



Gilbert Visual Art League

JANUARY 2026

ART
VINE

February Presenter

GVAL Meeting
Thurs. Feb. 5

Kathy McClure will be our presenter

"The Five Basic Elements of Photography."

A photographer since the age of 8 when I received my first camera as a gift from my grandmother, I learned the art of photography by studying such current great artists as George Lepp, Dewitt Jones and Art Wolfe.

My inspiration is God's beautiful creation, and I attempt to record it faithfully, shooting landscapes, flowers, animals, and anything that captures my fancy. I shot film until 2012 when I purchased my first pro digital camera. Now I do both, and do all of the creation in the camera before the snap. If the image isn't good enough to print as taken, it is discarded instead of being "improved" through Photoshop.

I have my own darkroom and love making my own prints from negatives. One of my favorite techniques is to hand paint B&W photos with oils or watercolor



DECEMBER PRESENTOR-SUSAN SEABORN

What a fun, informative presentation by award winning, watercolor artist, Susan Seaborn at our January GVAL Meeting! She demonstrated watercolor on Yupo, rather than on watercolor paper. Her art is playful and uses many different tools... pastry cutters, tapes, homemade Yupo stencils, printing, tissues, watercolor crayons and more. Susan's artwork is full of vibrant color and joy. Explore more of her art at

<https://www.sjseaborn.com/>



Curtis Jackson

Curtis Jackson's artistic journey has been one of "better late than never". In his youth, he studied oil painting and architecture. While at BYU, he switched to financial management and had a great 35-year career with Verizon. However, he always yearned to return to the creative world. So, after retiring, he took online lessons from Michael James Smith, an oil painter who specializes in realism.

Curtis thoroughly enjoyed the experience of oil painting again and realized that he still had a talent for it. He is especially drawn to scenes of the great outdoors where he has spent much time traveling and hiking. He looks for scenes in nature that capture his attention and almost paint themselves. He then endeavors to make a painting that conveys the feeling that inspired him and tells a story to draw in the viewer. His greatest reward is when someone says about his painting, "that speaks to me!".

He is inspired by artists such as Josh Elliot, Kimball Geisler, Kenneth Yarus, Rowan Carey, Dan Wilson, Naomi Brown and many more. What impresses him most is that often great artists take lessons from and collaborate with each other. They never stop learning.

He began the next phase of his artistic journey, by sharing his art through art shows (50 and counting), retail establishments, a website (at curtisjjacksonart.com), and social media. He has exhibited his work at the LA Art Show, the Springville Art Salon, Artlink's The Summit at Copper Square, and FOUND:RE's "Where the Wild Things Stay". Curtis is a member of Oil Painters of America, Artists of the Superstitions, Ocotillo Artists Group, and of course, Gilbert Visual Arts League as Treasurer.

One of his main motivations for expanding his art journey is a recent diagnosis with Parkinson's disease. He is in the early stages, but it is a wake-up call that one must not put off pursuing dreams. So, Curtis is moving forward, painting every day, and loving it, and sharing his art with you!



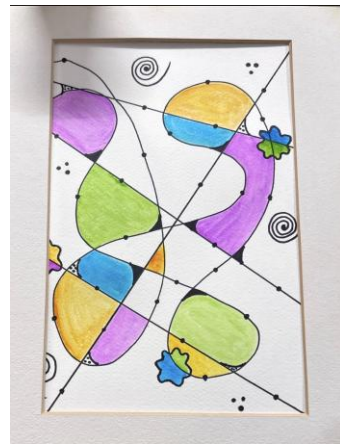
Curtis Jackson



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This is the third month of the new GVAL art program for parents at House of Refuge. There's no childcare available in the evenings at the Community Center, so some of the mothers' children joined us.

GVAL volunteer Peter Eobbi led the art activity he calls "Let Go" which begins with mark making. Donna Finter, Outreach Coordinator assisted with the art group. Each participant had a different interpretation of "Let Go".



ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Elvie Becker! She was chosen by our art league members as January GVAL Artist of the Month. Her 12 X 12 oil painting is titled "*The Blankie*" and it is for sale on various products, as well as the original.

Learn more about Elvie and her art

at <https://elviebecker.pixels.com/>

GILBERT VISUAL ART LEAGUE 23RD ANNUAL FINE ART SHOW AND SALE



Artwork shown is a sampling of award winning work from the previous show.

GILBERT VISUAL ART LEAGUE
23RD ANNUAL



FINE ART SHOW & SALE

@HD South
The Severson Center
10 S. Gilbert Road
Gilbert Arizona 85296

March 15th to April 11th 2026

Opening Reception: Sunday, March 15th 2 - 4 pm

See and purchase from over 100 artworks.

MIXED MEDIA • OIL • PASTEL • WATERCOLOR
PENCIL • PHOTOGRAPHY • 3D • AND MORE

APPLICATION & DETAILS
GVAL.ORG

Bring this card to
the Reception for a
free raffle ticket.



Don't forget to enter the Fine Art Show and Sale. Deadline is February 22. Application and Details are on GVAL.org

Feel free to email photos, submissions, ideas for the new monthly hint section, questions, or comments for the newsletter to redjb7@cox.net. Please put **GVAL Newsletter** in the subject line. Thank you!

Have a Question?

You can contact the
GVAL BOARD at
[Hello2@gval.org](mailto>Hello2@gval.org)