



GVAL Art Vine

June 2025

Artist of the Year



Mohon Toopal
Saxophonist, 24x24 Oil

Mohon Toopal was the recipient of the award beating out all the others from the past months. His painting, "The Saxophonist" in oil measuring 24"x 24" is outstanding. We applaud all the talent in GVAL and it is spectacular to view all the talent in the league. Keep pushing yourselves to new limits, see what you can achieve in the coming months, and enter your work in Artist of the Month.

Artists of the Month from September through May



The June meeting was lively, with lots of good food, and fun. We learned who the new board for 2025-26 will be, the summer challenge, and had the silent auction. There were lots of art items available for new experiences and challenges. One person's junk is another person's treasure. Who knows? Maybe another Van Gogh is hiding in that new treasure. GVAL was enriched by \$160 donated by generous members.

Current Board Members 2025-2026

To contact the entire board, use board@gval.org

Officers:

President - John Priddy

Vice President - Jean Smith

Secretary - Karen Meldrum

Treasurer – Curtis Jackson

Coordinators:

Art Show – Peter Eobbi

Community Outreach - Donna Finter

Fund Raising – Annette Leiber

Hospitality and Social – Suzanne Rios, Olivia Shelton

Meetings – Rosalie Vaccaro
Membership – Carol Cole-Mar
Newsletter – Jane Bradley
Public Relations and Marketing – not filled
Special Events/Venues – Linda Taylor
Website – Christina Rosepapa

MONETARY OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS

Alley Gallery Public Art Opportunity

The Town of Gilbert is seeking five (5) artists or artist teams to design digital artwork for installation on business back doors in Gilbert's Downtown Heritage District. Artists selected will be paid a fee of \$1,000 for the final design, which will cover all design costs.

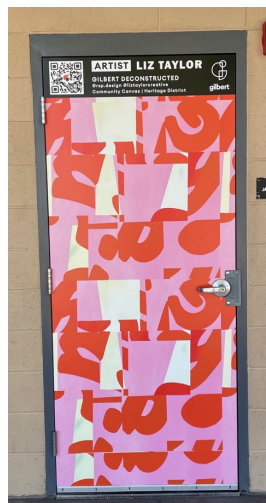
The chosen designs will illustrate Gilbert's transformation across time, with each piece focusing on a specific phase of the past, present, or future while reflecting the town's mission to be the City of the Future.

The full Call for Artists with full submission details can be found here.

<https://www.gilbertaz.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/52039/638853185082683784>

All entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. on July 1, 2025

Sample



Opportunity

Shemer Art Center is having a juried exhibition "A Journey thru Time": 10/22/25-1/8/26. For more information contact exhibitions@shemerartcenter.org

They also have a gift shop where you can sell your art. Works are accepted in March and September. You must sign up by August 31, 2025 for the September one. You must join the Art Center. The member fee is \$50 a year.

GVAL SUMMER CHALLENGE 2025

Art in the Park

a masterpiece in every moment



Summer Art Challenge 2025

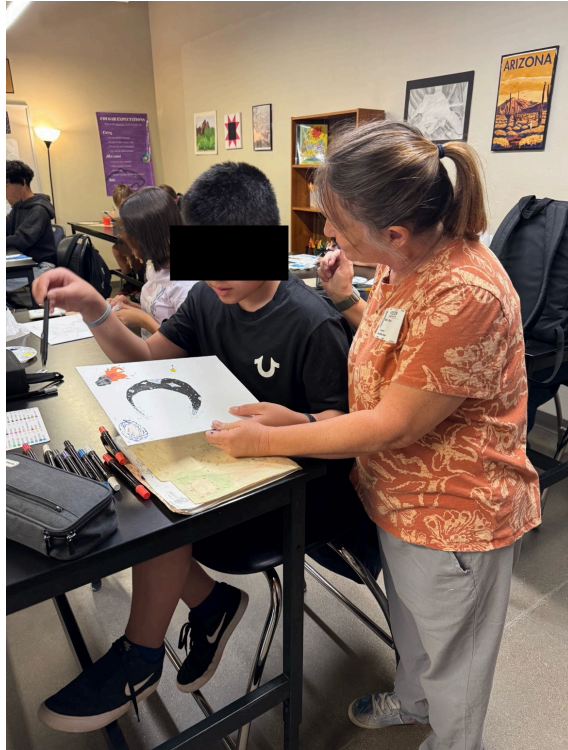
Go to any park in the valley. Take pictures. Suggestions for subjects: People and pets, landscape, floral, water activities. Your painting will be judged by those present at the September meeting and the winner will be the September artist of the month. Only those representing the challenge will qualify. As with any art piece for AOTM. it must be complete, gallery wrapped on unframed pieces, framed and ready to hang. Don't forget your signature 😊



Pam Hendricks



Pam Hendricks teaches at HD South once a month. She introduced paper tearing and what can be done artistically with it at the last activity. Thanks to Pam and all volunteers who donate so much time teaching others.



Maria Davis shared her art experience with students at Cooley Middle School last month. It was posted in Community Art Outreach News



Congratulations to Merrie Taverna

She took a painting from a while ago, updated, refreshed it, and submitted it to the juried "Landscape" Light Space Time Online Gallery and received a **Special Merit Award**. The piece is titled "Come Sit With Me" and is 24" x 48". You can see more of her art at merrietaverna.com

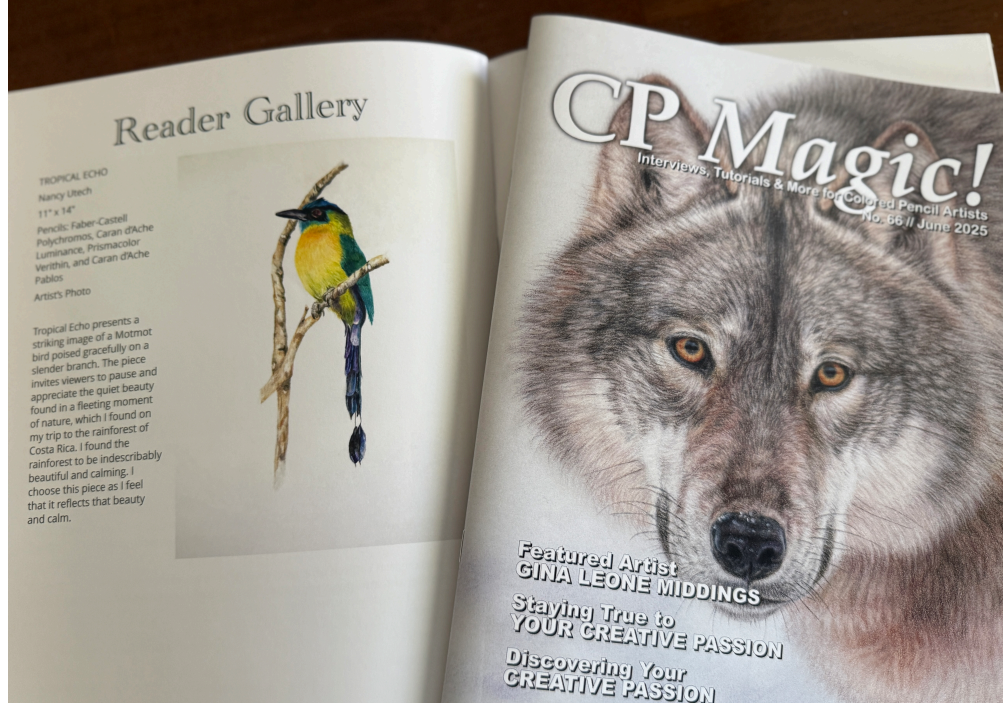


Kudos to Christina Rosepapa

My colored pencil artwork “Ladies of the Night” was accepted into the juried show for the Annual CPSA International Exhibition. The artwork is inspired from my garden. I took a picture of my night-blooming Cereus in the evening. Such a mysterious flower. The art show is at The Mansion at Strathmore Gallery in MD. If you are interested in more details about the show, you can read more on the website.

<https://cpsa.org/convention/convention-info/>

<https://cpsa.org/exhibitions/cpsa-intl/>



Nancy Utech

Nancy's colored pencil piece "Motmot" was accepted into Colored Pencil Magic Magazine for June 2025. What a beautiful rendition of a colorful creature.

Tropical Echo presents a striking image of a Motmot bird poised gracefully on a slender branch. Rendered in colored pencil, the artwork brings out the bird's vibrant color palette with precision and care. Bright yellows illuminate the chest, while varying shades of green and blue add depth to the wings and back. The long tail feathers transition into a deep purple, creating a pleasing contrast. The bird's head features a thoughtful mix of blue and black tones, with a sharp dark beak and a vivid red eye that immediately captures attention. The branch beneath it offers subtle texture without distracting from the main subject. Set against a simple background, the composition emphasizes the bird itself—allowing its intricate details and bold colors to take center stage. The piece invites viewers to pause and appreciate the quiet beauty found in a fleeting moment of nature.

Colored Pencil Magic Magazine

Congratulations, Nancy.



We appreciate our recent GVAL Community Outreach art volunteers- Heather Livingston, Merrie Taverna, Christina Rosepapa, Karen Kruder, Peter Eobbi, Maria Davis, Jean Smith, Donna Finter, Annette Leiber, Pamela Hendricks, Anneka Gilpin, Linda McGuinness, Richard Van Belleghem, and Linda Taylor. They made a positive impact on children and adults in our area. Volunteers shared art appreciation and art skills lessons at our six outreaches in Gilbert, Mesa, and Chandler. The specific locations are House of Refuge, HD South, Williamsfield High School, Verena(55+), Clarendale Senior Living, and Cooley Middle School.

Two new art outreaches are requested for this fall. There is always a need for art volunteers. If you'd like more information on GVAL's Community Outreach programs, email donnafter@gval.org.

Date to Remember

Next GVAL meeting is September 4th.

Board Members Leaving



Mary Opat



Sharon Hess

We are sorry to see Mary Opat and Sharon Hess leave the board. Mary served since 2012 with Sharon serving 7 years on the board and both have been invaluable in keeping Gilbert Visual Art League going so smoothly. Mary has moved to Mesa and new adventures. A big thank you to both of them for the many hours they have volunteered.

Note from the Editor

This is my last issue to edit the newsletter. I will be going on to another board position, Special Events and Venues. I have enjoyed all the entries from you, the members of GVAL. It has made my job so much easier and I was thrilled to see all the accomplishments through the year; the awards, the shows, the meetings, the volunteering, the members entering many different exhibits and some receiving awards, the demonstrations, and getting to know each of you better.

Please continue or start painting small works size 11X14 or under. We'll have a \$20 small works sale at Verena early in December. If you have any connections to venues or have any ideas for them, please let me know. I hope to expose GVAL to more of Gilbert and even the valley. Let's put our league name out there and get together to share our collective talents. Thank you all so much. Linda Taylor



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