



Newsletter

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November, 2026

General Meeting
November 7

10:00am
Francis Branch
St. Joseph County Public
Library
15255 Ironwood Road
Pasture Room

Speaker
Journalist Gayle Dantzler
on artist Carolyn Jagodits

President
Laura Elliott

Vice President
Kristen O'Dell

Secretary
Pam Fozo

Treasurer
Paul Thornton

Exhibits

Historian

Hospitality
Dee Thornton

Membership
Kathleen Pettijean

Publicity
Catherine McCormick

Publications
Joan Spohrer

Past President
Dee Thornton

President's Corner



Along with the colorful changes that come with fall, we are happy to welcome two new Board Members. Pam Fozo is our new Secretary, thanks to a referral from our Past President, Dee Thornton. Pam is an accomplished artist primarily using pastels. Secondly, Kathleen Pettijean is our new Membership Committee Chairperson. Kathleen has written and illustrated her books, as well as the creation of ceramic artworks.

The Board is still in need of a person to take the last remaining open position, as Chairperson of the Exhibit Committee. The Chairperson would coordinate and oversee the team of members who have stepped up to organize and install the shows we are privileged to participate in. Our current show at Fernwood's Clark Gallery was comprised of 57 artworks by 30 NIA members.

As we look to 2027, which is our 85th year, there is more growth and opportunities within our organization to explore. Our calendar is full of events that will enrich our knowledge and social connections together as artists. In 2027, NIA will celebrate our long history and the contributions we make, as artists to the communities we influence in our region.

Happy Fall to All,
Laura Elliott, President



NIA Calendar

Fall Exhibit

Fernwood Botanical Garden Clark Gallery
September 5 - November 15
Reception and Awards: November 15, 1-3pm

General Meeting

Saturday November 7
Francis Branch Library
10am - 1pm
Journalist Gayle Dantzler on behalf of artist
Carolyn Jagodits, cartoonist & fashion artist

Exhibit

1st Unitarian Church
801 E. Washington St, South Bend
February 19 - May 2

General Meeting

Saturday March 13, 2027
Francis Branch Library
10am - 1pm
Alex Ann Allen, painter & muralist

May Social

Saturday, May 8, 2027
NIA Social with members of SJVWS and
NIPS
noon - 2pm
Sacred Heart Parish Center, Notre Dame
campus

Art Matters

Mary Firtl's pastel piece "Fronds of Palms" was accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional exhibit, Midwest Museum of American Art. The exhibit will be on display through December 31 midwestmuseum.org

Lisa Kiselevich's photo Rockwellian Amidst Orwellian is exhibited at Midwest Museum of American Art in the 48th Elkhart Juried Regional.



Rockwellian Amidst Orwellian

Cara Lawson-Ball's oil & cold wax painting "Holding Time" is at the South Haven Center for the Arts – New/Now: Pondering Change exhibit through November 7. southhavenarts.org

"Where Fire Starts" and "Finding a Way Through," oil & cold wax paintings, were accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional.



Color Will Return

midwestmuseum.org

"Color will Return" and "Arriving at the End" oil and cold wax paintings are in the Minnetrista Museum & Gardens exhibit, Open Space: Art About the Land, Muncie, from 11/7-1/3/2027 minnetrista.net

Cara has a solo exhibit, Tending a Wild Garden, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart through Nov. 23.

Cathy McCormick won a purchase award in the Elkhart Juried Regional for her piece "Golden Day with Blue Trees."



Golden Day with Blue Trees

Kathleen Pettijean will be at the Holiday Mart at the Midwest Museum of American Art on Saturday, November 7 from 10 - 4, 429 S Main St, Elkhart, IN. She will be taking pre-orders for her new illustrated book, "I Wanted to Ask My Dad" and will also have her ABC book, signed prints, holiday cards and original ceramic works available for sale.

Laurie Rousseau received a purchase award at MMAA Elkhart Juried Regional for Rose Lineage II, Monotype Print.

Three of her works are part of the Printmaking Exhibition 4th Street Print Exhibition

October 2 – November 28 at the Chesterton Art Center, Chesterton, IN. chestertonart.org



Rose Lineage II

Joan Spohrer's painting "In the Vineyard" was accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional exhibit. Two paintings were accepted to Heartland Art Center's annual Juried Regional Art Exhibit, through October 30. heartlandartgallery.com

Nancy Turner's painting "Monhegan Still Life" was accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional.

Susan Ward's piece "Heaven's Gate" was accepted to the Elkhart Juried Regional exhibit.

Thomas Zuber will have work on display at the Goshen Theater, downtown Goshen, the month of November. He will be participating in the Goshen High School Art Faculty show at the Hershberger Art Gallery, Goshen College. It will run November 8th through December 6th, with an Artist Talk at 2:30 on November 8.

Art League Luncheon

November 17

South Bend Museum of Art

11:30 - 2:00

Frances Jacobus-Parker, Curator of Exhibitions and The Collection, SBMA

Tickets are \$30

Register one week before the event at southbendart.org

Classes

Registration is now open for **Continuing Practice in Soft Pastels with Mary Meehan Firtl**. This six-week late fall session begins Tuesday, November 3 and runs each week until December 8. Classes are from 1-4 p.m. at the South Bend Museum of Art. This class is for those experienced in soft pastels, with weekly discussions, demos, and exercises. Participants should be comfortable with the medium and open to new approaches and testing out different methods. Class is limited to 10 students. To register, visit southbendart.org

Additional late fall class sessions at SBMA begin November 1. Sign up for ceramics, jewelry, photography, painting and more at southbendart.org.

2027 Leeper Park Art Fair



The 60th annual Leeper Park Art Fair will take place June 19-20, 2027.

Applications open at zapplication.org December 1.

November General Meeting: Journalist Gayle Dantzler Profiles Carolyn Jagodits



Remembering Carolyn Jagodits

This program will be presented by Gayle Dantzler, veteran South Bend Tribune journalist, pastel artist, and friend of the artist for whom the Carolyn Jagodits Memorial Award is given annually at the NIA all-member exhibit. Many of your members may not know about Carolyn or why the award is given in her memory, but here is a chance to appreciate her art and her gift to NIA members.

Gayle writes:

There was a time when a daily column appearing in your South Bend Tribune was accompanied (every single day!) with an original piece of hand-drawn art.

The artist was Carolyn Jagodits and the column was Action Line.

Starting in 1972, Action Line was a consumer help column. It invited mail from readers who had a problem with a business or an agency. Their letter was printed along with the company's/agency's response. Often the problem was solved.

Carolyn's cartoons were creative and occasionally hilarious.

In two decades, Carolyn penned at least 3,000 cartoons for the column. She also penned fashion drawings for advertising layouts, but her strongest calling was to turn a fleeting glimpse of nature into a lasting work of art.

The grace of animals mesmerized her. She would

talk of wanting to paint nature as she saw it. She had mastered pen and ink, oil, watercolor, pastel and acrylics.

In later years, during the height of plate collecting popularity, Carolyn would paint scenes of animals for four-piece sets offered by the Bradford Exchange.

I have six of her paintings from Carolyn's penguin plate series.

She enhanced life – her own and others' – with her art. Carolyn had a small family but many friends. She loved music, fashion, science fiction and drama. She adored her own pets. There were several generations of Siberian Huskies. In the 1960s, Carolyn worked with Tribune reporters on a series of stories that led to animal combat becoming a felony in Indiana.



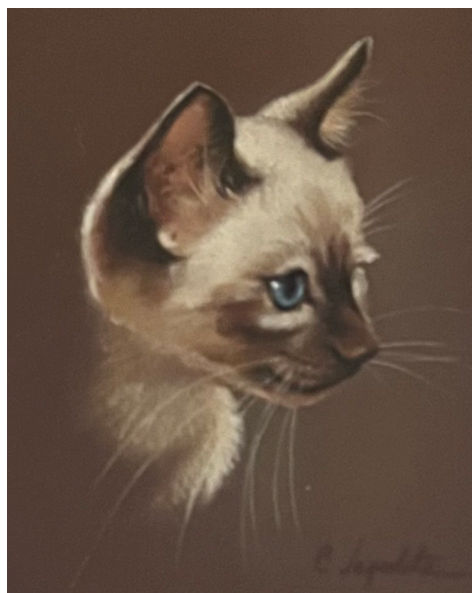
Carolyn died on March 3, 2008, at the age of 72 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. It is fitting that the Northern Indiana Artists remember and honor her with a memorial award. In doing so, they also are honoring kindness, generosity, patience and

beauty – all of which shine through Carolyn's work.

See more of Carolyn's work at nia-art.org. This photo of Carolyn appeared in *The South Bend Tribune* January 23, 1993.



Photo by Ed Ballots



Congratulations, All Member Show Award Winners

Our All Member Show at Fernwood's Clark Gallery, "Seasons of Change," showcases 54 works. Judged by David Baker, the show runs through Sunday, November 15. A reception will be held that afternoon from 1-3; pick up your work immediately following the reception. David Baker's juror's statement is at our website, nia-art.org.

Judge's Awards

Kathleen Pettijean, "Sanctification," porcelain

Ramero Rodríguez, "A Traves Del Viento III," monoprint

Laurie Rousseau, "Crone II," monotype

Merit Awards

Laura Elliott, "Blissful," Photography

Mary Firtl, "Along the River," pastel

Dan Slatterly, "Michigan Farm," watercolor

Zimmerman Memorial Award

Michelle Engle, "Forest Mist," oil

Glenda Cobb Bixby Award

Mary Pence Bagiackas, "Slipping Away" mixed media.

Carolyn Jagodits Memorial Award

Susan Ward, "Spring Shower," metal assemblage



Mary Firtl



Dan Slatterly



Michelle Engle



Kathleen Pettijean



Ramiro Rodriguez



Laura Elliott



Mary Pence Bagiackas

Holiday Markets

Shop area Holiday Markets this season to support local artists.

Roti Roti Art Center Artisan Market

117 W Front Street, Buchanan, MI
November 28, 10am - 4pm
Ornament painting workshop - \$5 - decorate a ceramic ornament in the studio.

Midwest Museum of American Art Holiday Mart

429 S Main Street, Elkhart
November 7, 10am - 4pm

Box Factory for the Arts Makers Market

1101 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI
November 28, 9am - 5pm
\$5 suggested entrance fee

Urban Artisan Market

Presented by Make South Bend
November 15, 11am-4pm
December 13, 11am-4pm
Potawatomi Conservatory
2105 Mishawaka Ave, South Bend