FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION

FOOTNOTES

FEBRUARY 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBUARY 2026

Board Meeting
Monday, February 2,
10 - 11:30 am

Take In
Thursday, February 5th,
2 - 5 pm

Members Meeting & Demo with Artist Michele Little
Thursday, February 5,
5 - 7 pm

Art Journaling Classes
A Creative Practice for Reflection & Play
with Stephanie Henry
Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm
1/21/26 - 2/25/26

Message from the President

This year, Foothills Art Association is redesigning member webpages to better serve our artists and website visitors. Each member page will now feature two representative images along with links to the artist's personal website or contact information. This change reflects that many pages are infrequently updated or visited and that maintaining large numbers of images requires significant time and ongoing storage costs. Streamlining pages will improve website speed, reduce maintenance, and still provide meaningful access to information about our artists.

Members without a personal website will be supported through free FAA website workshops. Several free platforms are available, including Soloist, which allows up to 25 images, an artist bio, and a contact form, as well as Pixels or Fine Art America, which also offer e-commerce options (these take more time to set up). Members are encouraged to begin gathering images and writing artist statements now. If you already have a website, your link will be added to your FAA member page.

This update helps artists gain greater control over their own marketing while continuing to benefit from the visibility and support of FAA membership. Collectively, it strengthens FAA's presence across social media and the web and helps our community better understand who we are and what the gallery offers. If you're interested in participating or need assistance, we're here to help.

Thank you to our members for an inspiring year of artwork and to our volunteers who make the gallery possible. As we look ahead to a new year of possibilities, FAA is also seeking a volunteer to serve as our next Newsletter Editor. Please reach out if you are interested.

Warm regards,
John Engen

F A A B O A R D

President - John Engen
Vice President - Sharon Meng
Treasurer - Annie Johnston
Secretary - Sarah George
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Members at Large
Barbara Drews
Roz Oserin
Bonnie Owen
Judy Sawyer
Lloyd Smith
Judi Zander

Committee Chairs

Art Take-In
Bob Pinner

Class Coordinator
Stephanie Henry

Demo/Workshop
Stephanie Henry

Exhibition
Barbara Drews

Featured Artist
Judy Sawyer

Foothills Fridays
Bonnie Owen

Gallery Sitting
Michele Barbour

Gallery Supplies
Joan Merrick

Juried Shows
Cappie Geis

Membership
Rhonda Anderson

Newsletter Editor
Judi Zander

Social Media
Katherine Kennedy

Website
John Engen

Wildlife In Art
Sharon Meng

To contact a Board Member, please call the Gallery during open hours at (619) 464-7167 or email: foothillsartassoc@gmail.com

FAA Welcomes New Members!

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Foothills Art Association welcomes new member Rebecca Horetti!
We are delighted to have artists and art enthusiasts join our community and we look forward to your contributions to our family of artists. Join us at our Members Meeting on Thursday, February , 5 - 7 pm.

Volunteer Spotlight: Joan Merrick

Joan Merrick is a San Diego based mixed media artist using expressive figures enhanced with collage materials. These can be torn pieces from her own previous works, or original batik papers created for this use.
Her art is infused by the early influence of women in her family who created clothing, with fabrics, color and pattern part of her environment.
Her background includes studies in textile design, weaving, art and art education.
She currently exhibits at the San Diego Watercolor Society where she is a signature member, and here at the Foothills Gallery in La Mesa.

FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION

In celebration of the season of love and the vibrant hue of red, we invite our member artists to participate in our February Members Show. Registration is now open through February 2nd, with take in on February 5th, 2-5 pm. While we are highlighting the color red, the theme remains optional.

January Featured Artists

Grossmont Union High School District

The Grossmont Union High School District consists of twelve schools in the East County: Helix Charter, Steele Canyon, West Hills, IDEA, Monte Vista, Santana, Grossmont, Valhalla, Granite Hills, Mount Miguel, El Capitan, and El Cajon Valley. All schools are able to participate in the Sixth annual Foothills Art Association Art Show.

The Grossmont district has been serving east San Diego County for over 100 years. This district started with Grossmont High School and expanded with Helix High School (est. 1952). I joined Helix in 2000 after it became the first charter of the district in 1998. Since then, Steele Canyon joined GUHSD as the second public charter in the district. The twelve schools in the district represent the communities of: La Mesa, Rancho San Diego, Santee, Lakeside, Spring Valley, and El Cajon.

Six years ago Helix Charter High School was honored to partner with Foothills for the first time and had almost a hundred pieces of art displayed in their gallery. The Foothills Art Association has been a huge supporter of our art programs - and Helix High (as a National Blue Ribbon Award winner) in particular. I am so happy that our partnership has grown because students from more communities are now involved. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their work, and see what it is like to have public feedback. Foothills has also begun offering a public choice award and generously donates a prize and Junior memberships to the recipients. This partnership is so appreciated by our district art classes and is more important this year as our larger District Show in Parkway Plaza has shifted to a smaller public venue, this year at Cuyamaca College. I truly hope that we will continue this symbiotic relationship for many years to come and that it will bring this amazing gallery and members more public exposure and potential members. I would like to formally express our thanks on behalf of the Grossmont Union High School District's Art Council and from me personally as a teacher and proud member of the Foothills Art Association.

We invite all members and the general public to come out to support this year's show. It will be up in the month of January and will host a reception on Monday, January 12, 2026 from 5:30-7:00 pm. We hope you will come out and meet and greet these wonderful students and their families on that day.

Christine Colera, Art Instructor and
Valerie Kay, Art Department Chair
Helix Charter High School
Grossmont Union High School Art Council Member

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People's Choice

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Lorna Farmer who created "Want to Play?" is our People's Choice award winner this month. Congratulations Lorna!

Every month, we invite our members and the wider public to select the artwork in our monthly gallery exhibition they most admire or that resonates most strongly with our monthly theme. The winning piece is then showcased prominently in front of the gallery for all to enjoy.

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Take an Art Journaling Class!
A Creative Practice for
Reflection and Play with Stephanie Henry

Slow down, unplug, and spend a few inspiring hours creating. This hands-on art journaling class blends self-care with creative exploration, offering a relaxed and supportive space to experiment, reflect, and make art just for yourself.

Participants will explore a variety of art journaling approaches, including bullet journaling, collage, expressive painting, guided writing prompts, andjunk journal techniques. You'll learn how to combine words and imagery in ways that feel intuitive and personal—no rules, no pressure, and no previous art experience required.

Whether you're new to journaling or already keep a creative journal, this class is designed to spark inspiration, encourage mindfulness, and build confidence in your creative voice. Come learn new techniques you can continue using long after the class ends.

All levels welcome. Many supplies are included.

Just bring your curiosity and a sketchbook—and enjoy the experience of creating together, in person, surrounded by art.

Wednesdays 6pm-8pm, 1/21/26 – 2/26/26
$120 for 6 Classes

Register at https://foothillsartassociation.com

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February Demo Artist

Mixed media artist Michele Little presents a live gelli plate printing demonstration.

Michele is a mixed media artist who loves to experiment with a wide range of materials—from watercolor, acrylics, and oils to collage and even unexpected found objects. Her creative practice often incorporates repurposed and discarded items, giving them new life while promoting sustainability. Through her playful yet thoughtful approach, Michele sometimes weaves in social themes that invite reflection and conversation. This engaging demonstration will explore the versatility of gelli plate printing, showcasing how layered textures, everyday materials, and intuitive mark-making can come together to create unique, expressive prints. Whether you're new to printmaking or looking to expand your mixed-media toolkit, this demo promises inspiration and creative insight. We hope you'll join us for an evening of experimentation, discovery, and artistic connection.

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Featured Artists Needed

Being a Featured Artist is one of the best benefits of being a member of Foothills. We currently need artists for February through July and December. We spotlight one of our many talented artists and give them an opportunity to showcase their artwork. Artists audition for this honor and are offered a full wall, as well as prime real estate in front of the gallery, to showcase their art. Featured artists have the option of hosting an art reception at the gallery. Guidelines for featured artists are posted on the website.

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Guest Artist Host

We're looking for a friendly volunteer to greet and assist our guest demo artists at the monthly membership meetings. This role involves welcoming the artist upon arrival, helping them get settled, and providing support with setup as needed (such as arranging materials, connecting to display equipment, or getting comfortable with the space).

Stephanie Henry will find and schedule the artists; we just need you to help them at the monthly meetings. If you enjoy meeting new people and want to play a key part in making our guests feel at home, we'd love to have your help!

Please let us know if you're interested by contacting Stephanie Henry at stephaniehenryart@gmail.com or 619-219-0707.

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