

Gilbert Visual Art League



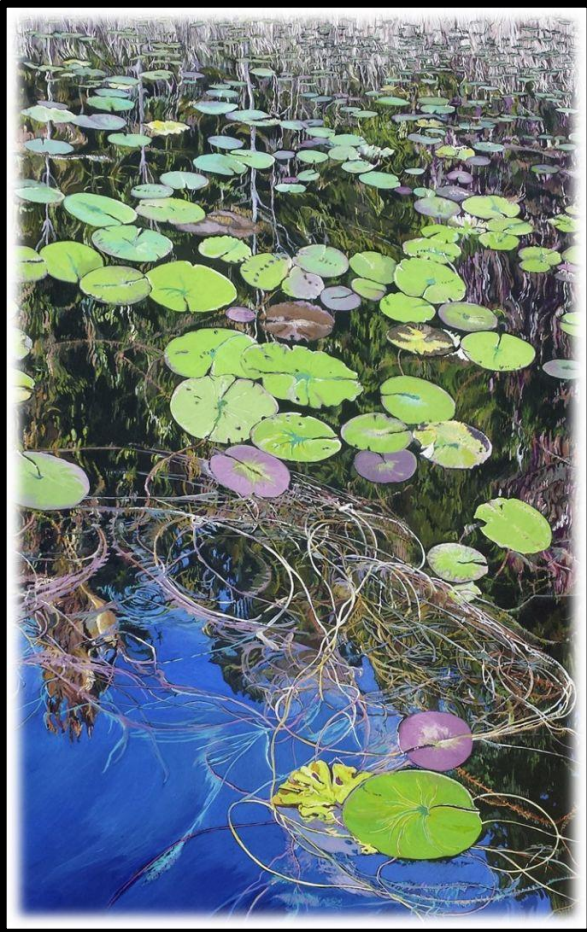
APRIL 2026

ART
VINE

Let's Mark Our Calendars!

May Presenter
Justine Mantor Waldie

DON'T FORGET
GVAL Meeting
Thurs. May 7th

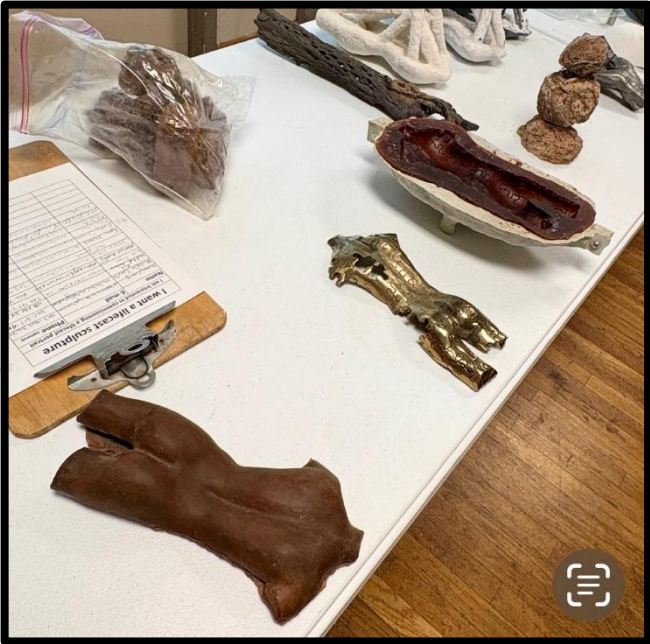


As a consummate colorist with expertise in printmaking, clayboard provides Justine with a surface that has unusual possibilities. Using ink for painting, she brushes in layers or iridescent inks and transparent colored inks to create shimmering landscapes and a wide variety of desert plant paintings. She adds texture with rhythmic, linear effects by etching into the white under-layer of the clayboards. This unique combination of materials and technique yields rare paintings filled with depth and dynamism. Justine's paintings are represented in collections throughout the US, Europe, Canada, China, and Mexico.

Mantor-Waldie was a juried member of "Art Expo" for two years. She continues as a professionally juried member of the Sedona Art Center where she has been a featured artist in three exhibits and continues to exhibit and demonstrate her work at the Center.



Demo by Bill Gulwind in April



Bill Gullwing, sculptor and retired aerospace engineer, was our April presenter. Bill discussed the process of creating a sculpture and the various categories including: abstract, the human figure, vegetable, and animal. He explained the use of various materials and steps involved.

Artist of the Month



Spotlight on the Portrait Group



Spotlight on the Portrait Group

What started as a serendipitous meeting between two artists, almost three years ago, has blossomed into a collaboration of five friends and art colleagues within our artists league. GVAL Artists Suzanne Rios, Olivia Shelton, Lisa Schwab, Julie Noles, and Adriana Salazar have just collaborated to paint each other's portraits. This is truly a unique collaboration within an artists group.

Suzanne Rios and Olivia Shelton met almost three years ago, at GVAL's monthly artist's meeting. They quickly formed a friendship and began to paint almost every day or evening of the week, through facetime, and in person meetings. They began entering art exhibitions all across the valley and within GVAL. As their skill, confidence, and trust grew, they began to critique each other's work and then finally decided to paint one another as an annual celebration of their friendship and to hone their skills as artists. Fast forward to 2025, by this time, they'd met and welcomed three new artists into their group. Julie Noles, Lisa Schwab, and Adriana Salazar are also members of the Gilbert Artists League. They're also accomplished artists, Julie and Lisa are also part of the Ocotillo Artist's Group, in Chandler.

Last December they met at Suzanne's home for a pre-Christmas luncheon and Olivia suggested they all paint one another. This wasn't a planned exercise, it happened on a whim; all five artists were on board. Names were drawn to determine who'd paint who, and a date for the final reveal was determined. Yesterday they met at a local restaurant, to reveal their work. All of the portraits were created in oil, on either canvas or a panel. Everyone was ecstatic about their portraits. Fellow diners were left in awe at the quality of the work, wanting to know who the artists are, where they create art etc.

The group of five artists plans to meet again. Then the focus will be to take turns sitting for one another, and painting from life. They're looking forward to be able to paint from life, and having a personal connection to their sitter. They encourage more painting circles or "groups" to form within GVAL. The Gilbert Visual Art League welcomes new members, our meetings are the first Thursday of the month, at 6:30 p.m.

NONPROFITS SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

THE HOUSE OF REFUGE GALA RECENTLY RAISED FUNDS FOR THE NONPROFIT'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM. THE THEME "SHINE ON" PROMINENTLY FEATURED THE ART OF CHILDREN IN THE GVAL LED "KIDS ART CLUB". THE KIDS' CREATIONS WERE ON COASTERS FOR DINERS AND PRINTED ON THE SHIRTS OF THE CHILDREN SINGING AT THE GALA.

GVAL REPRESENTED BY DONNA FINTER, COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR, WAS RECOGNIZED FOR ART VOLUNTEER WORK. THE GALA EMCEE ALSO TOLD ABOUT THE GVAL LED PARENT ART PROGRAM. OUR NONPROFIT ART LEAGUE APPRECIATES HOUSE OF REFUGE'S RECOGNITION OF OUR WEEKLY VOLUNTEER ART LEADERSHIP AT THEIR COMMUNITY CENTER. THE RECOGNITION GAVE GVAL MORE VISIBILITY IN THE EAST VALLEY.



GVAL nominations are open for the 2026-27 time period. We are asking you if you want to consider being on the ballot for any of the following positions. We have 10 board meetings a year and all are on Zoom. You are not required to be present at all of them nor are you required to attend all the general meetings. The description of the duties for each position will be found on our website. You must have been on the board for a year to run for President.

The deadline for nominations is May 12.

[BY-LAWS-2026.PDF](#)

President:

Vice Pres:

Secretary:

Treas:

Coordinators:

Art Show:

Fundraising/Grants:

Community Outreach:

Hospitality and Social:

Meetings:

Membership:

Public Relations/Marketing:

Special Events and Venues:

Website:

Newsletter: