



# ARTalk

A Publication of the Simi Valley Art Association

MAY 2026

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello members and friends,

Springtime is here and I hope you are enjoying the season. There's something deeply connected between springtime and fine art. Both celebrate renewal, detail, and the fleeting nature of beauty. Spring arrives like a quiet brushstroke across the landscape—soft at first, then bursting into color.

We had success at the last two SVAA exhibits. Five members—Dawn Marple, Susan Rice, Barbara Castillo, Gary Friedman, and myself—exhibited their art at the Simi Valley Senior Center in April. We appreciate the Center's support.

Persy Evans' solo exhibit during March/April at the Simi Valley Library, received numerous compliments and interest from visitors, according to staff. Congratulations to all involved.

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for next month, Thursday June 18th. We are pleased to announce our guest demonstration artist, Carol Roullard. Carol is a fluid acrylic artist. This is a unique style of painting and Carol is an expert. I would highly recommend attending her demonstration.

Two chairpersons, Michael Hansen (Special Events) and Oxana Cramer (Website/Social Media), recently stepped down due to personal obligations. Thank you for your years of dedication and hard work. SVAA wouldn't be what we are without your support. Member Vicki Vogel has volunteered to fill the Website/Social Media chair position. We are so fortunate to have her in this important position. Welcome and thank you Vicki!

We need members to volunteer to fill chairperson positions. Currently, some board members/chairpersons are holding double positions. We currently still have two positions: Hospitality and Special Events. These positions are important for our association to be sustainable. As members, we hope you will consider one of these positions. Please contact me or any other board members if you have questions.

Lastly, congratulations to member Annie Jensen as Artist of the Month for May! Annie does beautiful artwork and is modest about her talent. Annie has been a great resource for SVAA with her experience with other non-profit associations she belonged to in the past. Congratulations Annie!

Tom

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

**Tom Evans**

tcekobedog1@gmail.com

### Vice President

**Jason Lubas**

mastersketcher@gmail.com

### Treasurer

**Theresa Bell**

teadrinker62@sbcglobal.com

### Recording Secretary

**Carmen Lamp**

carmenlamp29@gmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary

**Susan Rice**

susanriceartstudio@gmail.com

### Hospitality Chairperson

**OPEN POSITION**

### Annual Events Chairperson

**Dawn Marple**

artbydm2creations@gmail.com

### Special Events Chairperson

**OPEN POSITION**

### Website / Social Media Chairperson

**Victoria Vogel**

victoria@wildsideofwater.com

### Newsletter Coordinator

**Persy Evans**

Persy9@gmail.com

### Newsletter Designer

**Sharmila Menezes**

CandidCreationsCo@gmail.com

### Library Exhibit

**Stuart Berlin**

resrchmd@icloud.com

## ART TECHNIQUE -

**Watercolor washes** involve diluting paint to transparent, semi-transparent, or semi-opaque layers. The wet paint bleeds softly into the paper.



SIMIVALLEYARTASSOCIATION



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Annie Jensen \* Dan Rice \* Dia Wolfe

## RECENT MEMBER PAINT-OUT



**Girls  
just  
want  
to  
have  
food  
and  
paint!**



## RECENT MEMBER ART EXPERIENCE

Members Tom and Persy Evans visit:

The Broad presents *Robert Therrien: This is a Story*, the largest museum exhibition of the late artist's widely-adored work to date.

*What a trip!*



## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

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The Santa Paula Society of the Arts  
presents the 87<sup>th</sup> annual

# Art & Photography

EXHIBIT

April 21 - May 14, 2026

Blanchard Community Library  
119 N. 8th Street, Santa Paula

Prospectus &  
Online Entry

### Online Registration

Sunday, March 1 - Wednesday, April 15

### In-Person Registration & Artwork Drop-Off

Friday, April 17 & Saturday, April 18  
10 am - 2 pm

### Awards Reception

Saturday, May 9, 3 - 7 pm  
Voting ends at 5 pm • Awards begin at 6 pm

### Artwork Pick-up

Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16  
10 - 2 pm

**Note:** Tom Evans, Persy Evans and Sheri Jones  
have entered paintings in this show.

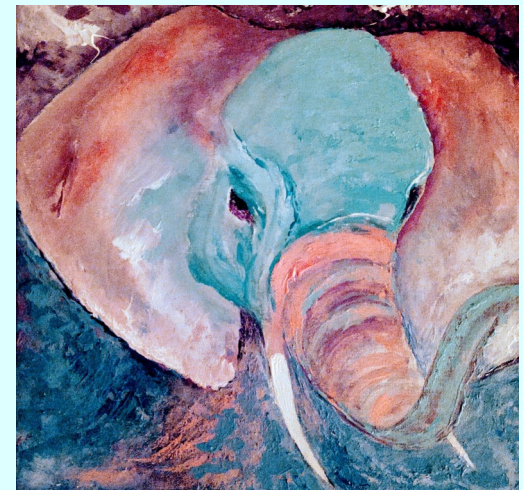
Newsletter submissions must be made between the 20th-25th (unless otherwise mentioned in our month SVAA member benefits email). Email: [Persy9@gmail.com](mailto:Persy9@gmail.com) and type "Newsletter Submission" in the Subject line.

**Note:** Forwarded emails or emails without subject may not all be opened due to internet security reasons and spamming.

# ARTIST OF THE MONTH

## Annie Jensen

My interest in art began at an early age, experimenting with various materials such as cardboard, wood, rocks, and seashells before progressing to oil on canvas. At fourteen, I successfully sold my first three paintings. Although I intended to undertake formal art instruction, I remain a self-taught artist. After a lengthy hiatus from painting, during which I pursued photography, I resumed artistic practice following retirement, selecting acrylics as my preferred medium. My works are distinguished by their vibrant colors, simplicity, originality, and always distinctively different.



# LIBRARY VENUE

**Current Solo Exhibit Artist: Susan Peterson**

**4/27/26 — 6/25/26**

Every other month, SVAA displays a Solo Art exhibit by one of our members. The SVAA library committee will do all the work. All you have to do is drop off and pick up your artwork. Your art must be clean, properly framed and wired, with wire measured the same distance from the top of the frame for all art work. No saw-tooth hangers. Frames in poor condition will be rejected.

If you are interested in having your own exhibition at the library, go to our website at [www.simivalleyart.org](http://www.simivalleyart.org) for pertinent information and the Library Display form. Fill out the form, and contact Stuart Berlin at [resrchmd@icloud.com](mailto:resrchmd@icloud.com) to submit your request to participate.

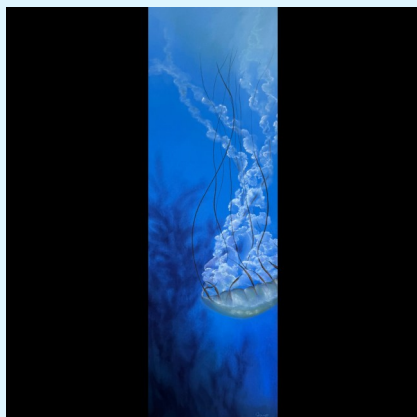
**Note:** If multiple requests are received for the same period, members who have not yet done a Solo exhibit will be considered first. Be aware that each potential artist must meet the requirements on the Library Display form.

**The Library is still tentatively in the planning process of renovation. We will continue our Solo Artist Library Exhibits until construction begins.**

## SVAA MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Carmen Lamp:** I'm grateful to share that

- Two of my pieces, *Ocean Vibrations* and *Drift of Light*, were recently juried into the *Thousand Oaks Open Juried Show*.
- Exhibited my artwork at the *Art Affair* presented by the Ventura County Creative Artists.
- I participated in the *Thousand Oaks Open Studio Tour* on April 25 and 26, at the Thousand Oaks Community Gallery.



## Watercolor Class with Gary Friedman

**Location:** Simi Valley Senior Center (for all levels)

**To register:** [rsrpd.org](http://rsrpd.org)

Select: Register here | Age 50+ program | Art & Music | Spring (March-May) | Watercolor | Saturdays, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

**Second half:** April 25 - May 16, 2026



Let us know if you were juried-in, won an award, are having a show, teaching a class, or speaking/demo engagement.

## SVAA MEMBERS' ARTWORK

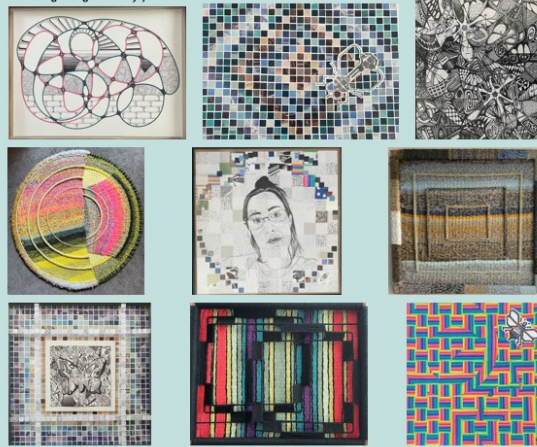
If you have art you would like to share in next month's issue, contact Persy Evans at: [Persy9@gmail.com](mailto:Persy9@gmail.com) or any of our Board Members. Please submit your work between 20th and 25th of the month.

### SVAA Solo Exhibit

### SUSAN PETERSON

I am a native Californian, born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. I moved to Simi Valley in 2015. I love Jesus, my family, coffee, chocolate and art. I think about art all the time! I love coming up with new ideas to try. It's exciting to see how the ideas in my head turn out in real life. I think of art as creative problem solving. Often, I will start a piece and not finish it but come back to it months (or years) later with fresh eyes and find the solution to the "is it done yet?" problem. I mainly work in mixed media with the occasional detour into weaving. My art tends to be abstract with a heavy emphasis on design and balance. I want the observer to enjoy looking at my art and take the time to dig into the details. A successful piece of art will stop someone in their tracks as they are pulled in to discover more about the art.

Finding the Simi Valley Art Association (thanks to my husband) has been a blessing. It's been great to have a new focus on art and the inspiration of other artists to go along with it. Enjoy!



# OPPORTUNITIES & SERVICES

## WEEKLY FIGURE DRAWING SESSIONS IN MOORPARK (Shared by Jason Lubas)

Every Monday, 6-9 PM

Location: 11 E. High St, Moorpark, CA

Cost: \$20 per artist

More details at: [artistsn.com](http://artistsn.com)

Call: (805) 552-4045

Free parking at 100 W. High St

Handicap parking at 33 E. High St

- A relaxed and welcoming environment
- Great for all skill levels – beginner to professional
- Sharpen your figure drawing skills
- Connect with other artists in our community
- No pressure – just show up, draw, and enjoy the night

Bring your favorite drawing tools, a board or easel if you prefer one, and come sketch (or paint) with us. It would be wonderful to grow this little group together.



If you're interested in Blacksmith Art, these links will show you what classes are available, for the dates you need:

**Jewelry:** [https://adamsforge.org/browse-classes/? class\\_category=jewelry](https://adamsforge.org/browse-classes/? class_category=jewelry)

**Sheet Forming:** [https://adamsforge.org/browse-classes/? class\\_category=sheet-forming](https://adamsforge.org/browse-classes/? class_category=sheet-forming)

In the heart of Porter Ranch, **Art by Oxana Art Studio** is a place where creativity blossoms, confidence grows, and natural talent is revealed. Founded by local artist *Oxana Cramer*, the studio was born from a deep love for bringing people together with art, and a heartfelt desire to share her experience and knowledge with others.



**Oxana Cramer**  
(661) 333-6674  
[ogcramer@hotmail.com](mailto:ogcramer@hotmail.com)



Adults and children of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Classes are small and personalized to focus on self-expression rather than perfection. Whether you're a total beginner or an experienced artist, you'll find encouragement, inspiration, and a welcoming community here. Come join us at **Art by Oxana**, and discover the joy of discovering yourself as you create art – your way.

### Print your Art

- ▶ Canvas Prints
- ▶ Posters
- ▶ Art Prints
- ▶ Photo Collages
- ▶ Photo Tiles
- ▶ T-shirts, Mugs

### Promote your Art

- ▶ Business Cards
- ▶ Brochures
- ▶ Flyers
- ▶ Slide Decks
- ▶ Event Signs
- ▶ Catalogs
- ▶ Social Media Ads
- ▶ Invitations
- ▶ Albums



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**Sharmila Menezes**

805 341 7571

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[CandidCreationsCo.com](http://CandidCreationsCo.com)



If you have a service or opportunity to offer as a member, contact: [Persy9@gmail.com](mailto:Persy9@gmail.com) for posting request.

## SVAA WEBSITE

**MESSAGE FROM OUR WEBMASTER:** Check out the SVAA website for news on our events, information about our artists and their works, and how to donate or join: [www.simivalleyart.org/](http://www.simivalleyart.org/).

Members who would like to add links to their personal website or upload some artwork to the SVAA website, please contact Victoria Vogel at: [victoria@wildsideofwater.com](mailto:victoria@wildsideofwater.com).

## SVAA SOCIAL MEDIA

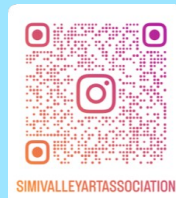


**Like us on Facebook:** Feel free to comment on our posts or "Share" posts from our Facebook page timeline to your own timeline or your friends'. You can also share our posts as a Facebook message. Visit our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SVAAINC](http://www.facebook.com/SVAAINC).

Members interested in having photos of your artwork on SVAA social media pages, please contact Victoria Vogel at: [victoria@wildsideofwater.com](mailto:victoria@wildsideofwater.com).



**Follow us on Instagram:** We are active on Instagram so be sure to stay connected with us at [www.instagram.com/simivalleyartassociation/](http://www.instagram.com/simivalleyartassociation/) or scan this code:



## MEMBERSHIP

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

#### The Board needs Committee Volunteers:

**Hospitality Chairperson(s)** position(s) are still OPEN. This is a yearly term. You will be responsible for providing basic food/drinks/party supplies for events such as: General meeting/Demo, Art Shows, and Christmas party. You are also enabled to reach out and appoint volunteers to help you with:

- setting up (arrange tables/chairs, decorating, helping with food)
- clean up (putting tables/chairs away and cleaning area)
- reaching out to other members who would like to contribute additional purchased or home-made food items.

**Note: Currently Persy Evans is filling in this position as an 'At Large' volunteer. However, she is also the Newsletter Coordinator, so please can you help her by filling this position? She will guide you through what you need to know to be successful.**

**Special Events Chairperson:** Coordinates events outside of the normal SVAA events. (i.e. Craft Fest at Simi Valley Cultural Art Center, Senior Center Member Art Exhibit, to name a few). You would work with the coordinator of these organizations to plan and organize the members participating in those events.

**'At Large' Volunteer** – a volunteer member who is willing to volunteer in the areas they stated interest on their Membership form. (i.e. Take-in, Hospitality or any of the other chairperson positions listed on page 1 of this newsletter).

**We need numerous volunteers!** If you are interested and a member, contact Persy Evans at [Persy9@gmail.com](mailto:Persy9@gmail.com).

**SVAA is only as successful as its members... We are asking all members to help this association thrive by volunteering. We are short-handed and are reaching out in the hope that members will step up to fill these positions. Let's keep this association going strong by supporting your SVAA board members and chair persons.**

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For new and existing members

##### 2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES:

- ◆ Individual (under age 62): \$50
  - ◆ Individual (age 62+): \$45
  - ◆ Family: Individual + 1 family member (\$45 + \$30): \$75
  - ◆ Additional family member: \$30
  - ◆ Full Time student (18+): \$20
- Membership dues are non-refundable.

If you are a new member, your contact information has changed, or you are a returning member but have not submitted a new membership form, please go to our website: [www.simivalleyart.org](http://www.simivalleyart.org) and fill out our Membership form to include your birth date. Submit the form to SVAA Vice President Jason Lubas at: [mastersketcher@gmail.com](mailto:mastersketcher@gmail.com).

#### QUARTERLY ART DEMONSTRATION/ GENERAL MEETING DONATION:

- ◆ Members: \$ 8
  - ◆ Non-members: \$10
  - ◆ Students: \$ 3  
(free if accompanied by a paying adult)
- To be paid at the door.

**"In art there is only one thing that counts: the thing you can't explain" – George Braque**