

Society of Layerists in Multimedia

“...the relationships in art are not necessarily ones of outward form, but are founded on inner sympathy of meaning.”--Wassily Kandinsky

Message from the President –

This will be my last newsletter message as my term will be ending June 30, 2023. It has been an honor to serve SLMM as President since 2018 and prior to that as a Board Member from 2013-2018. Much has been done over the years to ensure that our society is stronger and in a better place to move forward. Guidelines and By-Laws have been updated to make them current. The Board of Directors has been expanded to the maximum of 9 working members. Committees have been formed to ensure much is being done to improve the function of our organization to better serve our members. The Website has been beautifully updated to keep us all informed of news and activities, as well as making it easier for us to renew our membership, participate in online exhibits, and share member news. The use of Zoom has allowed our board to meet for regular quarterly meetings instead of only once a year, hold national meetings for members when physical gatherings are not feasible, and connect our membership with weekly opportunities to do so for those who wish to participate.

The aging process has taken many members from us, most prominently our dear Founder Mary Carroll Nelson last fall. Although they are all greatly missed, there is much to be optimistic about as SLMM starts a new decade this year on our 41st Anniversary. The foundation of our group is strong with all that has been accomplished. We are supported by talented, enthusiastic board members, staff, and members.

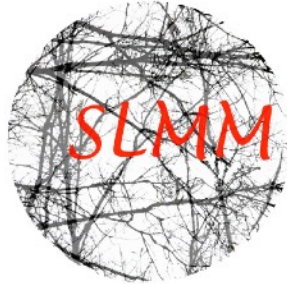
Everyone working together will help the Society of Layerists in Multi-Media continue to grow and thrive based on the Premise upon which we were founded, that all things are connected!

Laura Pope, SLMM President





As your editor, I was very curious as to when and how the original logo came about. Too bad I didn't ask Mary Carroll Nelson this very question when she was still with us. I contacted early member Charles Eaton...he had no idea. I asked Richard Newman, former President and early member, and he was unsure but guessed that Mary Carroll hired a designer for the logo. We don't know how the original logo was conceived, but we do know how our new logo originated.



In 2023, a committee was formed to create a new logo as well as a new brochure. Jean Warren's committee included Sue Burke Harrington, Nicola Mason, Secily Cruse, Barbara Jo Stevens, Judie Bordic and Georgia Mason.

It took lots of heads and hearts to come up with this new logo and as Sue Burke Harrington, designer of the logo, states, "The logo came from wondering how I could help...What SLMM represents to me in this time of Zooming is connections. I looked at photos of mine that would say that and found the branches. Their pattern has many connections, layered and overlapping. Of course it couldn't be just branches, so I put our SLMM initials on it and sent it off as a suggestion. I was pleased that they liked it."

Nicola Mason, committee member, gives us more insight into this new logo

The tree exhibition put together by Rachel X. Hobreigh gave us an opportunity to reflect on how miraculous trees are---and how apt a symbol they are for our group. They are solidly grounded and yet stretch into the heavens. They spread bits of themselves through seeds, which can take root and grow (sometimes in surprising places). They are enriched by the natural processes surrounding them, and they shelter and nourish other beings. In the past we've considered trees solitary, yet new studies show they communicate with one another through their shared medium of the soil. They create the gas that we breathe, which wreathes our planet and enables it to sustain life. And those branches . . . reaching . . . overlapping . . . suggesting the idea of branching out, of creating new pathways and connections. The logo of overlapping branches is especially significant to me because it resonates on several levels, putting me in mind of trees, yes, but also of capillaries, neurons: the stuff we are made of, which all connects up (tissue to tissue, organism to organism) to make us what and who we are---part of one vast network. And of course the rings in a tree trunk are the perfect metaphor for what our society stands for: layers of experience, of life, made manifest, building strength, rooting us more deeply and allowing us to reach higher still.

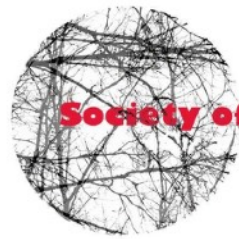
The Brochure

The committee designed a beautiful promotional 5" square postcard. Nicola Mason, committee member, said, "We don't think of the postcard as, necessarily, a replacement of the trifold but rather an additional piece of promotional material (meant to intrigue and send people to the website for more information about SLMM)---something representative of the entire group and visually appealing. Our hope is that, when placed at exhibitions or galleries, or even coffee houses and such, it will invite people to pick it up and tuck it in their pockets or purses to refer to later, and that they might even be tempted to put it up on their cork boards or fridges or prop on their bookshelves or desks. It was the *No Place Like Home* postcard from the Hays, Kansas, SLMM national conference I shared with the committee that inspired the idea of using all of the images (on multiple cards) from the 40th anniversary show, and Sue came up with the idea of the labyrinth."

Sue Burke Harrington, using artwork from the exhibition, arranged the work in a labyrinth design symbolically reflecting SLMM's premise of holism and connections. Since there were too many pieces of artwork to put on one card, two cards were designed with the same information on the back of each. Sue said "I love labyrinths. I've walked many, and we have a photo of Mary Carroll walking one in Los Angeles. I began arranging our 40th



anniversary images in the shape of a labyrinth, and of course this doesn't work on a rectangle, we had to make it a square. I tried all the images on one card, but the images were too small, so I divided them up into two cards. Meanwhile, Nicola was working on formatting the text and logo into a square. We make a great team, sharing ideas, etc. It was fun!" *Below is the wording on the back of each card.*



Society of Layerists in Multimedia

Inspiring, fostering, and championing artistic endeavors for 40 years.

"Neither medium nor style makes a Layered work of art: rather, it is the intention of the artist to give form to a sense of connectedness in personal experience, both tangible and ephemeral."

—Mary Carroll Nelson, SLMM founder

The Society of Layerists in Multimedia is an organization for artists of any age, working in any medium, with wide interests, keen curiosity, and a deep desire to **connect** — to share, discuss, and at times collaborate — who wish to focus on **process** and to honor personal experiences as part of their work.

JOIN SLMM @ slmm.org

Membership Highlights

- Ongoing national and local exhibitions in museums, public and private galleries
- Access to YouTube tutorials and discussions on improving technique, presentation, and visibility
- Weekly online meetings for critiques of new work, optional group projects and challenges, learning new techniques through member-led demos, and opportunities to "Zoom while creating"
- Monthly online book club meetings to discuss artists' written works and recent book reviews
- National conferences with keynote speakers, guest artists and workshops
- Ongoing members-only shows exhibited on the **slmm.org** website (Members News, Calendar, and Artists pages listed on the website)

501(c)(3) founded in 1982

If you'd like some cards to display at an exhibition or just to place in artsy spots where interested folks might pick one up and then head to our website, please email your request (and the number of each of the two designs you'd like) to nicola.mason@uc.edu. Postage compliments of SLMM.

Welcome new SLMM members, 2022-2023

Leslie Alfin, Dolores P. Baker, Jeanne R. Beck, Alyssa Rose Bliven, Robin E. Brooks, Tamara Buck, Kim Gordon, Linda J. Hansen, Jane Ellen Horner, Carla Albers Johnson, Karen Kelly, Ellen Kingsbury, Christina Lamoureux, Corinne Lapin-Cohen, James Larner, Catherine Mein, Marlene Meitl, Anne L. Morgan, Karen Orton, Shelley Parriott, Denise Weaver Ross, Holly Skillman, Katherine (Karrie) Steely, and Shannon Trevethan.

Reinstated Members: Jane Peterman and Rebecca Nolda.

Membership Drive for 2023

Barbara Jo Converse Stevens, Membership Committee Chair and Board Member, has worked very hard this past year putting together a successful membership drive. So far we have 24 new members and two reinstated members, but we still need more! She asks each current member to recruit ONE NEW MEMBER from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023. During this time, the new member's \$50 membership fee includes FREE membership from the time they sign up through June 30, 2023, and of course, their paid membership through June 30, 2024. Barbara says if each SLMM member recruited just one new member during this time period, we would double our membership in just a few months! Please help us meet our goal. We have about two months left, so share all the wonderful qualities that SLMM has to offer. Each new member receives a welcome packet that includes our latest hardback book called *Unique Insights*, valued at over \$40. What a wonderful gift!

Barbara Jo is urging all current members to renew early. It would be of great help to Karen Van Hooser, our Executive Administrator, if ALL members were renewed by the deadline of June 30. It is so easy to renew. Just go to the website www.slmm.org and click on ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

Zooming

When we were unable to have annual conferences because of Covid, Zooming became our way to stay connected throughout the year. SLMM started Zooming in 2020. The west coast members have regular Zoom meetings as well as the one originated in Kansas. Members from all over the United States and Canada meet every week and *as your editor, I look forward to these opportunities where I can share artwork, conversation, ideas, and support. I have gotten to know other SLMM members better by sharing in their artistic and personal journeys.*



In addition to our weekly Zooms, Sue Burke Harrington came up with a brilliant idea of having an OPEN STUDIO Zoom on Monday's and Saturday's. In the Open Studio Zoom, we work on our own projects and informally chat and share ideas. Everyone is welcome to join in, even if you aren't working on a project.

All Zoom events are easily accessed by clicking on the calendar for the link. On the left is a photo of a March Zoom meeting. Below is a photo of an April Open Studio Zoom.





National Zoom

On March 29th, SLMM gathered on Zoom with speakers Dr. Holly Skillman, psychologist, and musician Dr. Jim Lerner who returned to SLMM to continue the conversation on the perception of various works of art. Two years ago, Holly and Jim opened a survey and invited SLMM members to participate. This survey garnered more than 500 responses in total. They both teach at Marian University, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Special Projects—Artist Trading Cards

Judie Bordic has once again organized another successful Artist's Trading Cards project. Members who opted into the project created artwork 2.5" x 3.5" and sent them to Judie who organized the trade. What fun it is to



receive artwork from other members.

Kathleen Kuchar sent off 10 cards to Judie and she sent back 10 cards from other artists. On the left are Kathleen's creations and in return she received these beautiful cards from Connie Fisher, Cal Mahin, Judie Bordic, Shirley Nachtrieb, Barbara St. John, Marlene Meitl, Michele Shaffer, Nadia Hlibka, Dereama Allenbaugh and Cal Mahin.

Of the many ways to connect with other SLMM members, the ATC project is one of our favorites. Another way to connect is the monthly book club meeting to discuss artists' written works and recent book reviews (check the calendar on the website for the link). Other ways to stay connected are the National Zooms, the Web Gallery, and even sending snail mail to other members. Yes, we still enjoy getting a real letter or card in our mail box! *For addresses, I always keep my roster handy. When Karen emails it out, I print mine and have it next to my computer. I love seeing the roster and looking at all the members' names and where they live. It makes me feel connected!*

SLMM connects to the world with an exhibition organized by Rachel X Hobreigh

Rachel, California member, has created a show that includes 80 global artists, 50 of them SLMM members. The show, *Other Realms/Earth, Air and Water*, was held at the Helms Corridor Gallery in Los Angeles for Earth Day, April 22. She describes *Other Realms* as a series of small worlds allowing the viewer to consider them with wonderment. The show is composed of 300 unique 4"x4" wooden panels made of multiple mediums: photography, collage, assemblage, watercolor, acrylics, sculpture, and oil paint. These works range in response from that of the literal to the conceptual, with each artist honoring the earth in their own creative way. A portion of the sales help dig fresh water wells in Samburu, Kenya in Africa. Since 2005, they have drilled 145 wells bringing clean water to over 100,000 people.

SLMM Web Gallery Project

Every three months SLMM members are given a new theme to interpret and address in any media they choose. The current exhibition of over 30 members, "Artist's Choice," runs April-June. The next theme is "Summer Magic" with artwork being accepted in mid to late June to meet the deadline of July 1. Be thinking of what you might like to exhibit for this next Web Gallery show. To view past Web Galleries, check out the website.

Special Event

Charles Eaton, SLMM member, organized a major event at the Fusion art venue in Albuquerque honoring his wife and long-time SLMM member, **Pauline**, who passed away Oct. 5, 2021. It was called *Oasis, Lifelong Adventure, her Art, Creativity and Vision*. Charles describes himself as Pauline's Life-Partner, art-framer, amanuensis, and husband. The event included a lecture on January 16th as well as an exhibit of her amazing artwork.

Member News

Robin Brooks



Robin Brooks has a solo exhibit of artwork, "The Foremothers Project", to be shown at the Meetinghouse Arts from May 19-21, located at 40 Main Street in Freeport, Maine. Pictured is one of the works from the show, *Rebecca in a Purple Coat*.

Robin has been exploring women's stories for many years as a strand of her studio art practice. "In 2020, with the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, I became acutely aware of the facility of women's rights. Launching "The Foremothers Project" has been a way to learn more about the courage and wisdom of my forebears. Through drawing, reading and collaging, I have been exploring what it means to draw strength from the past, from the lives and stories of our foremothers. Through my Foremothers artwork, I am honoring my own grandmothers and also some of the prominent women whose stories have played a role in my life."

"Stories of Our Foremothers" is an ongoing participatory project. It is an invitation for all of us to reflect on the wisdom and strength we can gather from the stories of our foremothers. Robin says, "As we remember the stories of the past, we can create pathways to healing and wholeness for ourselves and for future generations."

To participate in "The Foremothers Project," you may share a story of a Foremother who has inspired you. To learn more, please visit Robin's website at <http://www.robinbrooksart.com/>

Beth DeMont

Beth writes that she lost her Dad in November. "He was a huge part of my life and even at 94, he was healthy and sharp as a tack. Unfortunately, his heart, which was the kindest I have known, decided for him that it was time to go be with many other loved ones."

On March 1st, Beth had a right carpal tunnel release surgery since she was unable to feel her fingers. "So far, it has been a wonderful experience to have my hand back." On March 29th, she had her left hand surgery for the same diagnosis and is healing well. Beth has updated her art space in her Manhattan, Kansas, apartment and has added two adjustable height workbenches/tables. She is back to painting a bit and trying to complete some unfinished works.

Beth will be illustrating the fourth of six books for author Cindy Gant for the "Gus" series. The story is written and Beth will go to her sister's ranch in the northern hills of Missouri for the peace and quiet to create the illustrations. There will be several lyceums and adult based presentations this spring and summer.



Catherine Fraser

Catherine has had a rich year of artistic connections and expressions. This photo was taken at one of her exhibitions.

Wanting to update art history and learn more about contemporary artists, Catherine completed an art certificate at Vancouver Island School of Art. In addition to this, she works daily in the studio, participates in art residencies, exhibits, does paint outs, attends weekly life drawing sessions, does touch drawing, landscape painting and weekly Zoom calls with “Iona Dreamers” to connect with people from England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, USA, and Canada. Catherine says, “These online discussions are a rich journey of intense listening-sharing-learning, healing and deepening of our relationships. Our group shares their writing meditation practice and spiritual perspectives, research, drawing, painting, photography and connections to the wee Hebridean Isle.”



Catherine was accepted to a residency in Italy. She writes, “This was an important time for me. Going to a country where I did not know my way, the language or people there. A test of faith. After my Mother’s death, it felt like all previous history had been erased and I did not have any skills or abilities. These traveling and connecting experiences gave me renewed confidence.” Catherine also returned to the Isle of Iona in Scotland last year. “I delighted in many things and experiences in Italy and Scotland and closer to home. I have been touched all year long by peoples’ kindnesses...in spite of inconveniences of lost luggage and plans changing, there were always guardian angels guiding.”

Pictured is Catherine in her studio during a studio tour April 22.

Terri MacDonald

Plant the Land #1 is 24”x 24” created with modeling paste and acrylic paint and sealed with outdoor Mod-Podge. Terri donated it to the Northeastern Oklahoma Food Bank Auction held the end of April. Terri says “I will keep you posted and am grateful for the connection to everyone.” **Dereama Allenbaugh**, SLMM member from Hays, KS, visited Terri in Tulsa a few months ago. It was a total surprise!



Georgia Mason

Happy news from Georgia as her painting, *By the Long Way*, pictured on the right, is currently in exhibition at the Georgia Watercolor Society National Exhibition in Blue Ridge, Georgia. It is 24” square on Yes Canvas and was painted spontaneously with nothing in mind. It turned out to be a hike through the mountains along the creek and up, up. She says, “At least that is what I see.”



Marlene Meitl

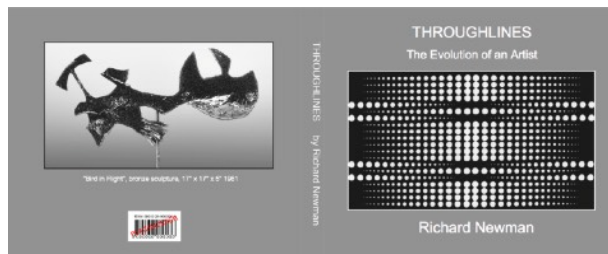
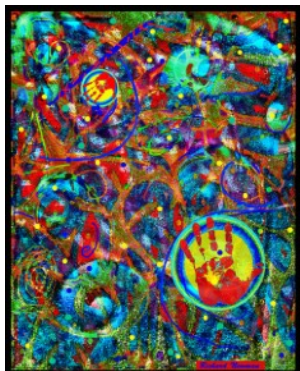
Marlene is looking forward to “Create and Connect Columbus 2023”, June 7-10th. It is an exhibition of the Artists of Nebraska Art Clubs (ANAC) and held in Columbus, Nebraska. The juror will be artist Leslie Lambert who will also conduct classes.

Marlene also had a photograph, *Monarch*, accepted in the “Five-State Photography Art Exhibition” at the Hays Arts Council, Hays, Kansas. The photo is on the left.

It was great to meet our new SLMM member, Marlene, when she drove down to Hays from her home in McCook, Nebraska. We enjoyed a good meal at a local restaurant and visited about art and life.

Richard Newman

Richard just finished a 200-page book titled "Throughlines : The Evolution of an Artist". It traces his education and career as an artist. Newman published it on Blurb.com and it is available in hard and soft copies. He says that part of the book deals with his Presidency of SLMM. The artwork on the left was created digitally and is called *Handwork*.



Nancy Nikkal

This past year Nancy has been very involved in showing her work as well as curating shows. She had a solo show at the Upstream Gallery last October with her "Echo Series". Nancy also exhibited in a faculty show at the Pelham Art Center. Her latest exhibition is called "Geometric Abstraction" at the Wartburg Walemade Lobby in Mount Vernon, NY from March through May, 2023. "Here's to Hers and Hares" is a virtual exhibition with Inspiration Art Group International, March 2023-2025. Pictured are paintings from her "New Echo Series" exhibition.



Nancy splits her studio time with the computer as she has done a lot of writing this past winter, including a proposal to curate a show called *Drawing the Line* (Feb. 16-April 2, 2023) at the Pelham Art Center, Pelham, NY. The image is of Nancy, third from right, and Charlotte Mouquin, Executive Director of the Pelham Art Center, and artists at the opening reception.



Nancy included more information with photographs of the amazing work from this exhibition on her blog found at www.artofcollage.wordpress.com *If you haven't checked out her blog, do so now! It is amazing.*

With lots of enthusiasm, Nancy writes "Our Zoom meetings are really amazing, and there's always something new we discuss each week and so much generous sharing. I am so happy to be part of this group." *To join in on the Zooms, go to the website calendar and you will find the links.*

Karla Prickett

Karla just completed a residency at the Red Barn Studio in the small culturally rich town of Lindsborg, Kansas. She said it was a great experience concentrating on development of new works and exhibiting in this amazing and inspirational residency space, the studio and former home of Kansas artist, the late Lester Raymer. "I would highly encourage artists to check out the application process and immerse yourself in this unique community. The residency program provides free lodging on the property and 24/7 access to the residency studio space." <https://www.redbarnstudio.org/apply-artist-in-residence-program/>



Karla continues to participate in a weekly Zoom creative lesson with teaching artists from Art Yard Brooklyn's Advanced Studio program. <https://www.artyardbklyn.org/> She says, "This experience has been incredible with a process that challenges my conceptual development process and takes me out of my comfort zone and is quite a contrast to my usual applications. I have also participated as a teaching artist for some of the weekly lessons. On the left is a work from a class I taught on collage, inspired by the floral collage works of Mary Delany - mid 1700's and collage works from the early 1900 Cubists. I am very excited to have received a grant from the Salina Arts & Humanities, Horizons Grants Program to travel to New York to work in residency with Art Yard's artists during their July summer session."



Barbara Jo Stevens

On March 11, 2023, the Kansas Bowhunter's Association held their 50th Anniversary Celebration and Convention in Manhattan, KS. Barbara's 18"x18", mixed-media piece, *Day Break*, won Best of Show in the 2D Senior Division. "It was an honor to be recognized especially at this special 50th anniversary celebration!"

Barbara, SLMM Membership Committee Chair, reminds all members, if you haven't already done so, to please renew your membership on or before June 30, 2023. This will help Karen Van Hooser, Executive Administrator, prepare the 2023-2024 Membership Roster and get it out to the membership in a timely manner. It is easy to renew by going to the website www.slmm.org and click on Annual Membership Renewal, 2023-2024.



Sandra Duran Wilson

Sandra shared exciting news! She had a recent show in Venice, Italy. To view some images from the exhibition, check out the video link <https://vimeo.com/811611458> Pictured to the left are some of her works in the show.

She also has a few spaces available for her workshop in Italy next year. The link to the workshop on her website is <https://www.sandraduranwilson.com/workshop/32996/immerse-your-senses-in-tuscany-only-6-spaces-left>



Jan Sitts, long-time SLMM member, was recently honored with a retrospective of her artwork at the Sedona Art Center, Sedona, AZ. The exhibition, April 3-14, 2023, featured specially chosen works bridging 40 years of her career. She has authored two books, "It's in the Detail" and "Texture, Color, Feeling". Jan will be teaching workshops at the Sedona Art Center this May and November. Go to her website for more information. www.jansitts.com

Circle of Prayer

Let us offer a prayer for members who have passed and those going through difficult challenges. There are so many storms, fires, floods and other natural disasters that we continually offer Prayers for those SLMM members affected. Some specific requests are for Barbara Jo Stevens and her husband, Charles, who are dealing with serious health challenges in the upcoming months and for Catherine Keebler who was hospitalized with pneumonia. Keep these treasured members in your healing light.

We have lost several long-time SLMM members in recent months. They each contributed so much to SLMM for many years and as your editor, I feel honored that I could call each of them my friend.



Diane Courant

Diane passed away in Hospice in Rockland, Maine, with her sons and husband, Charles, at her side. There will be a celebration of life on June 1st, her birthday. **Karen Van Hooser** so elegantly wrote, “Our beloved member, friend, confidant, Diane Courant, was released from our embrace on Friday, December 30, 2022. Diane was so loved and respected by so many and was a constant reminder to ‘...be aware of angels that walk among us’. She was talented, articulate, very wise and full of grace. Diane will be sorely missed but will always live in our hearts...look up and you will see her light in the night sky.”

Jaleh Etemad writes: “She was an exceptional lady and an amazing artist. She gifted me one of her books and I always look and read her stories. I cherish her memory. I believe she joined Mary Carroll up in heaven. SLMM will miss her.”

In 2013, I took the above photograph of Diane and Charles at the SLMM conference in Atlanta, GA. I am uncertain of the date or place of the second photograph where it appears they are having a good time visiting and sipping.



Nina Mihm

Irene Mary Mihm, lovingly known as “Nina”, was born on May 6, 1951, and passed away on January 16, 2023. Her Celebration of Life was held in Austin, Texas, at Barton Creek Country Club and Resort on February 26th. As noted in her obituary, art was always one of her biggest passions. She was a well-known and respected artist and teacher in central Texas. She could truly do it all, but found her passion in mixed media collage. Nina said that her inspiration came from the local Hill Country and Mother Nature.

Nina was a long time member of SLMM, serving on the Board in 2006-2007 and as President 2008-2013. She also co-edited SLMM’s publication “Visual Journeys” with Mary Carroll Nelson in 2010. Nina was awarded a ‘Lifetime’ membership in 2013 and will be remembered for her leadership, loyalty and dedication.

Laura Pope, SLMM President—“Nina was a very charismatic and talented artist with a bright Texas smile! When I was serving my first year as SW Regional Coordinator, we met at the 2009 National SLMM Conference in Los Angeles where she gave me a warm welcome. That is how I will always remember her.”



Jaleh Etemad, SLMM President, 2013-2018— *“Nina was a wonderfully talented and accomplished lady. She was a member of SLMM for many years before accepting the challenge of SLMM President. I served as her Vice-President and I learned a lot from her. Nina also managed a beautiful, very successful art gallery ‘Dragonfly Gallery’ at Rosedale near her home in Texas. The most memorable and important task that she accomplished as President of SLMM was the production of an art book titled “Visual Journeys - Art of 21st Century”, co-edited with Mary Carroll Nelson. It is the most beautiful SLMM book. She sure will be missed.”* This photo was taken at the LA Conference in 2009.



Karen Van Hooser, Executive Administrator— *“Nina’s laughter was a light that literally lit up your day! ... and her quick wit always lifted your spirit. I served under her leadership for five very enjoyable years. I will miss her in this world and will anxiously look for my kindred spirit in the next.”*

Kathleen Kuchar, Newsletter Editor—*I will always remember the time at the Taos conference when I boldly announced that Hays would be so honored to host the 2014 National Conference. Nina gave me the biggest bearhug and lifted me several inches off the floor! And I am no lightweight. She came to our conference, “There’s No Place Like Home,” in Hays and participated in all the wonderful activities.*

Pictured is Nina with a beautiful aluminum relief sculpture and a collage she created in the workshops. She always gave it her all!

Eric Mein

Karen Van Hooser sent this email to us all in January from our member, Catherine Mein from Virginia. Catherine and her husband Eric recently renewed their membership in SLMM and were looking forward to renewing old friendships and getting involved in artistic activities.

“My dearest husband, Eric Alan Mein, passed away peacefully in our home on January 27th, 2023. Eric lived a purpose-driven life that positively impacted those who knew him. His gentle demeanor, welcoming smile, wisdom, and steadfastness were a guide for so many of us. His creativity permeated his life, leading him to author several books, encourage inventive thinking with his children, and create works of art with me. He always had an adventurous spirit and a oneness with nature; he found joy in traveling around the world, kayaking with dolphins, and playing in waterfalls. He had a love for sports and was quietly one of the most competitive people you will meet. We are heartbroken but truly joy-filled with the time that we were blessed with him. Our family is so thankful for your presence in our lives. Please do not hesitate to reach out; we are excited to share moments together and remember a beautiful life that impacted each of us.”

Delda Skinner, long-time member and dear friend to so many SLMM members, began a new journey peacefully at her home March 2, 2023, close to her family and surrounded with love. She was 93 years old and a 4th generation Texan who devoted her life to creating beautiful works of art and inspiring others to pursue their own creative passions. A celebration of Delda's life was held on March 10th at St. Stephen's Episcopal Chapel in Wimberley, TX.

Delda was a delightful, energetic and creative person who always had a smile. I love this picture of us at the Los Angeles Conference in 2009.



Marilyn Christensen passed away Tuesday, March 28th. She was a long-time member of SLMM acting as its Treasurer and Mentor to new members. Many of you have fond memories of sharing meetings and travels with Marilyn. Nancy Dunaway writes, "She served SLMM for many years and moved to the Counsel of Elders when I was President. Ilena Grayson, Vice-President, and I could always count on her when we needed perspective."



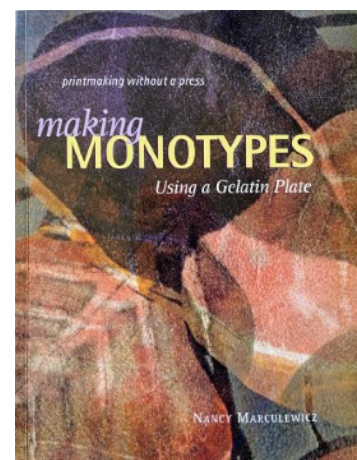
*When searching for a family photo, out of nowhere popped this photo, taken at a Santa Fe Restaurant in August of 1998. Linda Light, center of the photo, was the SLMM member who invited me to join SLMM in 1990. I was in Santa Fe that summer visiting Linda and gallery hopping. Linda had arranged a lunch so I could meet her SLMM friends, Mary Carroll Nelson, **Marilyn Christensen** and Ilena Grayson, left to right. Linda, in the center, passed away in 2020. So, I can say, this was my very first meeting with our founder, Mary Carroll Nelson, and the beginning of a life-long friendship.*

I love this gleeful photo I took of Marilyn at the Houston conference in 2006.



Nancy Marculewicz

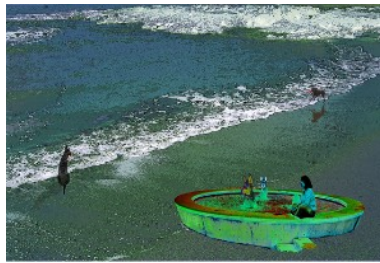
Nancy, another long-time SLMM member, passed away at the age of 84 on August 10, 2022. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Robert, and son Stefan and Daughter Alexandra. Many of us remember Nancy from the conferences and for her wonderful book, "Making Monotypes using a Gelatin Plate", published in 2002. On one of the Zoom meetings, **Kim Gordon**, a new member from Minnesota, was asked, "How did you learn about SLMM?"



It turns out she was wanting to learn more about monotypes and found this book on the Internet. Upon further research about Nancy Marculewicz, Kim learned about SLMM. This is when she checked out our website and joined on the spot. *Isn't it interesting how people find SLMM! Tell us your story and it could inspire others to join our wonderful organization. Send your stories to me at kakuchar@hotmail.com.*

Late Breaking News

We just got word that **Sue Burke Harrington** was juried into the 2023 Annual Member exhibition, “VALA Spring Collective” at the Blue House Too Gallery in Allen, TX. It runs April 19-June 3 and the



reception is planned for Saturday May 13, 6-8 pm during the Allen Arts Festival. The image on the left is called *Hope*, and the one on the right is *Dog Day Afternoon*. Both are photo collages.

Three SLMM members, **Karla Prickett**, **Cal Mahin**, and **Kathleen Kuchar**, were jurors for the “47th Annual High School Art Competition” held at Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS and sponsored by the Department of Art and Design. Their task was to recognize notable artwork exhibited from 1100 students from 62 Kansas and Nebraska High Schools.

Karla, Cal and Kathleen also had work accepted for the “54th Annual Smoky Hill Art Exhibition” at the Hays Arts Council. The show opens on April 29th and closes on June 3rd.



Keeping History Alive

Richard Newman shared this photo, probably taken by Charles Eaton, at the opening of the “Celtic Connections” SLMM show at Bradford College, Haverhill, Massachusetts in 1998.

*It was my first meeting and was I ever impressed! I wrote in my journal, “This first encounter with this group went well. I’ve belonged for several years but have not attended any meetings. The group is made up of artists and writers who are of exceptional talent. The new book was distributed and my painting, **Spirit Cat**, is pictured. It was exciting to view the book, meet the other artists and autograph each others’ books. I was happy to see Ilena*

Grayson, Marilyn Christenson and Mary Nelson. With all the new faces, at least I was familiar with these gals as I had met them at lunch in Santa Fe with Linda Light.” (Check out page 12 to see a photo of this historical luncheon). In the above photo, Mary Carroll is front center with the new book, “Bridging Time & Space”. The labyrinth banner was created by California member, Juliet Wood.



More Memories *When going through my stash of photos, I went down memory lane with this jewel taken at the 2005 Williamsburg, Virginia, National SLMM Conference. Pictured are Marilyn Christenson, who recently passed away on March 28th. In the center is our founder, Mary Carroll Nelson, who passed on September 11, 2022, and Jackie Schaefer, who passed on October 16, 2018.*

Donations and Gifting

The website now gives all viewers the ability to make donations to SLMM throughout the year. Go to www.slmm.org and at the bottom of the Home Page, click the Donate Button. It is a great opportunity to help SLMM and to make a tax-deductible contribution. The following members have generously taken this step to add some extra dollars when renewing for the 2023-24 term: Tamera Bedford, Nicola F. Mason, Sue Burke Harrington Patricia S. McCandless, Kathleen Kuchar (She also donated her time and energy for this newsletter), Judie Bordic, Robin Brooks, Georgia Mason, Nicola Mason, Leo Mick and Christine Rossi, Carla M. Duncan, Jean C. Warren, and Nancy Egol Nikkal. *One of the last things Mary Carroll Nelson did was to make a monetary donation to the organization she founded. I think she must be happy to know that SLMM is moving forward and continuing to share connections around the globe.*

We also received a \$1000 grant from the National Philanthropic Trust from an anonymous donor.

The Galen A. & Jaleh A. Etemad Family Fund of the Marin Community Foundation has made another generous grant to SLMM for \$7000. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the Etemad Family for their continued support.

Update on Susan Dreiling, Website Design & Web Gallery Administrator



It is always good to check in on our wonderful Website & Web Gallery Administrator. It's been fun to watch Susan and Johnny's daughter grow up with each and every newsletter. *Can't believe Penelope is 6 years old!*

Susan writes, "Here is Penelope playing outside, just six days apart up here in Minneapolis the first week of April—first chalk drawing a unicorn and dinosaur family roasting marshmallows, and THEN a week later building a snow castle after we got another foot of snow! It's been a busy winter but we're grateful for our health, losing teeth (her, not us!) and the coming warmth and sun of spring." *Susan*

Thank you, Susan, for your continued hard work and amazing skills in keeping our website up-to-date. Your expertise is appreciated more than you know!

President

Laura Pope

Treasurer

Terri MacDonald

Board of Directors

Judie Bordic

Sue Burke Harrington

Rebel K. Mahieu

Georgia Mason

Nicola Mason

Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

Jean Warren

Staff

Executive Administrator: Karen Van Hooser

Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Kuchar

Website Design & Web Gallery Administrator: Susan Dreiling

National Committees

Website

Sue Burke Harrington, Chair

Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

Liz Ruest

Social Media

Co-Chairs: Secily Cruse, Nicola Mason, Jean Warren

Membership Development

Barbara Jo Converse Stevens, Chair

Georgia Mason

Special Projects

Co-Chairs: Nancy Nikkal, Vicky Lennon, Judie Bordic

National Exhibitions

Rebel K. Mahieu (All members are invited to contact Rebel if they have an idea for a national meeting and/or exhibition).

Professional Growth

Win Ratz, Chair

Kathleen Kuchar

Lynn Mikami

Nancy Nikkal

Mary Wilbanks

EX-Officio

Mary Carroll Nelson, founder

Alexander Nepote, past president

Richard Newman, past president

Nancy Dunaway, past president

Nina Mihm, past president

Jaleh Etemad, past president

Newsletter

Please submit any inclusions directly to Kathleen Kuchar, at kakuchar@hotmail.com. Newsletters are published two times a year, April and October at which time they will be emailed to all members.

Hard copies can be mailed at \$10 but always free

when found on the SLMM website. [Next due date is](#)

[October 15, 2023](#). **Membership Roster** is published

once a year in September at which time it will be

emailed to all members. Hard copies can be post

mailed for an additional fee of \$10. The membership

renewal notices will be sent via email in May with a

deadline to renew of July 1st. The membership term

runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following

year. Any updates to your contact information

should be sent directly to Karen Van Hooser,

Executive Administrator at karensvh@gmail.com

Membership Renewals & Applications

SLMM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the state of New Mexico in May 1982.

Annual dues are \$50.00 for Individuals, additional \$25.00 for spouse/mate. The membership term begins

July 1st and ends June 30th of the following year.

Membership applications and renewals are processed

through the SLMM website slmm.org with the

convenience of PayPal to pay your dues...or if you

prefer to pay by check you may request an invoice to

mail to: SLMM, PO Box 897, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Artist Link or Artists Page

Susan Dreiling susya.dreiling@gmail.com is the person you need to contact when submitting work for

your Artist Link or Artists Page. She reminds us that

it is free to have an Artist Link that gives your name

and contact information and one photo of an artwork

plus an optional short statement. If you want an

Artists Page, it will allow more information on the

website such as additional photos, a vitae and bio.

This will cost a one-time fee of \$60. payable directly

to Susan.

As your editor, I am always so excited to receive your news and to share it with our membership. I can't believe this is my 17th issue! Be sure to mention the website to your artist friends and to share your enthusiasm for this amazing organization. We include all forms of expression in SLMM, so if you know of a musician, a dancer, an actor, a writer... encourage them to join SLMM.