



Dust in the Wind

May
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



As a beginner, I know how intimidating a blank canvas can be. It's easy to get sidetracked—whether by a sudden urge to grab a snack (my personal favorite) or reorganize a closet. But let me assure you: engaging in creativity is life-changing and absolutely worth the pursuit.

Creativity empowers every aspect of life, from business innovation to parenting. Art is both healing and therapeutic—not just for the creator, but also for those who experience it. There's a wealth of scientific research showing the profound impact that music, dance, light, and color have on those who are ill.

For the artist, creating builds confidence and helps us process life's complexities. Art is not just about the finished product—it's about the connection and transformation that happen during creation.

As individuals, we are wired to seek community—it's in our nature to find where we belong. While we already live in neighborhoods and workplaces, we still yearn for deeper support in what we do. At LCPS, we are committed to helping everyone discover their unique creative voice. Whether you're picking up a pastel stick for the first time or returning to a long-lost passion, we're here to support your journey. It's our goal to create something beautiful together.

Though thousands of online communities exist, they often lack the personal connection of being present with others. As a painting society, we form a true community—one where we share advice, encouragement, and inspiration. Exhibiting our art is not just about showing our work; it's about building a healthier, more connected community among ourselves and with those who experience our creations. That's why I urge you to visit the latest exhibit at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Dare to feel the impact we're making on the community we share our art with.

STEVE BUDAS
LCPS President
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Upcoming Events

May 12, 2026 - 7:00pm-9:00pm - Member Meeting

Artist Patricia Duncan, Demonstration

www.patriciaduncanart.com

Location: Christ the King Church, 8600 Fremont Ave S, Bloomington

Patricia Duncan will offer an experience in “Iterative Listening”. A process for gaining heightened awareness by practicing the Art of Communicating.. We will spend valuable time getting acquainted and developing deeper listening skills as a pastel community of artists. Pat will demo her Pastel Painting from one of her Plein Air Oil paintings as a reference and talk through her process

July 14, 4-7pm. - PAINT OUT

Location: Old Cedar Ave. Trail. Follow Old Cedar Ave until it ends at the parking lot.

September 8, 2026 - 7:00pm-9:00pm - Member Meeting

Sue Rowe on the topic of “Experimenting with pastels”

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

November 10, 2026 - 7:00pm-9:00pm - Member Meeting

Becky Jokela on the topic of “Field to Studio”

Location: Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington MN

Members Meeting

Recap of Lisa Stauffer's Member Presentation

Award winning Pastel Painter Lisa Stauffer presented for the members of Lake Country Pastel Society, Tuesday, March 10, 2026. This was our first ZOOM live streaming event for our group.

Lisa outlined the elements of design and identified how asking “art” questions provides a working frame in which to evaluate your painting.. Composition, value, space, shapes, color, line, texture, focus, edges, rhythm, movement, harmony, unity are some of the design vocabulary to use to direct your critique. Technical skills balance with personality to give voice and keep your piece interesting. Value and composition, color, and how a piece read, grabs attention to be dismissed, or engage the viewer. Competition judges see hundreds of paintings during an exhibit.

Lisa has a strong idea for developing her design concept as she begins a piece. She draws one or more value structures in a thumbnail sketch. By keeping eye level to scene, freely swinging a straight arm in front, Lisa is able to sight with one eye and measure for accurate size comparisons. Drawing skills are important to create a compelling painting. Start with a simple scene or one object still life. Using a red plastic film held straight in front, can help establish a value map. This is followed up with ever more decisions. Experience and practice comes from freely making “mistakes” and learning along the way. Slowing down and looking closely to see what is really in front of you, develops confidence, as does choosing your sticks slowly and comparing one to another. Warm and cool, light and heavy touch, staying within a value range give luminosity to any one area within your structure.

Lisa reminds us that, as our skills develop, we can have more fun with a few bits of punchy color in the area of focus. You can shift from building skills to building emotion into your painting creating a connection with the viewer. So when do you know you are finished with a piece?

Ms. Stauffer shared five examples of her own pastel paintings, yet to be completed. Lisa practices how to step away, to gain fresh perspective when you find yourself lost in the painting, when the light has changed or the weather interrupts. To see her work in a new way, Lisa carefully lays black tape along the painting edges to remove any distracting marks. Other ideas Lisa shared to resolve painting is to ask yourself is, “What is working?” and “What is not?”, and, “Why do I think that?”. The artist gains confidence in interpreting their intent, and begins to respectfully evaluate and resolve their painting.

Dawn Lees
ZOOM participant



May Workshop with Patricia Duncan

We still have three open spots remaining for our May workshop with Patricia Duncan! If you are interested, please email gwnsolberg@comcast.net as soon as possible to make arrangements for late registration and to get a supply list. The registration form is below and on our website.

This workshop will be in-studio workshop on Monday-Wednesday, May 11-13, 2026 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

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/>



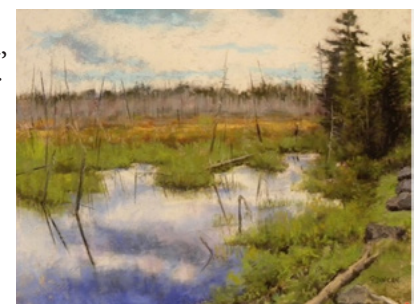
Pastel Art and Wellness Workshop by Patricia Duncan

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.

LCPS Featured in Newspaper

The Lake Country Pastel Society is featured in an online newsletter titled: "Voyage." The paper is published state-wide, so we should be getting a lot of readers finding out about us. This happened quickly, but they did except my report on our society. Though the article speaks of LCPS in general and pleine air, the images feature our members Cheryl LeClair-Sommers, Becky Jokela and Pat Duncan. Here's the link:

<https://voyageminnesota.com/interview/conversations-with-steve-budas>

On the site, you can find it on the homepage as part of their Inspiring Stories Series.

STEVE BUDAS

LCPS President

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Lake Country Pastel Society - 2026 Judged Exhibit

May 21 - June 21, 2026

Hosted by: Hopkins Center for the Arts

1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343

Opening Reception Thursday, May 21, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Judge of Awards - Pam Luer. Pam has a special connection to LCPS - she designed our logo!

Pam has a BFA in Studio Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota and an associate degree in graphic design from Madison Area Technical College, Madison, WI.

Most of her art career has been present working within very large formats. Pam enjoys working in a variety of mediums and in the past worked with pastels and house paint on rolls of museum grade sandpaper. Her most recent award winning body of work, The Windshield Series, is breathtaking and heartfelt. She teaches workshops throughout the country.

<https://www.pamluer.com/about>

<https://www.lakecountrypastelsociety.org/exhibits.php>

Wendy Peterson, Exhibits Chair



Little Doings

If you're having studio time doldrums, are board with your current style, or simply pressed for time, here's a little doings that might be fun – tiny pastels as meditation or focus practice.

My April challenge to myself is to make one small equine themed image each day. Trying new things. Trying to have fun. There is no failing. There is learning. This takes the pressure off. At least that's the plan.



Any art supply can be used – and of course, pastels are art supplies. Here are four little horse artworks in which pastels played a part. I was happiest with the one combining a pastel head with a bunch of tiny collage elements – yes, even a little Yogi teabag tag.

This horse was created at a local coffee shop. It can be fun attempting flow in a public place. The morning held both true focus and lively conversation. But I should've brought a pair of tweezers! Another lesson. I began by blocking in the basic horse head. Then added small bits of various papers. Some really small pieces. Mod Podge was the adhesive. So many decisions to be made. Collage can be like making up an impromptu jigsaw puzzle that can change direction at any moment. Fitting elements together that may or may not fit.

Are some decisions occasionally met with later regret? Yup – now and then. But these experiences often etch in some learning that can influence future actions. It's only paper, pigment, and a few bits of glue. Being in the moment. Going with the flow. More figuring things out. Tomorrow is another day. Another little horse will happen.

Next month will bring new challenges and new opportunities for focus. And maybe meditations on why we appreciate being able to be artists. Lucky us!

- Sue Rowe



Live-Stream Meeting

For the March 12 membership meeting, we did our first live-stream event. There were 11 people who were able to attend in person, but I noticed that at least 18 people had attended through the live streaming. Based on the feedback I had received, it was a wonderful feature to offer those who were not able to attend in person. Not everyone may know the features of live-streaming, but one option is to choose the view where the speaker is highlighted and featured on your main screen. Another good note was that people at home were able to mute themselves and thus not interfere with the speaker's audio during the presentation. We will continue this feature for the September, October and November meetings this year. And if you wish to help defray the costs for live-streaming, you are welcome to send us a donation of any amount. Every little bit helps.

Breaktime for Two

On Friday morning I scoped out scenes near the square to prep for Saturday's Quick-Draw. After picking out a couple good options for the Quick-Draw, I came back to these red chairs, because they were irresistible! (and see, I do do thumbnails sometimes, lol!)

This one I think was on a piece of the Chinese paper that's impossible to get any more. MingArt, or Yi Cai...

I wanted something cool and neutral to set off the heat of that red! (Also something that would grip the pastel really well!) It took me a long time to get the correct perspective on the chairs.

I started with the chairs almost completely, and then went to the background, keeping that very brief. I used pretty much ALL my candy-apple red values on the chairs! And a violet along with my fave Girault 376 in the chair shadows.



I call it "Breaktime For Two" 8x10 inches. My favorite of the week (and the judge thought so too!)

Rita Kirkman

**DIANE TOWNSEND
ARTISTS' PASTELS**



Member News

Eileen France

I will soon be moving to a retirement apartment and I have several “art” books I would like to offer to our membership. I also have some small framed (5 x 7) painting studies to offer. NO CASH INVOLVED, I only ask that you make a personal donation by check to a charity which supports young women who are being trafficked. Give me a call and plan a visit!

Rita Kirkman

Rita Kirkman won First Place at the Rolling Hills of Round Top Plein Air Event (Round Top TX) for her painting “Break-time for Two” (pastel, 8x10 inches) and also Second place in the 90 minute Quick-Draw that Saturday morning with her painting “Delphiniums” (pastel, 12x9 inches.)

Earlier in April, she won Best of Show in the Drawings/Pastel category at The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival.



Jan Johnson

My pastel “CRAZY CROW” won an honorable mention in the Dakota Arts Pastels 2026 First Quarter Emerging Artists competition. The juror was Casey Klahn.

This spring I was one of 25 artists juried into the 2026 Red Wing Arts Poet Artist Collaboration. The exhibition is free and runs through June 8, 2026 at the Depot Gallery in Red Wing, MN. The exhibition is quite fascinating and worth the trip. @redwingarts



CAPTURING JOY

If you would like to hear the poems and meet the artists, there are two ticketed afternoon events: Sunday, April 26 or Sunday, May 17. I will speak about my pastel “Capturing Joy” at the May 17 event. ASL interpretation provided. Find tickets here:

<https://redwingarts.org/poet-artist-collaboration-3>

Patricia Duncan

“Picacho Peak” near Tucson, Arizona has been selected to be a part of the Desert Dreams: Master Miniatures at the Ironwood Gallery at the Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson.



The show will begin on May 8th, in person. The show reception and awards announcements will be held on Friday, May 8th, 2026 from 11:00 - 2:00. The show will be available for online viewing after May 9th, 2026 at APAA.wildapricott.org.

I feel very honored grateful to be a part of a talented group of artists.

Another news is: I am looking forward to being a part of the 2026 Open Doors Art Tour in the Upper St. Croix Art Tour on May 1st - 3rd. My studio will be open and I hope to see many of you come and enjoy the variety of talented artists participating.

May 1-3, 2026

Friday and Saturday 10-5

Sunday 10-4



OPEN DOORS
ART TOUR



Lisa Stauffer

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. Details will be on their website soon.

I am in a group show at [Zeller Gallery](#) in Hopkins, MN featuring work from our time painting in Puerto Rico (hosted by Jim Turner). The show will be up April 2 to May 31. Reception Thursday, April 23, 5-8 p.m. Come and take a visual trip to the Caribbean!

The Plein Air Convention and Expo is May 14-18, in the Ozarks near Branson, MO. I have been invited to give a demonstration on the pastel stage Friday, May 15 at 12 noon! PACE is a too busy great time! If you are interested in attending you will receive a \$100 discount off your ticket by using the code PACE-STAUFFER when you check out at [PleinAirConvention.com](#)

My plein air class in Grand Marais, MN will be July 6-10, 2026. Come up and join us in one of the world's most beautiful spots, learn a lot, have fun and make some friends as well! Contact me to register, more info too at [lisastauffer.com](#)



Calm On Catfish Creek



Reaching



Board of Directors

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OPEN

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Dawn Lees
(need Co-chair)

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OPEN

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Past President

Wendy Peterson

LCPS 2026 Calendar

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- If you are attending the IAPS convention, you must be back in time to pick up your painting on Monday Morning, June 22. If not, then please make arrangements with someone else to do so!

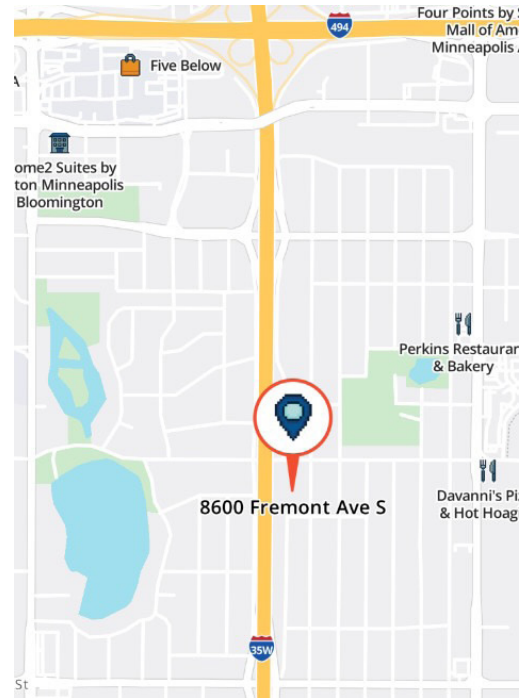
22 - Pick up paintings at Hopkins Center for the Arts - 9:00AM-1:00PM

July

1 - Newsletter Published

7 - LCPS ZOOM Board Meeting

14 - LCPS Member Meeting, Paint Out, Old Cedar Avenue Trail 9500 Old Cedar Avenue Bloomington, MN



Christ the King Church,
8600 Fremont Ave. S. Bloomington.

Find your way to 35W southbound The church is just beyond I-494.

Going south on 35W, take the 82nd St. exit. A left turn going East to

Fremont Ave. Then a right turn south to the church, 8600 S. Fremont Ave. The entrance is the West Chapel, the door to the left side of the building as viewed from the parking lot.

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

