



the society of layerists in multi-media

"...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 –

We dedicate this issue to SLMM founder Mary Carroll Nelson, who passed away peacefully on September 11, 2022 at the age of 93. In celebration of her brilliance as an amazing artist, teacher, author, and visionary, these pages contain only a portion of the images and memories shared by our members. Her loss is of great magnitude for those of us who knew her personally and we hope to convey what she meant to our organization.

Mary Carroll stayed active until the very end. Just weeks before she was hosting 'mini' SLMM meetings in her home, viewing the exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum, and attending the New Mexico State Fair with her daughter Patricia and her husband Stephen. She never stopped researching and studying to learn more about this world we live in. She was a brilliant woman who shared her wisdom in the numerous articles and books she has authored. She was a gracious hostess who gave a warm welcome to everyone who entered her home or attended a SLMM conference. Having 'tea' with her was always a highlight as her home was filled salon-style with original works of art, wall to wall, floor to ceiling. Meetings ceremoniously began with her singing crystal bowl. Mary always stood out in her signature garb of wide-brimmed hats, colorful flowing skirts, concho belts, and southwest jewelry. Most of all, what could not be overlooked was her bright smile, the twinkle in her eye, and her penchant for fun and laughter.



In our short time here in this life, very few people really penetrate our heart and soul. Mary Carroll Nelson was one of those special people and many of us will always hold her close as the dear friend, confidant, and mentor she was. Let us all try to carry on in her stead and maintain this special organization she gave to us as an artistic home where we can connect, share, and inspire one another. Namaste.

Laura Pope, SLMM President



As your editor, it is my honor and privilege to assemble what the members have sent me giving tribute to our beloved founder, Mary Carroll Nelson. Personally, I feel a tremendous loss as she was always there for me by phone call or letter...As we know, Mary was not that keen on emails or the computer. She would rather send a handwritten letter or make a phone call. It was her personal touch. I first met Mary in 1998 when I attended my first SLMM conference in Massachusetts. It was there that SLMM unveiled its first major hardcover book, "Bridging Time & Space, Essays on Layered Art". Here is a photo of Mary holding the book.

The last written correspondence Mary sent me was dated May 3, 2022, not too long after the spring newsletter came out. I always sent her a preview copy of the newsletter for her input, corrections, ideas, etc. We both enjoyed the back-and-forth conversation it brought. Oh, how I am going to miss her wise words and help!

Mary gave thanks for us just as much as we thanked her over the years. I just love this Thanksgiving letter she wrote to the membership dated 11/23/2019.

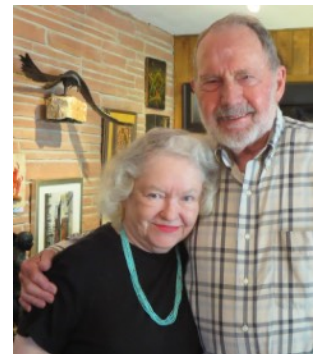
Mary writes Dear SLMM Members,
Thanksgiving is less than a week away, bringing thoughts of our far-flung but close-knit membership. In the 37-year history of the Society of Layerists in Multi-Media, we have the benefit of open-hearted gifts of time, generosity and service from hundreds of members, none more so than the present. It is time to say thank you.

The heart of SLMM is the members it attracts. Some stay a long time. Others stay along as the premises and their journey are simpatico. But each member has nourished SLMM. There has been evolution. The statements of members are a revelation. For most the positive benefit is finding a safe place and others who feel the same about intentions. Across distances friendships have begun and lasted. I have loved that, the closeness with so many talented, thoughtful people who produce meaningful art. What a privilege it has been - so much love in this SLMM. 😊 I am so glad it has brought our friendship. Love - Mary

Dear Kathleen, May 3, 2022
It's been a pleasure to have back & forth communication with you. The way you designed the newsletter is so creative. It really got my attention. I hadn't seen SLMM spread out in that way before. SLMM since the early days has always struck me as a self-propelled miracle, like a prodigy that only needed to be born and it raced ahead on its own. Although I was and am at the ready to help it has always felt as if I am an observer in a perpetual state of surprise.

Tomorrow is the fifth anniversary of my husband Ed's death. He was the love of my life, courtly, spartan, brainy, a gentleman who took care of his family with loving actions and dependable reasoning. He was my hero and I miss him every day. In these 60 months, you have shown such compassion and kindness in your messages, invitations, and phone calls. You have made the days far happier and helped me live a purposeful life. *Thank you.*

Charles and Pauline Eaton mailed newsletters four times a year for over a decade. He has made videos of our trips and conferences. Pauline joined SLMM at the urging of Alex Nepote...the only link to him besides mine. (*Editor's note: Sadly both have passed away, Pauline in 2021 and now Mary Carroll in 2022*). Our friendship began when the Eatons lived in California. In the 20 years they have lived in New Mexico, their generous sharing of multiple talents and wonderful hospitality has nourished all of us here. Pauline has hosted many meetings in their Corrales home across the river. They have shown such courage in these past two years of serious health problems. I admire and cherish both of them. *Thank you.*



Dick Newman was president of SLMM for over 18 years, always assisted by Sheli. He found venues for National shows time and time again. They planned a number of conferences. Recently, they have been producing a series of books with his illustrations and her poetry through Blurb. Sheli has phoned at intervals ever since Ed died, a most welcome voice across the miles. Our friendship goes back to 1983, and it includes a depth of affection. *Thank you.*

Jaleh and Galen Etemad have been such generous supporters of SLMM. (*Editor's note: Sadly, Galen passed away in 2021*). We have much to remind us of all Jaleh did while serving as president: she led us to a new structure that accurately reflects a holistic premise, one in which all who apply to be members are welcome. She steered our book *Unique Insights* and designed our fine flyer. Throughout her dedicated service, our friendship has grown into affection and admiration. *Thank you.*

Diane Courant has been a member of SLMM for many years, adding zest, her fine work, and enthusiasm even when she cannot attend our conferences now. She has an uncanny knack for sending the right message at the right time, always encapsulating her wisdom. I cherish the memory of our visit to her book-filled home in Maine, eating Bob's bisque and visiting Diane's weaving studio. I am so grateful, Diane, for your affirmative and loving support. I send you both love and appreciation. *Thank you.*

Laura Pope joined SLMM and almost immediately became the Regional Coordinator for the SW, a position she held for 12 years before assuming the presidency. She has produced conferences including the 35th anniversary celebration and the one just held in St. Louis, exhibitions and countless plans for meetings, while handling all the messages in the region. I think of Laura as a second daughter, with love and pride. *Thank you.*

Our newsletters come with regularity, the work of **Kathleen Kuchar** who writes, edits, lays out, and enhances these tomes with illustrations in color. It is a huge job. She just added an interview to the text. It is a privilege to get an advance peek and exchange emails. You have built such a grand group in Hays and you make our conferences as cheery as can be. *Thank you.*

To all those who served and serve on the Board of Directors, steering SLMM as it evolves...to the many who host events, and who contribute to our exhibitions and publications. *Thank you.*

A special word of thanks to two generous, gifted women who single-handedly gave us our last two National Shows, **Andrea Mastrangelo**, at Museum Contempo in Olympia, WA, who just after losing her husband Patrick, did all the tasks herself that they used to do together for our 2018 show, producing an evening of entertainment and a buffet for our private opening. In 2019, **Shirley Eley Nachtrieb** in St. Louis, MO, took on the role as point person for the St. Louis Conference, as she received, uncrate, carted, labeled, hung, and then repacked and shipped the show "Do You See the Arch?", and also taught a workshop with dessert. *Thank you.*

In 2018, **Karen van Hooser** was my "team" for the conference in Tacoma. I found her to be a friend, with understanding of what was needed and a quick response to every request. She has a talent for converting messages into well-written and empathetic words. We depend on her. Dues and Roster time in the summer is one continued outflow of her work on our behalf. *Thank you.*

You, special members of SLMM, have shown me the truth of an idea long held: Some artists are blessed with insight of a spiritual nature. In your work, you are incorporating the pearl at the center of all the world's faiths: Love is the lesson we are here to learn. Your art is a gift of your spirit. It is an obvious undertone in our shows and our books. I have observed this subtle aspect of Layered art many times since SLMM began. *Thank you.*

With Love,
Mary

Past presidents have sent their personal memories

Jaleh Etemad, president of SLMM from 2013-2018, has written the following and has included a few of her favorite photographs.



I am faced with writing about a woman who has been in my heart for so many years. What am I going to say that defines Mary Carroll? No words can describe her, a woman of spiritual quality, an amazing personality, an artist – true to the word, kind-hearted, always, always ready to hold my hand when I was feeling down. Her voice of wisdom, her smile of satisfaction when she saw my success in anything – no matter how small, her belief in me... She was so supportive. She had belief and trust in my opinions and thoughts on any matter. We had a very special kinship. She was always such an inspiration to me at all times. Even her smile inspired me to be happy and smiling!

When Laura sent me the text message that we lost Mary Carroll, I broke down in tears! It felt like I was losing my mother all over again! I loved Mary Carroll, respected her, and listened to her full-heartedly. I am happy I was there for her, as she was there for me.

She was such a unique, talented, kind, and giving woman! She gave all she was to us. She had a vision for SLMM, to create a network for artists who express a holistic perspective, in which everything relates to everything else, across time and space. And she did achieve that vision. She's like the crown jewels that one wants to treasure forever.

I will miss her terribly. But I promise myself and all SLMM members to keep her vision alive. And I am hoping everyone will promise that we will try our best to keep the Society of Layerists alive and thriving. We promise to preserve and honor the intentions and spirit of our society's founder Mary Carroll Nelson.

Jaleh Etemad



Albuquerque, 2017



St. Louis, 2019



St. Louis, 2019

Richard Newman, president from 1986-2004, sent these remarks.

I first met Mary Carroll in 1983 at the Andover Inn in Massachusetts. She had flown to my state to interview me as part of her "Bridging Time and Space" exhibition and catalogue project which took place at the Albuquerque Museum in 1985. Garbed in her trademark western hat and Native American necklace she made an imposing



figure. As we drove to my studio in Haverhill, she asked several intellectually challenging questions and I quickly became aware that she was empathetic and easy to converse with on a personal level.

When I joined the Layerist community as a result of my participation in SLMM's inaugural exhibit, I never expected that I would still be a part of this organization's life in the year 2022.

Mary's well-articulated premise of SLMM's mission was a familiar reach for me and her prophetic vision for the group's future activity also hit a strong note. Over the years of my Presidency, Mary was always a gracious listener and eager to move ahead with many of our shared ideas and plans for contacting new exhibition and conference venues. We had a strong working relationship, with good give and take, always keeping our eyes on the growth of the organization and its appeal to new members. Both Mary and her husband Ed were always wonderful hosts when we spent time together in New Mexico. I am grateful to her for introducing myself and Rochelle, my wife and a SLMM member, to so many spiritual individuals and artists who have helped to shape many aspects of our creative awareness. It is my wish that SLMM may live long and prosper.

Richard Newman
President of SLMM
1986-2004



Nancy Dunaway, president from 2004-2008, writes I was saddened and yet moved by the passing of Mary Carroll Nelson. Saddened to know I would never see her physically or talk to her on the phone again or exchange a letter or two, but moved by the peacefulness and grace of her passing. Like the Queen, it was just perfect that she should leave us this way, still present and active right until the end.

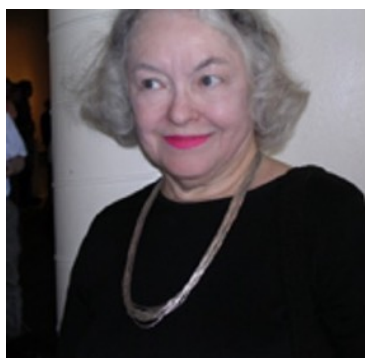
I will never forget when I joined SLMM in the early nineties after meeting Jackie Shafer in grad school in Savannah, and being introduced to the organization by her. SLMM was just cutting edge and mind blowing at that time and I really felt like I had found a home! I applied and was accepted for full membership and was thrilled. I went to my first National Conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and participated in that exhibition at the Walton Arts Center and was amazed by the work and the fellowship I found. Seated in the back of the auditorium behind so many awesome artists...mostly female...and I was in awe of their beautiful white or gray braids down their backs and knew that when I grew up (I was about 42 at the time) I wanted to be just like them...forward thinking and making art with a spiritual base and living life to the fullest. I cherished everything about that conference and the organization. I saw this tiny feisty little woman in a long skirt, a concho belt and a hat with Navajo jewelry around her neck and she spoke and I was impressed with "Mother Mary" Carroll Nelson from that moment on. Little did I know that Richard Newman would pass the torch to me when

he stepped down as president. I was shocked and honored to serve the organization with Ilena Grayson as my VP and constant support!

Mary was warm and welcoming and gracious, smart and always researching and writing, making her art and connecting with visionaries and sharing them with us. I will never be able to express how SLMM changed my life. Mary always steered the ship (from sort-of behind the scenes) and we all bonded with new members as the membership grew. The educational focus was enhanced by our published books and speakers and experiences and shows and wow! As the years progressed the cutting edge ideas about spirituality and the concept of everything as one became more mainstream. I think we all realized that SLMM had had a part in that! I know Mary was proud of her baby.

Sometimes when I was in Albuquerque, she would invite me over for tea and a chat. We discussed art and life and our lives and I always felt welcomed. On my 60th birthday I was amazed and thrilled when she sent me a beautiful silver Navajo necklace to mark the occasion. We exchanged letters and phone calls many times...some just checking in and personal and some about SLMM matters. Occasionally we would disagree, but we always talked about it respectfully and worked things out with the best for the organization at the forefront. She loved her baby and I always wanted her to feel like she'd placed it in good hands and it was well taken care of.

Mary was the force that held it all together and I will always be so grateful for the beautiful connections I have made with so many amazing members who are lifelong friends across the country and Canada. It's made our lives richer by the commonalities found in SLMM. It is truly her masterpiece and I am so grateful to have been a part of it.



Mary had a way of avoiding the camera, always staying in the background, but I did find this cute photo with that twinkle in her eye.



The painting by Mary is titled "Tides" and was included in the SLMM conference exhibition in Hot Springs, AR in 2004. This dreamy piece definitely fits the theme "Healing Waters" in honor of Hot Springs healing waters. *Nancy Dunaway*



Nina Mihm, president from 2008-2013, even though extremely fatigued from chemo/immunotherapy for her stage 4 breast cancer, found enough strength to write us "I cannot promise I will get to writing a tribute to Mary. Her spirit and tutelage will be missed".

Regards, Nina

We all send healing thoughts to you, Nina, for improved health. As your editor, I am so happy that you were able to come to the conference in Hays, KS in 2014. You made a fantastic aluminum relief at one of our workshops. We thank you for all your contributions as president and member over the years.

Other Tributes

Susan McGarry

Karen van Hooser passed this tribute along and reminded us that Susan was very instrumental in the publication of SLMM books, writer, editor, etc. She and Mary go way back!

Susan writes, I wonder if Mary took a cue from Queen Elizabeth and just decided the time was right. We used to jokingly call her Queen Mary because of her elegance, intelligence, omnipotence and profound understanding of people/artists of every persuasion. I learned so much from her and cherish the trips to England and Spain I made with her and the group. Her legacy is deep and rich and I know she'll stay with us even as her vessel is laid to rest. I'm looking at a couple of her plexiglass artworks as I write...they envision the cosmos where Mary resides now. *Susan McGarry*

Win Ratz

SLMM is unique in the art world. It was founded by an inspired woman at a time when competition not cooperation was paramount. Mary and I enjoyed several meaningful conversations, everything from the meaning of life to our delight in art making. Both our husbands were retired military and we both shared a deep passion for authentic art and the importance of finding our own voice to express our work. I was on the team to bring back our premise to a place of importance and remove the full/ associate member categories so all members were on the same level. There was opposition from some members, but we persevered leading to the vibrant, growing, accepting SLMM of today. Mary was a true visionary and I treasure our friendship, our shared love of poetry, and our evolving art journey. This photo radiates the warmth of Mary's hospitality as Ron and I enjoyed a visit in her lovely home. *Win Ratz*



Georgia Mason, SLMM board member

Such sad news, but what an amazing life she had. Well done, Mary! I feel sure she had a most glorious welcome when she crossed over. Imagine who might have been there to greet her soul... She brought me to SLMM through her book, *Artists of the Spirit: New Prophets in Art and Mysticism*. I was so fortunate to be with her several times, the last one at the SLMM conference in Saint Louis.

Georgia Mason



Ilena Grayson

My favorite memory of Mary was when we were in England in 1997. We had the opportunity to fly over some crop circles in a small plane. Mary was so excited and she sat up front with the pilot while Marilyn and I sat behind them. (There is another story there but for another day.) Mary was so joyful and all she needed was a scarf around her neck to remind you of the Red Baron. *Ilena Grayson*

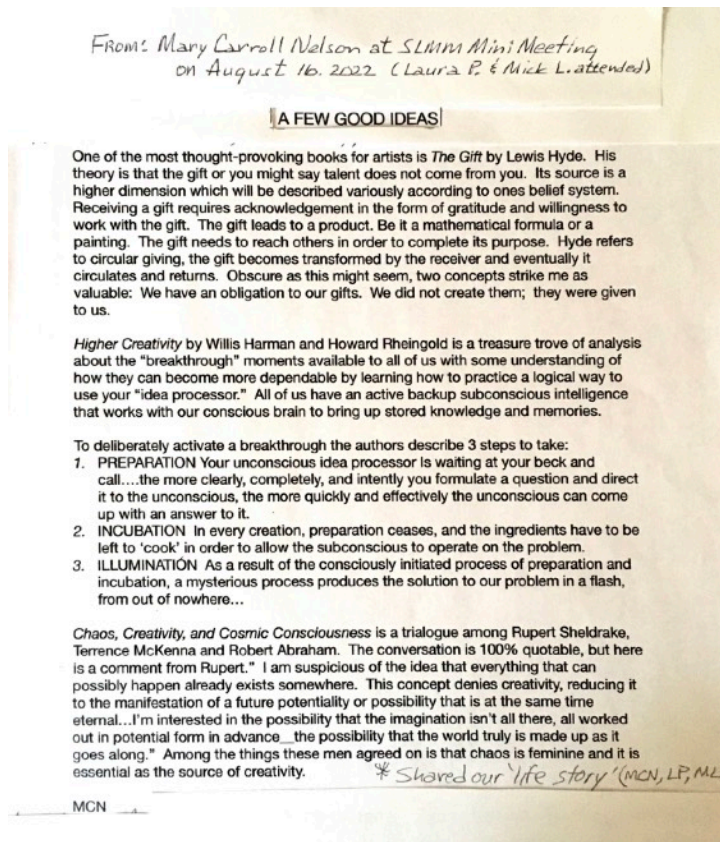
Teresa M Staal-Cowley

My fondest memories are of meeting Mary Carroll for the first time when Museum Contempo hosted the SLMM art show. I had mentioned my husband and I would be visiting my son and family for Thanksgiving in Santa Fe and we would fly in and out of Albuquerque. Mary was gracious and hospitable inviting us over for tea and cake and a tour of the art in her home. I will always treasure her wisdom, graciousness, her beautiful manner of dress and her artistic leadership. *Teresa M Staal-Cowley*



Michael (Mick) Leo

I am so grateful I had the chance to visit with Mary during a SLMM Mini Meeting at her home on August 16th. She had initiated these small group meetings in the interest of health safety, to discuss art/ideas, and to better get to know one another. Laura and I attended that meeting and had a wonderful afternoon with Mary. May her spirit shine a light on the path ahead. She provided us with a discussion outline called "A Few Good Ideas". Mick Leo



The above photo on the right was taken at another mini meeting dated September 9, 2017.



This might be the last mini meeting at Mary Carroll's home—perhaps a week or two before her passing. Those attending were Judi (Sage) Schmutz, Carol Adamec and Sandra Duran Wilson.

Judie Bordic, SLMM board member

I never met Mary Carroll, however, I understand from her many accomplishments by following her heart, her life long interests and challenges, that she was a sincere, creative and intelligent trendsetter who willingly shared her many initiatives with colleagues and friends. Had our paths crossed, I would have enjoyed her enthusiastic personality and conversations regarding her mission and future plans and her friendship. Regretfully, I never reached out to her to express my appreciation and thankfulness for all that I've come to cherish, through her countless efforts with SLMM. *Judie Bordic*



Nancy Egol Nikkal

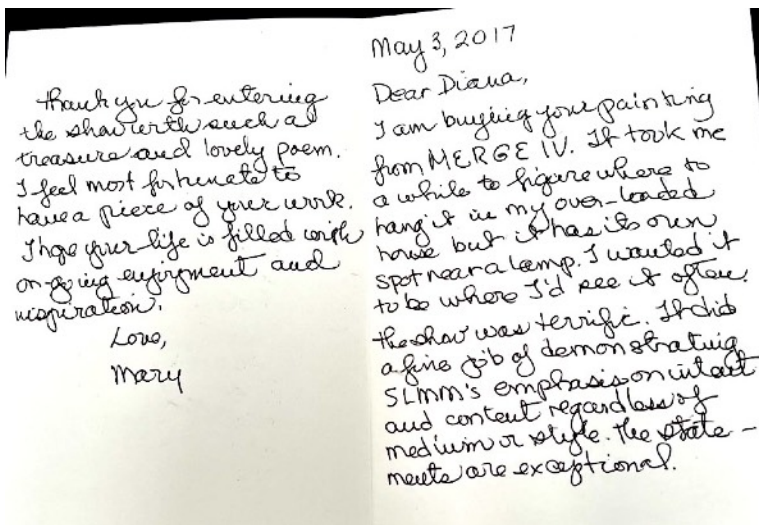
Over the past several months (probably about until 4-6 weeks before she passed), we had several terrific, long phone conversations. I wanted to hear her comments about the founding of SLMM when we were collecting information about its early history. The conversations we had also meandered to personal stuff like her early life, her belief system, her life with her husband Ed... and she always spoke about the sense of something "other" than what's visible (the SLMM Premise). I will always cherish those conversations.

In one of our conversations, I told her about the SLMM Tuesday Group and our sharing of papers and stuff for a collaborative exchange. As a result of our conversation, we did an exchange of papers and Mary sent me this collage I call *Blue Marble Earth*.

Mary glued a single piece of my paper onto 9 x 7 1/4 inch corrugated cardboard and drew 2 angels with pencil (you can see her pencil lines), cut them out and pasted them on top of 2 blue rectangular papers I sent her. Some of the blue papers that have

gold patterns were papers I received from another SLMM artist. Mary cut out more triangle shapes with blue paper and glued them on top of the paper that was stencil printed with lighter blue triangles on the bottom half of the collage. She finished her collage with her signature image of the blue marble earth - it's a very layered collage with a special message! She wrote a note on the back: For Nancy Egol Nikkal - thanks - I had so much fun with this. And it sparked a review of so many things tucked here & there. I'm sending a selection. Love Mary.

I still have some of the papers she sent me. I did not expect to receive this gift. It's so special to me to have something Mary made by hand. *Nancy Egol Nikkal*



Diana S Wong

I found a nice letter on a beautiful card hand written by Mary! You can see her typical cursive writings here. I remember the first time we met when she accidentally walked into my studio in Santa Monica almost 25 years ago. My studio was behind an art gallery separated by a garden. It didn't take long for her to introduce SLMM to me and invited me to join. I love the opportunity to travel with the national shows to different cities in America and abroad. Those were the days in which one could travel worry free! (Except one time I couldn't find my artist friends at the Mexico city's airport and risked getting lost to get to my destination!) I truly respect her as a writer, scholar, and Artist! And

most of all, bringing artists' work out in the public in an uncompetitive spirit. Thanks a million Mary. We miss you! *Diana S Wong*

Beth DeMont

I was saddened to hear that Mary Carroll Nelson our treasured lady of SLMM had passed away. I only met her for a short time in St. Louis but she made a HUGE impression on me! She was fascinating and loved sharing her ideas and experiences. We took a bus tour to the Cahokia Indian mounds. I was so upset for her when she thought she had left her wallet at the museum gift shop. It had EVERYTHING in it! Her plane tickets, money just everything she needed to get home. We looked through her purse twice and I think she looked 15 more times! I called the museum and inquired about her wallet. She was so panicked. No wallet. So we decided to dump her purse out. I believe that was Terri's idea. And hallelujah it was there! I know the angels are singing with joy to have her in heaven. What a wonderful lady. **Beth DeMont**

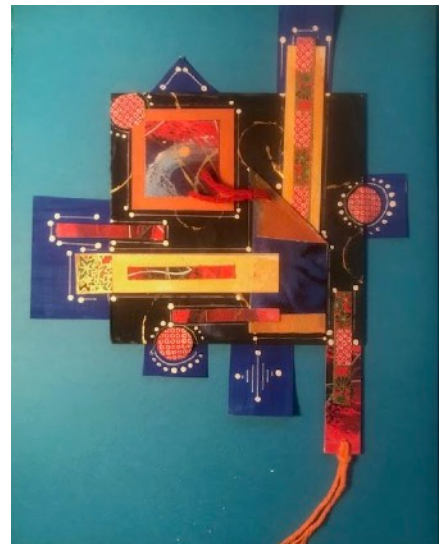
Barbara Jo Stevens, SLMM board member

I feel so very blessed that in my four short years in SLMM, I had the opportunity to become close to Mary Carroll. Because of Mary Carroll and her vision for SLMM and her dedication to this organization and each member for over 40 years, SLMM is more than just another art group, another organization, another name on a resume. Mary created a group of not only like minded people, but like

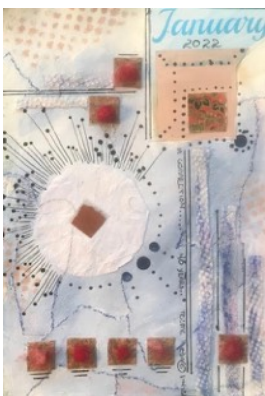


hearted people. Mary Carroll created a place where I felt like I'd come home...and this dear lady, whom I never met in person, opened her arms and her heart to me.

Mary Carroll and I were partners for one of the collaboration projects. Mary Carroll created a Book made from the materials I sent her.



On the right is the piece I made out of the materials Mary Carroll sent me.

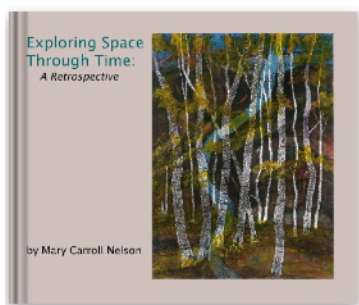
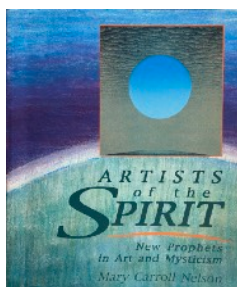


This is a special collage I made for Mary Carroll to commemorate SLMM's 40th Anniversary. I sent it to her in January of 2022, having used a few of her materials that I had left over from our collaboration. The title is *In Connection*. I was hoping that this would remind her of all the connections throughout the US that have been made because of her vision and dedication to SLMM. She wrote back thanking me for the gift and said she put it on her desk where she spent much of her day. As always, she made me feel so special. Rest in Peace, my dear friend. **Barbara Jo Stevens**

Terri MacDonald, SLMM board member and treasurer

As the colors of autumn paint us a world that is connected, there is a place in my heart for the connections that SLMM have given to so many of us. Mary Carroll gave us all that ability. Having been with her only three times over the years, it made it possible to live and grow with this group in the most positive way possible. She always made you feel a part of this group, and I know her spirit will always be with us. We are grateful to be connected. Paint on ! **Terri MacDonald**

Mary Carroll was both an artist and a writer of many articles, books reviews for magazines and journals, and over a dozen books dealing with art, Native American biographies for young readers, and metaphysics, while contributing to anthologies. Among her titles are: *The Legendary Artist of Taos, Beyond Fear, The teachings of Don Miguel Ruiz, Crop Circles, An Art of Our time*. The one book that has touched many SLMM members is *Artists of the Spirit*.



Exploring Space Through Time a Retrospective is filled with photographs of Mary Carroll's artwork. It was designed & created by Richard Newman and is available on blurb.com

The cover painting is called "Through the Woods."



SLMM Books and Catalogs

One of the earliest publications discovered in our search turned up a 1985 catalog for the Society's first major exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum. This catalog is in the collection of Georgia Mason. The book is inscribed by Mary "with warm regards to Virginia". (Maybe Virginia Dehn). Georgia said she bought it long ago when she was looking for SLMM books.

The grouping of books are from Kathleen Kuchar's collection of SLMM books. The small

vertical one was printed as a paperback in 1991 and featured the works of SLMM members who opted to be in the book. The remaining four books were major undertakings by SLMM and were hardbacks. *Bridging Time & Space* was its first, unveiled at the 1998 conference held in Massachusetts. It was edited by Ann Bellinger Hartley with a Foreword by Mary Carroll Nelson and Afterword by Susan Hallsten McGarry. *The Art of Layering: Making Connections* was co-edited by

Mary Carroll

Nelson and Nancy Dunaway and unveiled at the conference in 2004 in Hot Springs, AR. *Visual Journeys Art of the 21st Century* was published in 2010. It was edited by Nina Mihm and Mary Carroll Nelson and was unveiled at the conference in Austin, TX.



The most recent book, *Unique Insights*, was published in 2016 and introduced to the members at the conference in Asheville, NC.

SLMM also created some important exhibition catalogs



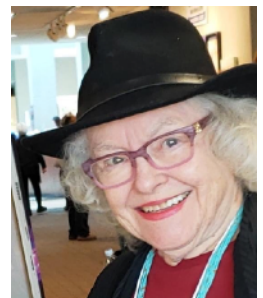
In this group photo, the top left catalog is from the 2006 *Connections We Are All One* exhibition and meeting held in Lexington, KY. *Exploring Multiple Dimensions* was for the 25th anniversary of SLMM conference in Albuquerque, NM, 2007. The catalog illustrates all the work in the exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum and has messages from Mary Carroll, founder, and Nancy Dunaway, 3rd president of SLMM. Note the cover is a beautiful work by Mary Carroll. *A 30 Year Celebration* and *There's No Place Like Home* catalogs were designed and created by Richard Newman using BLURB. The 30 Year Celebration conference was held in Taos in 2012. In 2014, Hays, Kansas hosted the national conference and exhibition with the theme, "There's No Place Like Home."

Mary Carroll's Artwork



If you are interested in seeing more of Mary Carroll's work, her retrospective book is available on blurb.com. *Exploring Space Through Time, a Retrospective*, catalogues selected works from 1985 through 2013. Her retrospective was held September 2013 at the Weyrich Gallery in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "Through the Woods", pictured top left, is on the book's cover.









Mary Carroll Nelson, April 24 1929 - September 11, 2022

On September 11, 2022, the Lord took the most gentle soul home, Mary Carroll Nelson, to her final resting place. After 64 years of marriage Ed Nelson passed in 2014, and almost 8 yrs of being apart from her beloved one, they will be reunited once again at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe, NM.

She is survived by her daughter Patricia, husband Stephen A. Hall, son Blake (E.B. Nelson) his wife Debra, grandson Grey Burchfield Park and his wife Katie, granddaughters Norah, Raleigh, Maeve and Hazel, and Clare Fisher husband Ben Fischer.

Mary Carroll Nelson, nee Mary Ellen Carroll, was born on April 24, 1929, the second of three children to James Vincent Carroll and Mary Langton Carroll. Her father was an army officer, graduate of West Point, class of November 1918. While he was stationed at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, she met the love of her life, Edwin B. Nelson, a cadet, class of 1948, home on leave. They were married there in 1950, following her graduation from Barnard College. Their daughter, Patricia was born in Nurnberg, Germany; Edwin B. Nelson Jr. was born in Ft. Hood, TX. For the first 21 years of their marriage, the Nelsons moved frequently before settling in Albuquerque, NM in 1971, where they had lived on Sandia Base from 1961 to 1963, Mary earned an MA in Art Education from the University of New Mexico in 1963. She taught first grade and art in the States and Germany while Ed was on active duty. Ending with 12 years at Sunset Mesa school after he retired.



Mary was both an artist and a writer of many articles, books reviews for magazines and journals, and over a dozen books dealing with art, Native American biographies for young readers, and metaphysics, while contributing to anthologies. Among her titles are: *The Legendary Artist of Taos*, *Beyond Fear*, *The teachings of Don Miguel Ruiz*, *Crop Circles*, *An Art of Our time*. Her art expressed her deep interests in images from space, the phenomenon of crop circles, spirituality, and the beauty of nature. Much of her later work was done in luminous ink stippled on Plexiglas. In 1982, she founded the Society of Layerists in Multi-Media, a network for artists who express a holistic perspective. SLMM was inaugurated by the Albuquerque Museum in the summer of 1985 and hosted again on its 25th anniversary in 2007. Layered art has been exhibited in shows across the United States, Mexico, England, and France.



A Celebration of Life in loving memory of Mary Carroll Nelson will be held on October 22 at her home and studio. Those gathered will share Mary's life and art, as well as their stories and memories as they celebrate Mary as an artist of the spirit.



The prayer circle was something Mary Carroll instituted to close out all our meetings. We don't remember where this was but Mary is in the back with her hand raised. Looks like it was a big meeting!

As your editor, I would like to close this newsletter with Mary's own words as taken from the card she wrote me dated May 3, 2022.

SLMM since the early years has always struck me as a self-propelled miracle, like a prodigy that only needed to be born as it raced ahead on its own. Although I was and am at the ready to help, it has always felt as if I am an observer in a perpetual state of surprise. The heart of SLMM is the members it attracts. Some stay a long time. Others stay as long as the premise and their journey are simpatico. But each member has nourished SLMM. There has been evolution. The statements of members are a revelation. For most the positive benefit is finding a safe place and others who feel the same about intentions. Across distances friendships have begun and lasted. I have loved that, the closeness with so many talented thoughtful people who produce meaningful art. What a privilege it has been—so much love in this SLMM. I am so glad it has brought our friendship. Love, Mary

May her spirit shine a light on the path ahead (Mick Leo). Mary's legacy is deep and rich and I know she'll stay with us even as her vessel is laid to rest (Susan McGarry). Thanks a million, Mary, we miss you (Diana S Wong).