



Dust in the Wind

March
2026

LCPS

Mission Statement

We seek to unite artists from beginner to professional who are interested in the pastel medium and to serve their needs by encouraging artistic growth and development through education and sharing. We also work to create public awareness of pastel as a unique and beautiful art form.

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From the President



This role may be a challenging one for me, but I step into it knowing I have your support—and for that, I am truly grateful. I'd like to share a few thoughts about my journey with pastel painting and why it has become such a meaningful part of my life.

After retiring, I felt a strong desire to bring more creativity into my daily routine. I chose pastels, and when I stopped to ask myself why, the answer was immediate and simple: because I enjoy painting. That realization matters more than it may seem. Bringing joy into our lives regularly is important—especially during times that feel uncertain or demanding.

But what exactly is joy?

I enjoy riding my bicycle. I enjoy sewing shirts. I enjoy painting with pastels. What I'm really saying is that I am in joy when I do these things. Joy isn't just a pleasant outcome; it's a state of being we enter when we're fully engaged in something we love. When we're immersed, time softens, worries fade, and something life-giving takes their place.

As humans, we are naturally inclined toward joy—not only to experience it, but to share it. This brings me to exhibits. Have you ever considered that the true purpose of an exhibit may be to share joy? It doesn't always have to be about competition or comparison. Too often, we forget that an exhibit can simply be an offering—an invitation for others to experience the joy that arose during the creative process.

This is where our organization plays such an important role. We encourage one another to explore, experiment, and have fun. We share ideas, materials, and experiences through workshops, and we share joy with the public through our exhibits.

I hope you'll consider entering one of your pieces in our Spring Exhibit this coming May—not as a competition, but as a way to share the joy of creating something you love.

Upcoming Events

May 12, 2026 – Pat Duncan, Demo of her work and style

Location: Christ the King Church, 8600 Freemont Ave. S. Bloomington. 7pm – 9pm

July 14, 4-7pm. Paint Out

Location: Old Cedar Ave. Trail. Follow Old Cedar Ave until it ends at the parking lot. (Map will be provided in future newsletter)

September 8, Sue Rowe on the topic of “Experimenting with pastels”

Location: Hastings Art Center, 216 4th St. East, Hastings

7pm-9pm.

November 10, 7 – 9pm, Becky Jokela, “Field to Studio”

Location TBA,

Open Board Positions

We do have several open board positions that need filling. Since we meet bi-monthly, your time commitment would be limited to just several hours every other month. Take a look at what we have here and choose which one would work best for you.

Vice-President – assist the president and would normally be a previous or current board member, who is then trained to become the next board president.

Treasurer – currently handled by a few people, but desperately needs to be filled soon. Great guidance is given to this individual who works with the president and mostly only is committed to four hours every other month. It helps if you already know how to work with Excel spreadsheets.

Program Chairs – there is more time commitment here and will be given to two people who can share the responsibilities for coordinating the bi-monthly presentations. It involves primarily finding our presenters, determining the best location and coordinating with the Zoom operator.

Public Relations Chair – Important role for someone who would be active in the social media realm. Primarily updating our Facebook page, Instagram and other yet explored possibilities. If you are interested, please contact Steve at: [steve-b1339\[at\]usinternet.com](mailto:steve-b1339[at]usinternet.com).

March 10, 2026 - Lisa Stauffer – “Critiquing Your Work and knowing when to stop ”

Location: Hallberg Art Center, Wyoming, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Lisa Stauffer received her Master’s in Design (University Of Minnesota, Minneapolis) and studied Illustration at Parson’s School of Design (NYC). She continues her education by taking workshops from nationally recognized painters whose work inspires her. Lisa was just awarded Eminent Pastelist by the International Association Of Pastel Societies, (she earned Master Circle status in 2009). She received the prestigious Fred Somers Award in 2025 at the Frameworks Juried Exhibition. Her presentation will include a display of previous paintings she has not completed and she will explain why. In addition, she will approach just how she plans to finish them, with regards to their composition and other needs. Other finished samples will be brought for further explanations of how she determined when to stop the painting, or reached her desired goal. There will be time for questions throughout the presentation and we will ask questions from anyone who asks them through the Zoom chat room. Lisa’s website is located at: <https://lisastauffer.com/>

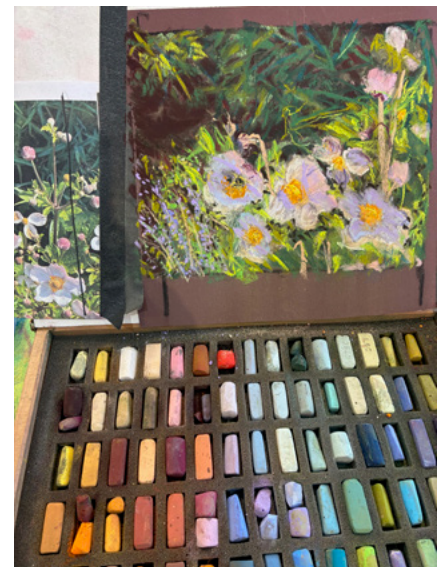


Members Meeting (Recaps of the Paint In)

Winter Paint In, January 2026



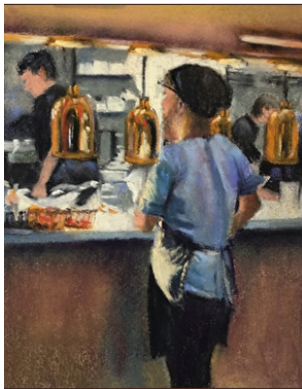
The January 2026 Paint In was held on Saturday, January 10 at the Creative Flow Art Center in Fridley. Large windows, fresh white walls, and bright lights showcased the current “Taking Flight” exhibit at the art center, and inspired the members who attended the Paint In. The Art Center set up tables for us within the exhibit space. Visitors to the gallery admired the finished paintings on the walls and watched as we created our artwork. Dawn chose a flower garden with pops of pink, purple and white flowers, Sandy painted a plant with trailing green vines and red flowers, and Cathy attempted sunflowers in a blue vase. Steve worked on an interesting drawing from a photograph taken from inside a tent! The Art Center staff were enthusiastic supporters of our work and were interested in learning more about pastels. We were happy to share our tips on our favorite brands of pastels and painting equipment.



Workshop

Gail Sibley will not be able to do our May workshop this year. Thankfully the stars have aligned and we are excited to announce that our very own Patricia Duncan will be teaching this workshop! It will be an in-studio workshop with the same dates and location; Monday-Wednesday, May 11-13, 2026 at Christ The King Lutheran Church in Bloomington. We do have open spots available for this workshop so if you are interested, please send in your registration and payment as soon as possible. The registration form is below and on our website.

Patricia Duncan is a representational pastel and oil painter. Growing up on the prairies of South Dakota, her interest for drawing and painting was sparked from a very early age. Currently living part time in the beautiful St. Croix Valley of Northwest Wisconsin and surrounded by lakes and Wisconsin farmland, this place continues to nurture her love for the outdoors and is a continual source of inspiration. She is particularly drawn to cultural diversity when picking her subject matter. Patricia prefers painting natural landscapes, people, animals, architecture, and still life. Go to Patricia Duncan's website to learn more about this inspirational artist! <https://www.patriciaduncanart.com/>



Pastel Art and Wellness Workshop by Patricia Duncan

This unique Pastel workshop—held primarily indoors —will foster an experience of self-discovery, a listening to one's inner voice, and potential healing. We will spend valuable time getting acquainted and developing deeper listening skills (iterative listening) as a pastel community of artists.

There will be an emphasis on the importance of the foundations of drawing, sketching, and designing thumbnails to help simplify compositions. Whether working from photo references indoors or choosing the optional plein air experience, you will be encouraged to look for four to five basic shapes in nature and to deepen your awareness of value contrasts—light and dark. This process will also include underpainting techniques using watercolor, pastel, and rubbing alcohol. After the underpainting stage, you will layer pastel over the top, creating your beautiful painting—learning all along to “enjoy the process!”

There will be a gentle introduction to en plein air painting (French for “painting outside on location”); however, because of the workshop's location, any outdoor component will be minimal and entirely optional. Most painting will take place inside, using landscape photo references, giving participants supportive options to learn and “have fun and enjoy the process” of developing a painting.

A gentle and encouraging reflection on painting en plein air: even when experienced in small ways, painting outdoors invites us to see more deeply and to listen carefully to what nature offers so openly. Our senses become engaged and heightened. Everything in nature is a gift, and it becomes our responsibility to find beauty in even the most ordinary moments we might otherwise pass by. As Richard Schmid so eloquently stated, “May each painting you do from that sacred place include an expression of gratitude for the extraordinary privilege of being an artist.”

Gwen Solberg and Craig Britton

LCPS Workshop Co-Chairs

REGISTRATION FORM

PATRICIA DUNCAN WORKSHOP ~ LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY ~ MAY 11, 12 & 13, 2026

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ OTHER: _____

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ \$100 Down Payment OR _____ \$450 Full Payment (\$490 non-members)

****Cancellation Policy Below****

Make check payable to **LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY** or **LCPS** and mail to:

Gwen Solberg, LCPS Workshop
1033 Tamarack Lane
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

FINAL PAYMENT FORM

PATRICIA DUNCAN WORKSHOP ~ LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY ~ MAY 11, 12 & 13, 2026

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ OTHER: _____

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ \$350 due if initial payment was \$100 (\$390 non-members)

Final payments must be postmarked by April 10th, 2026.

Late final payments may lead to being bumped to a wait list if the workshop becomes full.

****Cancellation Policy Below****

Make check payable to **LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY** or **LCPS** and mail to:

Gwen Solberg, LCPS Workshop
1033 Tamarack Lane
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

****Cancellation Policy****

Cancellations received 30 days or more prior to the start of the workshop are entitled to a full refund.
Cancellations received within 7 to 30 days prior to the start of the workshop are subject to a \$50 cancellation fee.
No refunds for cancellations made within 7 days of the workshop start date.

Lake Country Pastel Society - 2026 Judged Exhibit

May 21 - June 21, 2026

Hosted by: Hopkins Center for the Arts

1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343

JUDGE OF AWARDS – Pam Luer, pastel and watercolor artist. <https://www.pamluer.com/about>

PROMOTION

In addition to LCPS posting the show to our Facebook and Website pages, Hopkins Center for the Arts (HCA) will promote the show on their website, social media, eNewsletter (8000+ subscribers), in a physical exhibition season brochure, and send press releases to local media. LCPS members will be provided with a digital postcard to share with your family, friends and collectors.

Entrants, their family members, and friends are strongly encouraged to attend the reception on Thursday, May 21, 2026, 6:00-8:00pm. Light snacks will be available.

AWARDS:

Frederick D. Somers Award - \$100

Pastel Society Award - \$100

Outdoor Painters Society Award - \$100

1st Prize - \$150

2nd Prize - \$100

3rd Prize - \$75

Award of Merit (2) - \$50 each

Honorable Mention (2) - Holbein Landscape Set of 48 pastels (\$155 value)

People's Choice Award - Dick Blick 30 Landscape Colors (\$60 value)

PROSPECTUS

CALENDAR

- May 1, 2026 – Entry Deadline. Forms and payment due. (No Late Entries Accepted)
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 9:00-11:00 - Drop Off of Artwork (Show to be hung this day)
- Thursday, May 21, 2026, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm - Opening Reception, Juror Talk and Awards Presentation Monday, June 22, 9:00 am-1:00 pm - Pickup of Artwork

Paintings must be picked up and dropped off during listed times. (If unavailable on list drop off arrangements must be made with other LCPS members for drop off at the stated date/time.)

We will try to organize a list of volunteers to drop-off and pick-up paintings if you are not able to do so on the scheduled dates. But it is always best to reach out to another member directly.

ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS

Must be a current Member of LCPS (Membership renewals can be made online.)

Exhibit entry fee is \$20 for 1 piece; \$25 for 2 pieces; \$30 for 3 pieces.

All exhibition sales go through HCA with a 30% commission (in person and online). Artwork does not have to be for sale.

- Paintings must be 85% soft pastels, no oil pastel.
- Artwork must be completed within 2 years of the exhibit's start date.
- Work must not be completed under supervision or classwork.
- Paintings from past Lake Country Pastel Society exhibitions are not eligible.
- No title or price changes after submission.
- Paintings must be framed, under glass, and ready to hang with wires attached. (No sawtooth hangers).
- Artwork must remain until the end of the show.
- Paintings must be tasteful and respect family viewing. (No nudes).

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

All possible care will be taken with your artwork, however LCPS is not responsible for loss or damage to artwork at any time. Artists must arrange insurance if desired.

ENTRY PROCESS

1. Fill out and sign the entry form. Mail the entry form and check (Payable to LCPS), postmarked by May 1st to: Wendy Peterson, 811 Hidden Lake Road, Roberts, WI 54023
2. If you wish to have your artwork included in any promotional opportunities, please email a high quality jpeg (jpg) image file to wlpeteking@gmail.com. Please name your file last name, first initial and title of the work. e.g. lastname_firstinitial_title.jpg.
3. Fill out ID tags to match entry information and attach to the upper left corner of the back of the painting before drop off.

Questions: Contact—Wendy Peterson, Exhibits Chair at wlpeteking@gmail.com.

Entry Form for the Lake Country Pastel Society 2026 Judged Exhibit

DUE MAY 1, 2026

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Email _____

_____ I am available to help with painting in-take on May 19.
_____ I am available to help with painting pick-up on June 22.
_____ I am willing to hold and deliver pieces to or from Hopkins Center for the Arts

I AGREE TO ALL THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE PROSPECTUS

Signed _____ Dated _____

Entry #1
Title _____
Price (including 30% commission) _____
Not for Sale _____ (Insurance Value) _____
Unframed Dimensions: Height _____ Width _____

Entry #2
Title _____
Price (including 30% commission) _____
Not for Sale _____ (Insurance Value) _____
Unframed Dimensions: Height _____ Width _____

Entry #3
Title _____
Price (including 30% commission) _____
Not for Sale _____ (Insurance Value) _____
Unframed Dimensions: Height _____ Width _____

MAIL TO:
Wendy Peterson
811 Hidden Lake Road
Roberts, WI 54023

ID TAGS for the back of your paintings

Artist _____

Title _____

Dimensions _____

Price _____

Phone _____

Artist _____

Title _____

Dimensions _____

Price _____

Phone _____

Artist _____

Title _____

Dimensions _____

Price _____

Phone _____

Benefits of a Master Study

By Kim Kang

At least twice a year, I make a deliberate effort to complete a master study. For me, a master study is not about copying an artist's work for the sake of replication, but about slowing down and learning through close observation. By studying the work of artists I admire, I gain a deeper understanding of the decisions behind a finished piece and strengthen both my technical skills and my personal artistic voice.

Over time, I have learned not to overthink the master study selection process. I gather images from many sources—art books, magazine clippings, and online collections—and choose works that simply resonate with me in the moment. Later, when I revisit these collections, patterns often reveal themselves. I notice recurring preferences for certain color palettes, compositional structures, or subject matter. Recognizing these patterns has become an important way for me to better understand my own artistic inclinations and the direction my work naturally wants to take.

One of my master studies this year is *The Return of the Caribou* by Bob Kuhn, a wildlife artist whose work demonstrates a remarkable understanding of animal anatomy and mastery of color. Approaching this study feels much like beginning an original piece. I start with analysis, allowing myself time to explore the painting before committing to the final work.

I begin with value studies to simplify the image and identify strong shapes and relationships. From there, I study the composition, looking closely at how movement and balance are created. A color analysis follows, where I observe temperature, dominant color families, and the relationships between colors. Throughout this process, I find myself asking why certain choices were made and how subtle adjustments contribute to the painting's overall impact.

Using what I have learned, I move into the drawing phase. This is where the study becomes especially rewarding. Drawing animals forces me to pay close attention to anatomy, line direction, and surface texture. Taking my time here allows me to notice details I might otherwise overlook, deepening both my understanding and appreciation of the subject.



Although this master study is still ongoing, it has already influenced my work. I have gained a greater sensitivity to selective detail, discovered new ways to layer pastel, and become more open to expressive, abstract backgrounds. These experiences remind me that master studies are not just exercises, but meaningful opportunities for growth and reflection within my artistic practice.

Painting Challenge

Just so you all know, the bi-monthly painting challenge has been discontinued, due to the greatly reduced participation by membership. Don't worry, we shall come up with some good projects in the future to replace it. Stay tuned!

PASTEL MENTORING

One of our professional pastel artist members is Eileen France. She is also the organization's mentor for ANY member of our group who would like to be mentored. Eileen is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, as well as a Master Circle Pastelist in IAPS. She is willing to mentor you on an informal basis for any topic you wish as often as you wish, that you want to know more about. Following are her suggestions for ideas you could learn about:

- What are the different pastels and how to use them
- The variety of pastel papers, white or color
- Different techniques used
- How to start a painting
- Underpainting
- Keeping records
- Storing your finished paintings
- Framing techniques
- How about entering shows
- Painting outdoors and equipment needed for such
- Taking workshops
- Trying pastels before purchasing them

You can contact her directly through her email at: efranceart@gmail.com if you are interested. She would be very happy to work with you on any of these topics.

Live Streaming

Our membership is quite wide-spread throughout the upper Midwest. We cover about seven states altogether. Next week we are going to experiment with live streaming our presentations each time. The purpose of this is so that EVERY member will be able to "attend" our bi-monthly meetings. So if you don't receive the link by the end of this week, you may want to consider signing up NOW. If you are inclined to donate any funds toward the live-streaming events, we welcome your contribution.



DIANE TOWNSEND
ARTISTS' PASTELS



Art Show

The City Pastel Collective has been invited to display some of their paintings at the Historic LaDuc Estate in Hastings for their special Art Show opening on April 17 through 19. There will be four or five of us displaying our paintings. Join us at the reception on the evening of April 17 from 6pm-8pm. Hope you are able to visit sometime.



One Day Workshop

I want to share this with other members about a pastel workshop. It's a one day workshop at the [Minnetonka Center for the Arts](#).

Roxanne Heaton, the director of, tells me that there is also a possibility for a zoom option as well.

Linda Adams

PASTELS: LEARNING FROM THE MASTERS

Sophia Weisensel
Skill level: AB, I, AD

Copying famous paintings is a time-honored technique for painters of all ability levels to learn new skills. Doing it as a group, with demos and discussions along the way, offers even more opportunities to develop skills. You'll work from images selected by the instructor to nurture your understanding of color, different application techniques and expressive mark-making in this accessible medium. See suggested materials list on the website. Bring a lunch for the half-hour break.

Enrollment limited to 12; ages 16 and up

D418W26 Saturday, April 11

(1 session) 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

\$120 members / \$133 non-members

Steve Budas

Steve Budas has been invited to display his paintings at the Wellness Center MN for the month of April. He will have about 20 of his paintings on display almost the entire month. This is one of those being displayed



Patricia Duncan



I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Arizona Pastel Artists Association juried show for their 10th Open International Show at the Phippen Museum in Prescott, Arizona. For viewing the show, you can see the the online artwork paintings selected for the show at

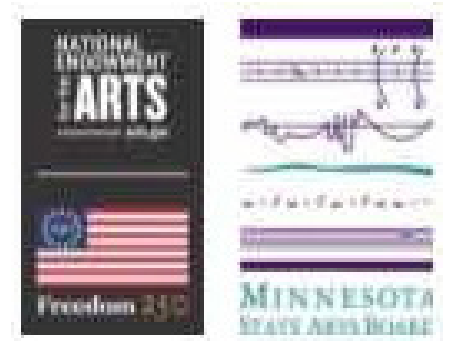
<http://apaa.wildapricot.org>

from February 28th through April 19th 2026.

The opening reception and awards ceremony will be March 14th from 11:00 - 3:00pm.

Mary Ann Cleary

Mary Ann Cleary is a fiscal year 2025 recipient of a Creative Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature; and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



My first class will be in Sandstone, MN at the 210 Gallery and Art Center and the title is “Exploring the Art of Pastels”. The date will be Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm with a half hour for lunch. The class will be in the lower level of the gallery and is for young adults-adults. Beginning to intermediate students. There is a nominal fee of \$10 since the grant is covering most of it. Also, there are supplies for the students to use.

I will cover the different types of pastels, a few of the papers and using a pastel ground on paper. We will cover value, design and composition and creating a small pastel.

Lisa Stauffer

North Star Farm Barn won 3rd place pastel at Arts North International Show at Hopkins Center for the Arts in January.



If anyone is up in Grand Marais in the next several weeks, outdoor painters of Minnesota has the winter painting show up at Johnson Heritage Post. I have a few paintings in there too, along with Michelle W and Joanne M so stop in and take a look if you're up north.

I will give the presentation for Lake Country Pastel Society on March 10, 7 pm, on critiquing your own work. It will be at the Hallberg Art Center in Wyoming, MN.

I will have a show up at White Bear Center for the Arts April 25- June 6, "Passion For Plein Air". Along with the show I will be doing a painting demo June 5, Friday at 6:30, and a paint out (location TBA) on June 6, 1-4 pm.



I have been invited to give a demonstration on the pastel stage at PACE, May 14-18, in the Ozarks near Branson, MO. A too busy great time!

Next in April/May

Registration at- <http://www.grandmaraisartcolony.org>

Grand Marais Art Colony

Painting in Pastel: Landscape from Photographs

Lisa Stauffer

April 29 - May 2

Tuition: \$495

Bring your pastel landscapes to life through a better understanding of key artistic principles. We'll discuss design and composition, painting fundamentals, the importance of accurate drawing and those valuable tools: color, value, intensity, and temperature, among others. We'll experiment with and have fun exploring a variety of painting approaches. Students will paint from their own photo reference materials, paintings, and field studies. Lisa will lead the class in an exploration of materials, including pastel brands, papers and techniques. Class time will include demonstrations, one-to-one instruction, and group critique.

My plein air class in Grand Marais, MN will be July 6-10, 2026. Contact me to register, more info at lisastauffer.com

Eileen France

To all who love pastels:

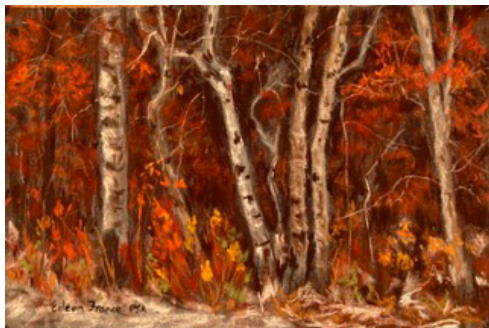
COME VISIT ME SOON

I will soon be moving into a retirement community where my painting space will be limited. I have a collection of framed pastel paintings of various medium sizes which I hope to sell well below former prices, at least half off. I also have many 5 x 7 framed studies ready to go very reasonably, also framed.

I also have too many hard and soft pastels and I hope to reduce their number. It's a good chance to try before you buy or pick up some extras.

I also have some pastel books I'm willing to pass on. If you wish you can browse (carefully) through some of my many unframed pastels where you might find something to love.

It is my intention to donate the proceeds of any sales to two local charities. Your purchase could help someone. Give me a call and come visit in Apple Valley. You might find a wonderful treasure and an excellent bargain!!



Board of Directors

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(seeking replacement)

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Gwen Solberg

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Eileen France

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Amy Fichter

Historian and

Newsletter Chair

Dian Dewi

Past President

Wendy Peterson

LCPS 2026 Calendar

March

1 - Newsletter Published

3 - LCPS ZOOM Board Meeting

10 - LCPS Member Meeting - Lisa Stauffer - How to evaluate and critique your paintings.

April

1 - Special announcement

May

1 - Newsletter Published

Deadline for submitting your painting for the Spring LCPS Exhibit

4 - LCPS ZOOM Board Meeting

11-13 - WORKSHOP - Patricia Duncan

12 - Member Meeting - Patricia Duncan Demo

19 - Show Drop off and Installation

21 - Opening Reception - Hopkins Center for the Arts

June

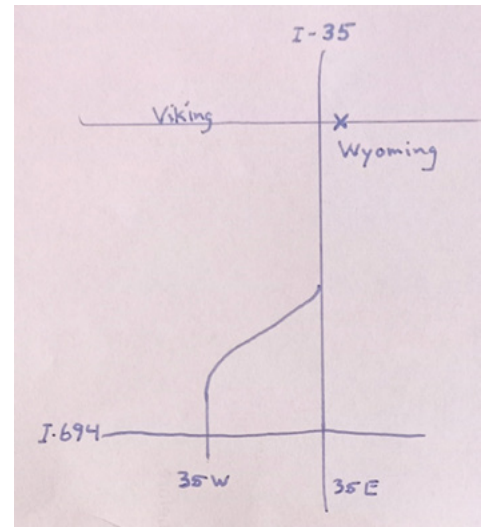
1- Special Announcements

June 16-21 - FINAL IAPS BIENNIAL

CONVENTION - FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<https://iapspastel.org/conventions/>

22 - Pick up paintings at Hopkins Center for the Arts - 9:00AM-1:00PM



Hallberg Art Center

5521 East Viking Blvd

Wyoming, MN

Take I-35 north of I-694, then take the

Wyoming exit. Go east and you will be on Viking Blvd as you enter the city.

Shortly you will reach Hallberg Art Center on your right.

In case of bad weather

LCPS will email members by noon the day of the meeting and will contact people who don't have email.

If you have questions, contact Steve Budas

