Gilbert Visual Art League

ART VINE

Since 2003

Ashwini Bharathula









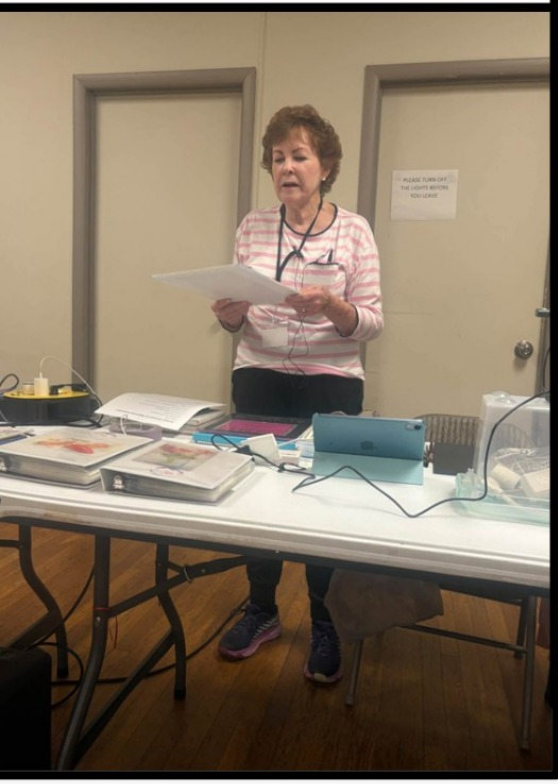
Ashwini Bharathula (b.1984) is a representational fine artist working mainly with oils and she currently resides in Chandler, AZ. She was born in South India. “Growing up, I loved to draw and sketch in my spare time. It was mostly Disney characters and figures from Indian mythology.” Ashwini received her formal education in the field of Materials Science and Engineering. After completing her Bachelor’s degree at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, she moved to the US in 2005 to pursue her Master’s and PhD at The Ohio State University. There she attended a painting class one summer for fun and has been hooked ever since. After getting her PhD, she worked in the semiconductor industry for a few years. “Even while working in the corporate world, I had this constant itch to paint.” Ashwini finally took the plunge and quit her industry job to explore something at the intersection of art and science. She first started a YouTube channel where she created and shared science video lessons. She then collaborated with TED-Ed (www.ed.ted.com) and helped create a few short movies. “I also started painting more seriously around this time and eventually decided to pursue art full-time. The act of creating something realistic and beautiful from scratch brought a lot of joy to me.”

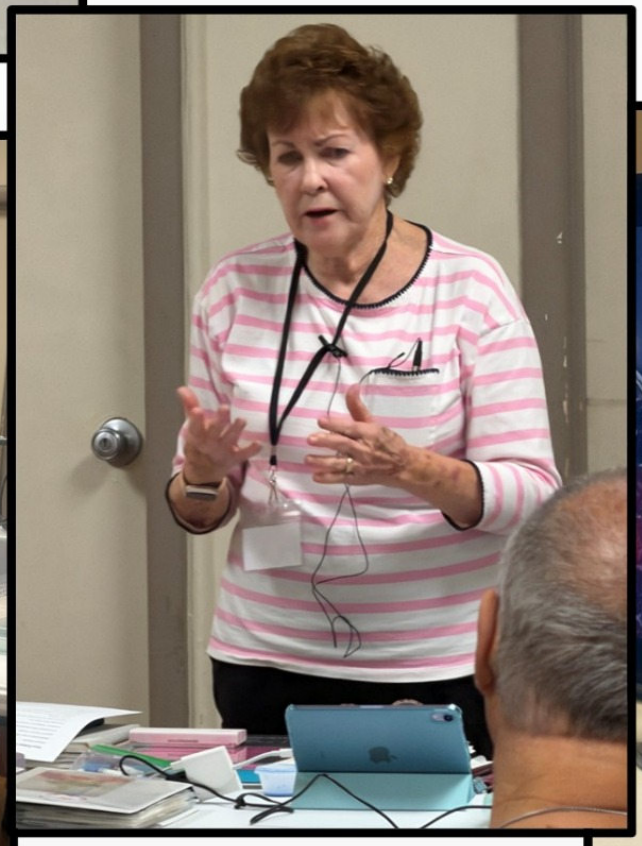
October Presenter

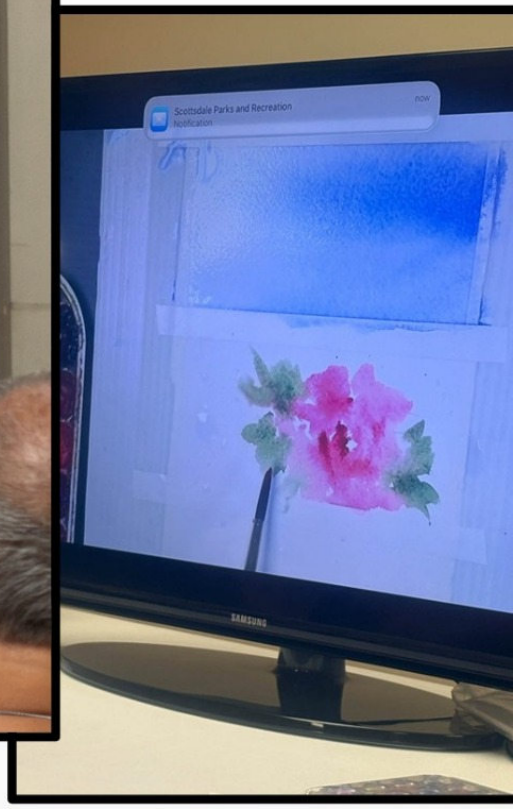
Stevie Dennie was our October presenter. She did a wonderful job explaining the basics of watercolor from brushes to paper to different styles of application, and the end result was a beautiful watercolor. .











Artist Spotlight Brenda Priddy

Brenda Priddy likes to tell people she was born with a camera in her hands, rarely remembering a time she didn't own at least a half-dozen of them. That lifelong passion eventually led her into one of the most thrilling niches in photojournalism. In 1992, Brenda became a global fixture in the automotive industry by capturing elusive, pre-production "spy photos" of secret vehicles undergoing hot-weather testing in the desert. Operating in this high-stakes world, she became one of the most famous automotive spy photographers in the world, with her images appearing regularly in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and major car magazines, alongside features on ABC's *Nightline* and *The Discovery Channel*.

However, in 2013, Brenda pivoted away from photojournalism to focus on fine art photography. Her breakthrough came just months later with a celebrated six-week solo exhibition at the Chandler Center for the Arts—a show praised on Channel 8's Horizon Arizona's Art Beat and reviewed in *The New York Times*, highlighting her remarkable transition from automotive espionage to fine art.

While Brenda remains renowned for her imagery of classic automobiles, she has expanded her portfolio to include soulful candid portraits, striking architecture, and wildlife. When she isn't exploring closer to home, she is often traveling the country and beyond, creating art alongside her partner, John. Brenda also channels her artistic eye into organizing specialized cultural tours to Cuba. Knowing how deeply the island's vibrant colors, rich textures, and dramatic light resonate with visual artists, she designs these immersive journeys specifically to inspire painters and creators across various mediums.

Through her travel and fine art, Brenda hopes her enduring legacy will be defined by both deep personal and artistic integrity, and a few awesome pieces of her fine art photography.

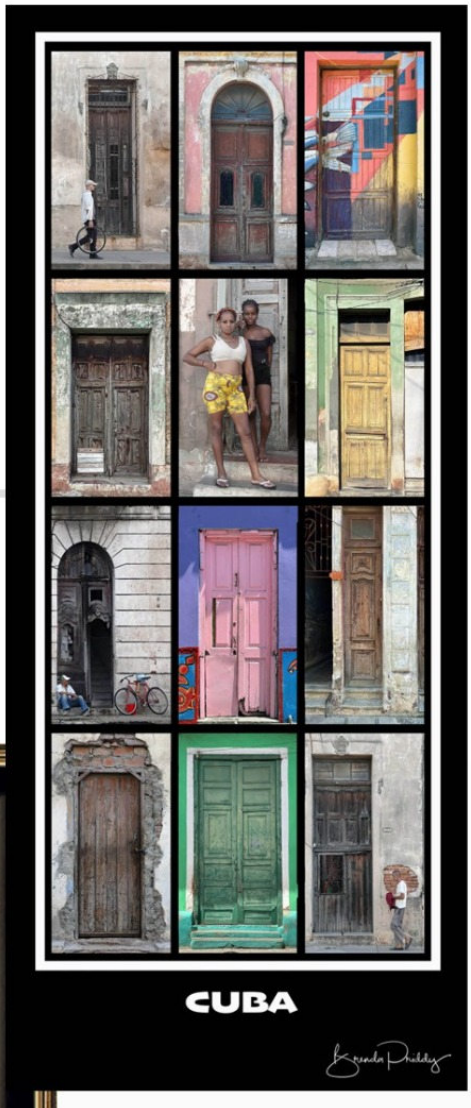




Brenda Priddy













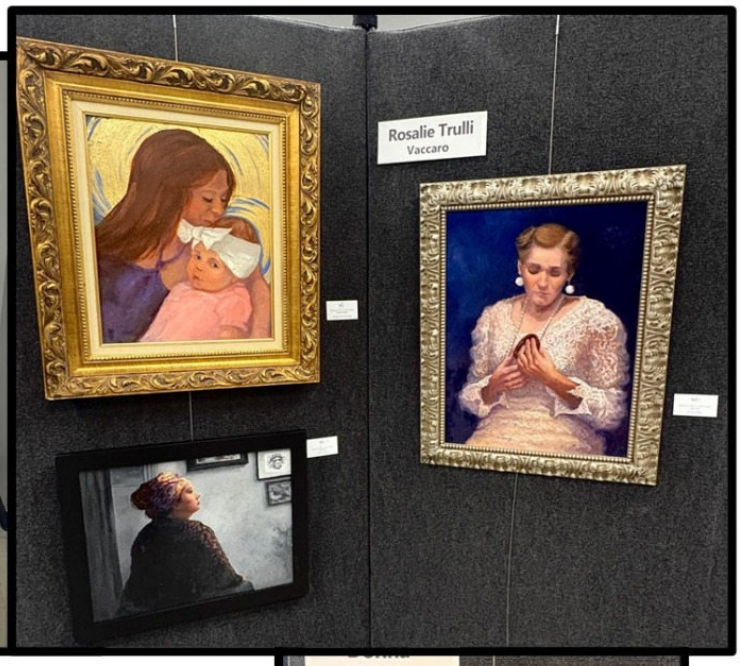


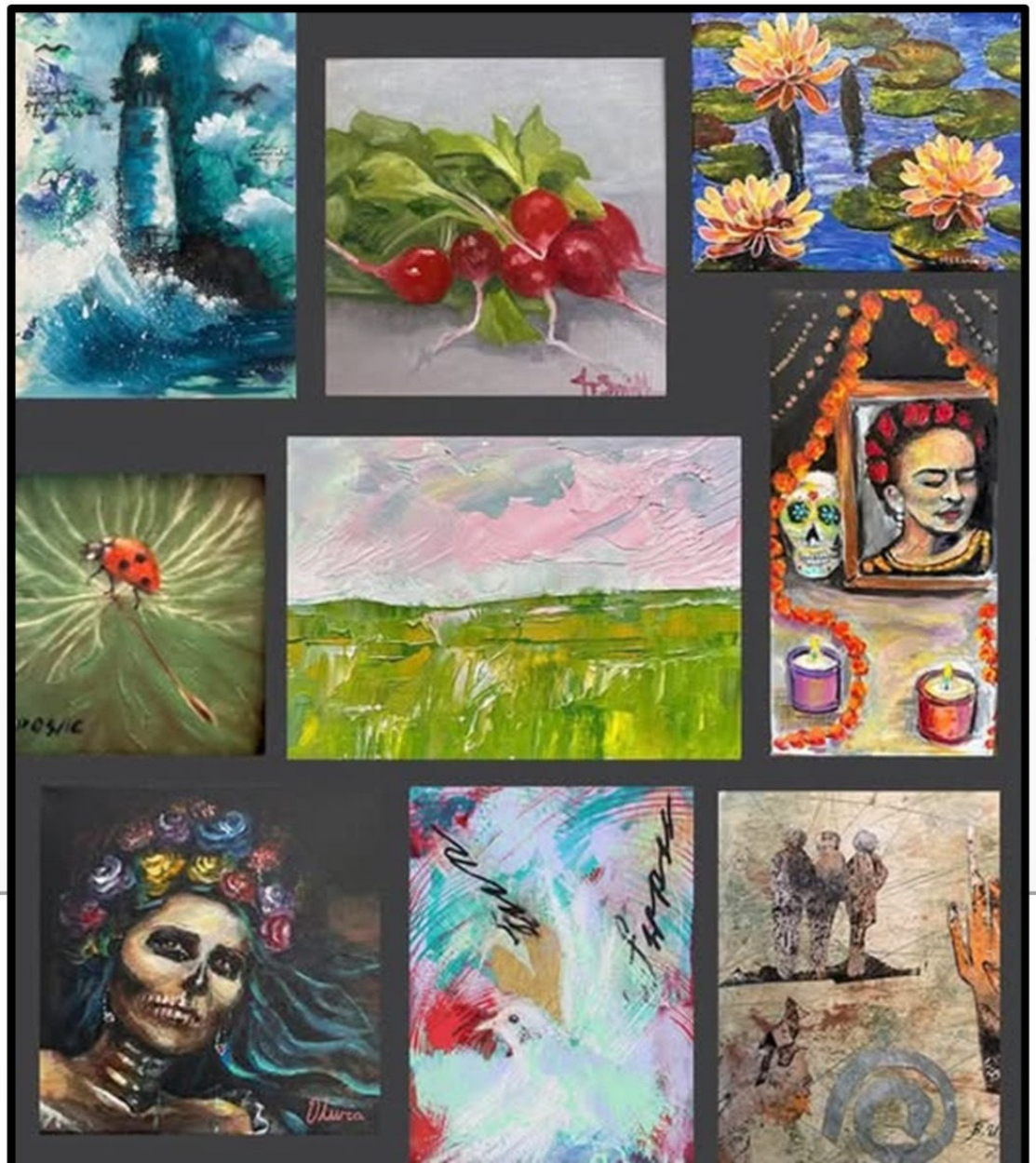


2026 MEMBER'S ART SHOW AND SALE













2026 MEMBER'S ART SHOW AND SALE

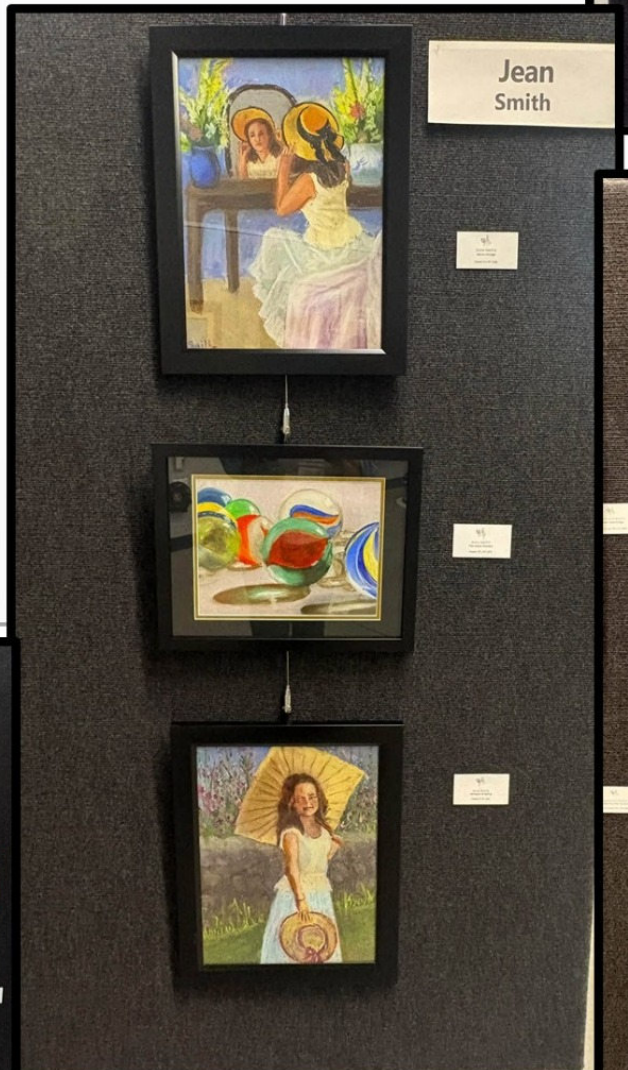
Since 2003















Elaine Dube Artist of the Month

Congratulations to artist Elaine Dube. Her beautiful watercolor portrait was selected by her peers as the winner for this October's Artist of The Month feature.



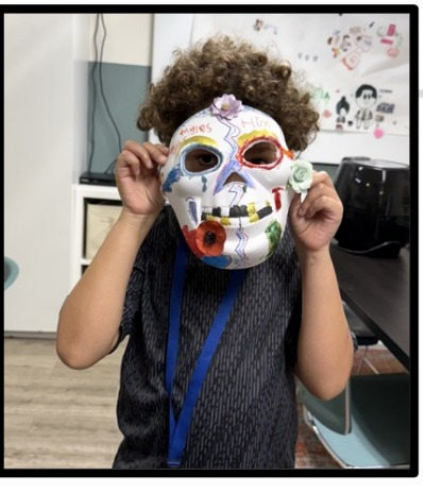
Congratulations to GVAL Member Amanda Atrostic. Her beautiful 31x35 inch oil painting, Grand Circo del Desierto is on display at Gammage Auditorium at ASU. Tempe's campus. Congratulations Amanda!





Comminty Outreach

Art happened weekly at House of Refuge. GVAL leaders Merrie Taverna, Lynne Fox, Karen Kruder, and Sally Tazelaar provided materials and created art activities for the children to experience. Here are a few of their creations.









Our GVAL Art Volunteers have been busy sharing art and supplies with the community. Pamela Hendricks and Karen Kruder led a group of all ages at HD South in an acrylic adventure designing abstract people. Here are some examples.



