2026





KLO Studio Art

Dear Friends and Community Members,

I'm excited to share that I am in the process of opening a new art studio, gallery, and workshop space. This space will be dedicated to creativity, learning, and community—offering a place where people of all ages can explore art through classes, workshops, and shared artistic experiences.

As I work to bring this vision to life, I'm inviting friends, local businesses, and supporters of the arts to help make it possible. Financial contributions will help with the initial costs of preparing the space, purchasing materials and equipment, and creating a welcoming environment for the community.

Support can take two forms:

- **A direct donation** to help with startup costs
- **A pre-purchase toward future classes taught by me**, which can be used anytime during the 2026 calendar year.

Your support will help establish a creative space where people can gather, learn new skills, and experience the joy of making art together.

If you would like to contribute or learn more, please feel free to reach out to me directly. Every bit of support helps bring this community art space to life, and I would be grateful to have you as part of its beginning.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting local art.

Warmly,

Kristen O'Dell
KLO Studio Art
klostudioart@gmail.com
574.312.8423