

Accomplishments for FY 2023/2024 May President's Message, 2024

Welcome to our 2024/2025 season—we had a terrific year and I hope that our new season is even more exciting.

It is membership renewal time, and I wanted to say thank you to everyone of you who helped make our past fiscal year a huge success and who are continuing their membership with APAA.

We had a very successful **8th National Open show** at the Phippen Museum—a wonderful venue and it's a feather in your cap to exhibit your work in a prestigious museum. They have invited us back, so mark March of 2025 on your calendars for our show and reception.

Jo Agostinelli secured the Ironwood Gallery at the Sonora Desert Museum for our show in 2026. We're thinking of a theme that will highlight animals and plants of the Sonora Desert.

Peggy Orbon chaired our **Fall Gallery Member Show**, held at Scottsdale Artists in December. This year she put a spin on the exhibition, inviting artists to enter "little gems" which sold like hot cakes.

Our **2023 Quirky Categories Online Member Show** was great fun, with unusual categories to paint, such as "Looking Up," and "Following in the Footsteps of van Gogh." Our 2024 show is even quirkier!

Gina Murrow chaired our **Artist of the Month** program, which fielded many wonderful artworks that can also be entered in our Member and Open shows. Our **Artist of the Year** will be celebrated at our May meeting and posted to social media and our website. The Artist of the Month program begins its new year in May.

Our **Art Challenges** were well represented, with Nancie King Mertz giving a wonderful critique for her Urban Challenge. Liz Kenyon offered a memorable Color Challenge that many members participated in, and in conjunction with Paint Arizona Day, Leila Langston challenged our members to do a plein air painting.

Leila Langston has done an amazing job with our **Plein Air program**, hosting or organizing eight plein air paint outs as well as coordinating with Arizona Plein Air Painters and Sonoran Plein Air Painters for Paint Arizona Day, in which many of our members participated to paint our beautiful state.

Dodie Ballantine, **Program Chair**, organized some truly meaningful programs, including demonstrations by outstanding artists such as Alain Picard, Nancie King Mertz, Liz Kenyon, Jude Tolar, and Lorraine Trenholm. Our January Paint Out Party was especially memorable, and will be back this coming year, at our members' request.

APAA has continued its membership with [Arizona Art Alliance](#) which has some interesting calls for entry for Arizona Artists. Please also check out [Streamline Affiliate's Pastel Live Program](#). APAA receives a small commission for any of our members who participate.

Finally, thank you for answering our poll, "Seeking Your Opinion." We have implemented many of your suggestions and look forward to getting more feedback from you in the coming year.