Fall Newsletter, 2026, Vol. 123

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

GOLDEN CONNECTIONS—

Old friends
New friends
Spacious skies
Clean air
Creative spirits
Sharing techniques
Real hugs
Contagious laughter
True connections that last a lifetime—Golden hearts spreading love—Layers upon layers of life and living!

This is the legacy Mary Carroll Nelson created for SLMM 44 years ago. This is the unique feeling that surrounds SLMM today. This is the character of SLMM that will carry us into the future.

We are an organization like no other. We are an organization that one has to experience to appreciate. We are an organization that is family. We share, support, giggle, create and hold each other up while producing, marketing, educating, traveling, working, experimenting, living, loving and laughing. Layers upon layers of creating and living.

If you were able to attend SLMM's National Conference in Golden, CO from October 2-4, you know what I mean. If you were unable to attend, know that you were held in the hearts of those present and were with us in spirit. Looking around the conference center at all the members, both new and old, my heart swelled with gratitude. What an honor to be President of this group of creative and supportive souls. As we move into the future together, let's hold tightly to these GOLDEN CONNECTIONS!



And may God be with our Executive Administrator, Karen Van Hooser, who was honored at the conference for her 16 years of faithful and loving service to SLMM, as she recovers from the stroke she had after returning home from Colorado.

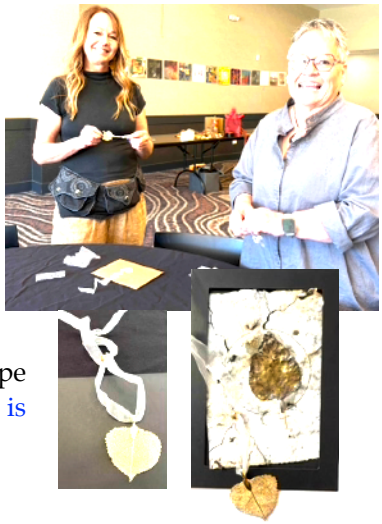
Blessings and Hugs,

Jo

President & Membership Chair

The SLMM National Conference, "Golden Connections," was held at the Origin Hotel at Red Rocks in Golden, CO, October 2-4, 2026. Miranda Mason and her conference committee which included Dottie Staab, Marlene Meitl and Barbara Jo Stevens, organized a wonderful gathering. As your editor, and having attended 17 conferences, I can say this one ranks right up there among the most memorable. Each one has been unique. This year's conference featured a day-long workshop with renowned artist Joan Fullerton, plus two exhibitions, a "Members Show" with 12"x12" works on paper and a "Fundraising Exhibition" for brain cancer research.

Via this newsletter, let's go to the conference as seen though photos and my recollection of what happened. More pictures can be found on the SLMM website under News/Conferences. As we checked into Origin Hotel at Red Rocks, I noticed a flurry of activity in the conference room. Name tags were out, the two exhibitions were being installed, Dottie was completing her aprons for distribution, and tables were being decorated for the evening banquet by Miranda Mason and Beth Ann DeMont, pictured on the right. They made sure everyone received an aspen leaf dipped in 24-carat gold and a lovely handmade work of art by Barbara Jo Stevens. Sue Burke Harrington is seated among some of the fun conference swag she received.. Nicola Mason brought an assortment of shell faces she created from beach combing on the North Carolina shore. Everyone enjoyed going home with one! Pictured are Laura Pope and and Georgia Mason. I do believe Laura loves her new shell art! My shell art is in the center. Thanks, Nicola!









Dottie Staab volunteered to create an apron for each of the members to wear at the Joan Fullerton Workshop. She found men's shirts at the Hays, KS, local thrift store, the ARC, and repurposed them into aprons. In this photo, Dottie is seen ironing the rust patches onto the aprons. She is loving to use rust in her art and on her aprons! Everyone had fun selecting the perfect apron. Take a look at our models, Beth Ann, Secily and Vicky. Thanks, Dottie, for coming up with this great idea. We love our aprons!









On the right are three new members, Jan French, Julie Grimm and Barbara Rathwick. We are delighted to have you and the 17 other new members join us.







We had lots to do before the formal meeting started at 4:30 with the Blessing Circle. Between hugs and greeting old friends, we needed to put up the two exhibitions. Here we see Jo unwrapping a 12″x12″ work to be hung on the wall for the member exhibition pictured above. Beth Ann was a big help, as was Marlene Meitl. Marlene is pictured below





with the wall of art that was donated for the brain cancer research and to help a family who needed assistance. Each work was priced at $50 with all proceeds going to the fund. *More details about the fundraiser are found in another section of this newsletter.* Beth Ann DeMont, on the left, purchased one of Georgia Mason's paintings. On the right is new member, Jan French, who is holding one of her own works of art. It is always good to see what new members are creating.



At 4:30, Karen Van Hooser arrived just in time to be escorted to the Blessing Circle. Our conference room had a door that opened to a beautiful grassy area, making a perfect place to begin the conference. Barbara Jo played her flute as we formed the circle and Marlene Meitl welcomed us a with a special prayer. Barbara Jo and Kathleen then took Karen's hand and led her into the center of the Blessing Circle, where we thanked her and wished her well for 16 years of loyal service as our Executive Administrator.









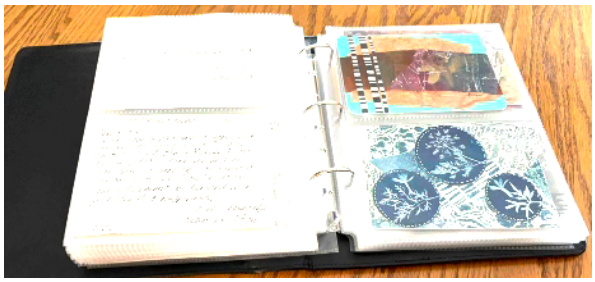
We surprised Karen with a gift album of postcards that Kathleen Kuchar assembled. Members were asked to create post-card size art, 4”x6”, and write a message to Karen on the other side. Forty-eight SLMMers participated. Karen was very emotional as she accepted this wonderful thank-you gift. Then it was time for a couple personal gifts. Barbara Jo has always said that Karen is our WONDER WOMAN who can do it all. So, what better gift than a Wonder Woman T-Shirt with an attached cape! Kathleen knows how much Karen likes to put puzzles together, so she presented her a Shutterfly puzzle with a picture of Barbara Jo and Kathleen. An extra gift was a bottle of pinot noir, Karen’s favorite. I figured wine always helps when putting a puzzle together!



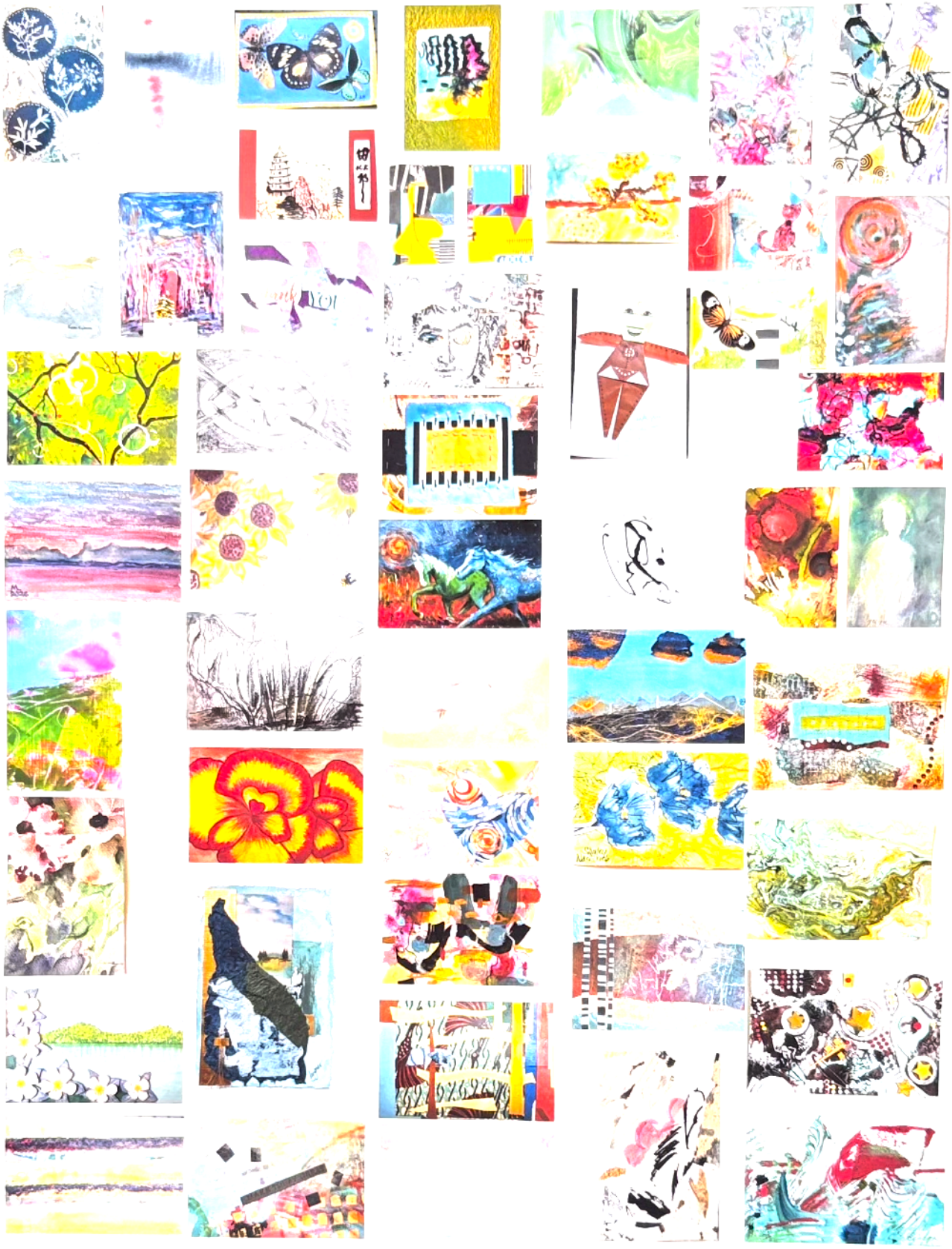




After the Blessing Circle, it was time for more hugs and photos! Here is Barbara Jo gifting Karen with an original painting. While all this was going on, her three sons and best friend were waiting in the parking lot, probably wondering what was taking so long! Karen was only supposed to drop off a few conference items for Miranda! I helped Karen carry out her many gifts to the car and got to meet her three sons and her best friend, Kathy. They have been friends since the 1950s!



Since many of our members did not get to see the postcard album we presented to Karen, I have included photos of all of the cards. I may have missed a few, so please forgive me. The album had artwork from 48 members. They are: Lavina Blossom, Judie Bordic, Robin Brooks, Gale Craig, Beth Ann DeMont, Jaleh Etemad, Kathy Farr, Toby Flores, Brenda Gear, Herlinda Giandalia, Jean Griffin, Lisa Harrington, Sue Burke Harrington, Carleen Hearn, Rachel X Hobreigh, Catherine Keebler, Mary Kottmann, Kathleen Kuchar, Kathleen Tucker Landreth, Tomi LaPierre, Mick Leo, Vicky Lennon, Terri MacDonald, Cal Mahin, Georgia Mason, Nicola (Faith) Mason, Marlene Meitl, Lynn Mikami, Shirley Nachtrieb, Nancy Nikkal, Melinda Parkhurst, Linda Penrod, Laura Pope, Win Ratz, Janet Ruffin, Kari Schultz, Darlene Southwick, Dottie Staab, Barbara St. John, Barbara Jo Stevens, Sue Anne Sullivan, Mindy Tillery, Peggy Wambold, Jean Warren, Naomi Warren, Carol Ann Waugh, Sandra Duran Wilson and Billie Wright. ***If you would still like to send a card, mail it to Karen Van Hooser, 512 E. Mansur Avenue, Guthrie, OK 73044.***



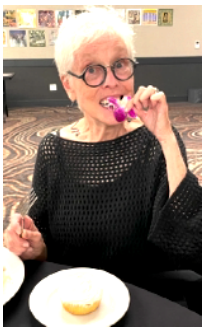




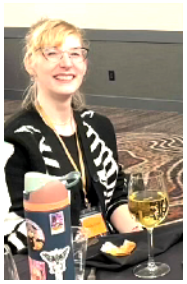








Back to the Conference— We held a short meeting after the Blessing Circle, during which the 20 members, new and old, introduced themselves. They were Barbara Rathwick, Jan French, Julie Grimm, Beth Ann DeMont, Curtis Cary, Dottie Staab, Barbara Jo Stevens, John Lennon, Vicky Lennon, Kathleen Kuchar, Kathy Farr, Linda Penrod, Lisa Harrington, Marlene Meitl, Miranda Mason, Nicola Mason, Georgia Mason, Secily Cruse, Sue Burke Harrington and Laura Pope.



It was also time to share in conversation and enjoy the happy hour followed by a buffet dinner. Laura said the orchid was very tasty!

Day two, Saturday, October 3, Joan Fullerton presented a workshop, "Paint Yourself Free"—

We welcomed the following artists to the workshop: Kathy Yeager, Karen D. Levi-Lausa, Joan Lenz, Carol Ann Waugh, Judith Cassel-Mamet, Paula Watson-Lakamp, Hilde Keldermans, Lorie Sadler, Nancy Daniel, Diane DeVries, Danette Morgan, Kristen Barton and Vivi Zafferani. These participants were gifted a complimentary SLMM membership as a part of their workshop registration fee. *We are excited for them to participate in all the benefits SLMM members enjoy. To name a few, there are weekly Zoom meetings, monthly bookclub meetings, the SLMM website with artists pages, member Forum offerings that include videos, tips, exchanges, semiannual newsletter, the quarterly Web Gallery, and virtual and in-person exhibitions throughout the year. We also encourage all our members to participate in our private SLMM Facebook page as well as the SLMM YouTube channel.* WELCOME TO SLMM! As Barbara Jo Stevens said in her opening letter, there is no other art organization quite like the Society of Layerists in Multi-Media. ***I know, I have been a member since 1990!***



Now to the Workshop—

SLMM was fortunate that Joan Fullerton accepted our invitation to present a one-day workshop teaching us exciting new ways to create intuitive art. Joan's fine art career of 50+ years has yielded hundreds of poetic paintings that hang in museums and private collections worldwide. She is an expert creativity coach who inspires uninhibited humor and the ability to trust our impulses and encourages childlike play. We liked her intuitive approach as she helped us all gain confidence, enabling genuine, expressive paintings.

The workshop was divided into two sessions, morning and afternoon, and all supplies were provided. Joan gave all 33 of us a "Paint Yourself Free Glossary" that helped us understand all the terms she was presenting. For more terms, we were encouraged to go to www.JoanFullertonWorkshops.com/handouts.

Joan, through a series of quick demos, led us step-by-step on a creative adventure as we developed our 12″x12″ acrylic paintings. When it came time for us to view the results of the morning session, we all could see how each person's work took on its own life. *Didn't we each have the same instructions? Yes, but we each created a work that was truly our own.*

















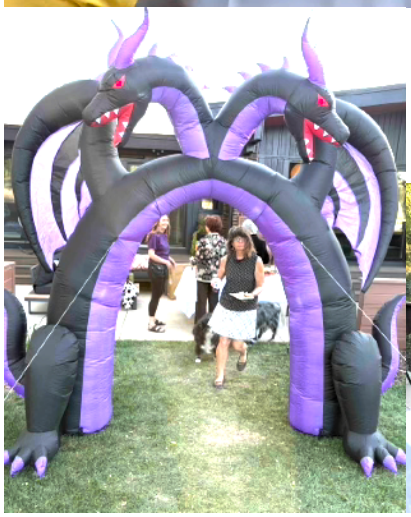
After lunch, each of us was given another 12″x12″ unprimed cradleboard with another opportunity to create a painting that was unique. Joan led us through some more methods of working, and the session ended with her critiquing a few of the paintings. What an inspiring workshop! The energy and enthusiasm made for one exciting and productive day. Thank you, Joan!

When Joan varnishes her artwork, she uses Polycrylic, a product of Minwax. It comes in different sheens. When adhering watercolor paper to a surface, she uses a product called Lamin-All. It can be diluted with water and brushed onto the back of watercolor paper and/or used to glue other papers to a surface. We learned so many things and are so very grateful that Joan Fullerton presented this amazing workshop.

More photographs from this conference can be found on the SLMM website. And for the new members, you can view pictures from previous conferences and learn more about SLMM by reading the archived newsletters.



Continuing On— The workshop ended but the conference did not! Saturday night was spectacular! Miranda Mason and her husband, Jitendra Yadav, invited us for a special evening with dinner and beverages at their beautiful lakeside home in Denver. The weather was perfect and the setting beautiful. These photographs give readers a glimpse of this special evening. As the sun was setting, we formed the traditional Blessing Circle with each member saying one word that came to mind. Some said connections, gratitude, happiness, love, etc. We all departed with great memories of a wonderful conference.

















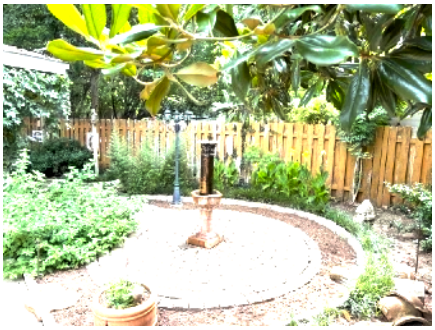


The conference was so well planned by Miranda Mason and her committee. The venue was perfect for our gathering, and it was so nice to have everything under one roof. We finally were able to give Karen Van Hooser "in-person" expressions of gratitude for all she has done for SLMM these past 16 years. The following words from me and from our president, Barbara Jo Stevens, give everyone a peek into what we love about Karen.





I have known Karen since she came on board as our executive administrator in 2010. I really got to know her better when Hays, KS, hosted the 2014 conference. Since I had no experience in organizing a conference, I needed a lot of help and Karen was there every step of the way. Her attention to detail was much appreciated. It was at this time I became the newsletter editor and Karen guided me with proofreading and advice as needed. As time went on there were more phone calls and correspondence as we shared similar interests. I learned more about Karen when I visited her lovely home and toured her amazing flower gardens, lily pond, and viewed her collection of artwork. She shared some of her stories over a glass of wine as we sat at a table with a Monet puzzle that was impossible to put together. Everything was green! I suggested she should maybe start a new puzzle and give this one to the Goodwill store. *I learned later she decided to toss it! No use spending time on a puzzle that is no fun to put together.* I left her with a 1970s puzzle that was a lot more fun.



Barbara Jo Stevens writes: "My introduction to Karen was right after I joined SLMM in 2018. She called to welcome me to SLMM. We talked and giggled for over an hour on that first phone call. What a surprise to find out later that she was not an artist, but was the executive administrator! We connected and bonded instantly! I had finally found the place where I belonged, where there were people like me and where acceptance was a given. Karen made me feel like SLMM had just been waiting for me to join them. Over the past eight years of working with Karen, her expertise, knowledge and quick response to any problem or question have made it a joy to work with her. She is always there for me as well as for SLMM. A simple thank you can not begin to cover the gratitude I feel in the blessing that Karen brought to me with that first phone call."

How Karen Became our Executive Administrator—

Susan Hallsten McGarry, a long time member of SLMM, suggested to Nina Mihm, president of SLMM, that Karen Van Hooser would be a perfect fit as Carleen Hearn's replacement as executive administrator. Nina announced the selection of Karen in the September 2010 SLMM newsletter, saying, "I am pleased to introduce Karen Van Hooser from Guthrie, OK, as the newly appointed SLMM executive administrator. She has working experience in the business side of the art world. SLMM is very happy to welcome her to our holistic group." Carleen wrote in the same newsletter, "I am thrilled that Karen has accepted the position. I knew after our first conversation that Karen's knowledge and personality would be a great fit for SLMM. Editors note: Carleen Hearn has agreed to step back into the position that she knows so well. We are very fortunate to have Carleen volunteer to take on this very important role as executive administrator officially beginning with the new fiscal year.

We learned more about Karen in the September 2010 newsletter when she wrote a little about her work history. "I raised my four sons in Denver, CO, and retired after 27 years with Sears as a regional trainer in accounting/clerical procedures. In 1990, I moved to Santa Fe, NM, as a studio director for a sculptor for three years, comptroller for a land developer/builder for four years, and am currently working for Ventana Fine Art Gallery as an accountant. I moved to Guthrie, OK, in 2006 but continue my gallery responsibilities through a virtual network. I also moonlight as accountant for several artists. I make at least two trips to Santa Fe annually, one of which, is for a nonprofit organization called ARTsmart. ARTsmart holds an annual weekend of events in February to raise funds for the art programs in Santa Fe's public schools. Without these funds there would be no art

programs for the students schooled in one of the major art capitals in the world. I hope this passion carries over in my relationships within the SLMM organization. Without art, visual or performing, we would surely live in a world without beauty." ***The passion did carry over. Thanks for your 16 years of helping make SLMM what it is today. Enjoy your retirement. You earned it!***

Member News in no particular order—



Jean Griffin

Working on the Outside, mixed media on cradleboard, 12"x12", has been accepted into the Collage Artists of America online show "Portals." The exhibition will be online beginning December 1 thru Dec 31, 2026, at www.collageartists.org



David Griffin won second place in the professional division at the Broken Arrow Rose Festival held September 4-19 at the Arts@302 Gallery in Broken Arrow, OK. The painting is acrylic and 5"x7".



Nicola Mason

Nicola, on the left, was honored to have her painting, *Man Hands,* accepted in the 2026 Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition held at the Center for the Arts Evergreen, Evergreen, CO, Sept 10-Oct 17. It was a very proud moment for Georgia Mason, Nicola's mom, who is a signature member of the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Society. The SLMM "Golden Connections" conference coincided with this exhibition so the timing was perfect to enjoy both events.

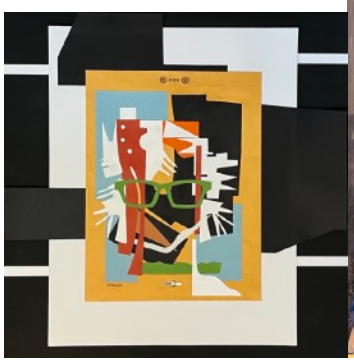
Kathleen Kuchar, Cal Mahin, Barbara Jo Stevens, Karla Prickett, Christina Lamoureaux



Five SLMM members were among the 141 invited artists to display a self-portrait at the Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, KS, August 2-Oct 18 in an exhibition called "Look At Us Now." This was the Second Decennial Artist Self-Portrait Invitational Exhibition, with the first one held ten years ago. **Kathleen** is seen next to her self portrait, *The Future is Now*. **Cal Mahin's** self-portrait, *Masked Up, Let the Dance Begin,* is on the lower left. If you look closely, Cal can be seen in miniature in the black frame located at the very top. Barbara Jo's, *The Journey*, is a six-panel self-portrait. **Karla Prickett's** self-portrait is a collage called *Picking Up the Pieces* and is 20" square. **Christina Lamoureaux** exhibited *Simple Pleasures of Sharing Coffee and Arting*.











Mindy Tillery

Mindy Tillery is the featured artist at the Formed Gallery in Springfield, MO, during the month of October. In "Hands & Hearts: By Hand with Heart," Mindy explores the beautiful alchemy of an artist creating entirely from the soul in this deeply personal series exploring the profound connection between the hands that labor and the heart that remembers, transforming raw elements into evocative visual poetry. Through the masterful interplay of molten wax, warm tactile wool, and rich color, Tillery transforms raw materials into deeply moving visual poetry. From the sweeping scale of four-foot sumi scrolls to the quiet intimacy of hand-formed vessels with woolen hearts, this series invites you to slow down, step into the quiet, and witness the profound stories held in the hands of the maker.

Nancy Nikkal

Nancy was invited by Lynn Honeysett, who serves on the board of the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, to co-curate a large group exhibition this fall at the Rotunda Gallery at City Hall, New Rochelle, NY. Lynn loved Nancy's suggestion for the exhibition title, "Sight Line," and wrote the exhibition statement: A Sight Line is defined as "the imaginary straight pathways of vision that lead from a person's eyes to a target object, focal point, or view. When we look at a work of art are we merely seeing what the artist saw, or is there more to discover?"



Lynn invited Nancy to include her own work in the show. Nancy said, "I usually don't show my work when I curate—but Lynn insisted."

On the left is *Sight Line*, 14"x14", a collage Nancy titled when she saw abstract eye shapes in sections of the work. Nancy said, "The image and its title inspire me to think more about sight lines and how they are really important when you plan an exhibition,"

"Sight Line" is about how we look and what we look at. Here's a link to a review Nancy wrote titled "Sight Line at the Rotunda Gallery" at Art of Collage: https://artofcollage.wordpress.com/2026/10/06/sight-line-at-the-rotunda-gallery/

Remembering the Past—

Twenty-five years ago plans were being made for the 2002 SLMM Conference in Sedona, AZ, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization. Volume 60 of the 2001 newsletter also mentioned that SLMM added an Administrative Assistant, Lynda Lee Reyelt, who looked forward to helping with many aspects of running the office/treasury of the society. SLMM announced it now has an official Website. Richard Newman, president of SLMM, said "This is an important event in the evolution of our organization. It will provide a framework for broader communications between our members and with the world at large. When more of you link up to this site, it will provide a fuller picture of the vast talent and creative energy that exists within our organization. In short, it will facilitate the way that we can gain greater exposure and provide curators with easy access to our artistic profile." Richard Newman would be so happy to see what the current website offers. It is jam packed with a huge variety of valuable information. If you haven't checked it out lately, please take a look. Susan Dreiling, our Website & Web Gallery Design & Administrator, does an amazing job, as does Sue Burke Harrington and her website committee of Secily Cruse, Miranda Mason, and Barbara Jo Stevens.

Circle of Prayer—

We offer prayers for members who have passed and those going through difficult challenges. We also remember those affected by storms, fires and other natural disasters. Keep our treasured members and their families in your healing light. We especially send healing energy to Karen Van Hooser, who is recovering from a stroke she suffered just a few days after the "Golden Connections" SLMM conference.

Welcome New Members—

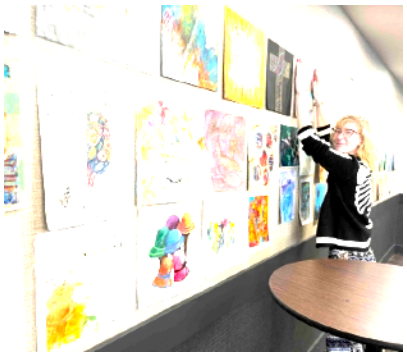
Since our last newsletter, April, 2025, we welcome 26 new SLMM members: Sandy Applegate. Kristin Barton, Curtis Cary, Judith Cassel-Mamet, Abigail Cloud, Diane DeVries, Sandre L. Faulkner, Jan French, Monique Gray, Julie Grimm, Hilde Keldermans, Karen D. Levi-Lausa, Desiree Littlestar, Danette Morgan, Barbara Rathwick,Jill Riggin, Lorie Sadler, Barbara Rae Schaefer, Susan Sherwood, Becky Enabnit Silver, Anita Simon, Drew Ukens, Kathy Yeager, Laurie Vogel, Paula Watson-Lakamp, Carol Ann Waugh and Vivi Zafferani. We also welcome back Rebel Mahieu, who reinstated her membership.

Other News—

SLMM elected Vicky Lennon and Miranda Mason as new board members, replacing Jean Warren and Terri MacDonald, whose terms ended on June 30, 2025. We thank both Jean and Terri for all their hard work and dedication. Terri has handed over the treasurer's position to Jean Griffin. Terri has volunteered to work with Jean Griffin and Kathleen Kuchar on the Creative Growth Committee, replacing Beth Ann DeMont.

SLMM committee work is very important, and we are so grateful for our members who volunteer. *We welcome all members, new and old alike, to consider joining a committee. This is one way to help SLMM carry out its many functions. On the next page of this newsletter you will find the list of committees. SLMM invites you to become involved as we are always looking for fresh ideas and lots of enthusiasm!*

An example of an important committee, is the National Conference Committee, chaired by Miranda Mason with members Marlene Meitl, Dottie Staab and Barbara Jo Stevens. They put together an amazing conference.



Pictured is Secily Cruse putting up the National Exhibition as a part of the conference. Rachel X Hobreigh, SLMM National Exhibition Chair, arranged to have the remaining SLMM artwork from "Lantern," a fundraising exhibition held in September at SLMM member Diana Wong's studio in Santa Monica, CA, shipped to Golden for exhibition and sales. SLMM members created original artwork, any size and any media on paper with 100% donation split 50/50 to brain cancer research through the National Brain Tumor Society and to Angela Belms, mother-in-law of our new member, Drew Ukens. This isn't the first time Rachel has arranged SLMM fundraising shows for good causes. Educating and connecting are a part of who we are! Thank you, Rachel, for your dedication and hard work in making shows like this happen. We appreciate all you do!

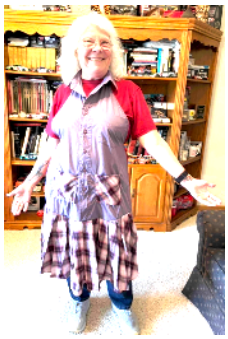
Bonus Photos

On the left are Laura Pope, president of SLMM from 2018–2023 and current president, Barbara Jo Stevens. Lisa Harrington is ready for the banquet. Secily Cruse is modeling her latest creation. She is so good at designing clothes! Dottie Staab models an apron she created for the conference.









President
Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

Vice President
Sue Burke Harrington

Treasurer
Jean Griffin

Board Members
Judie Bordic
Vicky Lennon
Cal Mahin
Georgia Mason
Miranda Mason
Nicola Mason

Staff
Executive Administrator: Karen Van Hooser
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Kuchar
Website & Web Gallery Design & Administrator: Susan Dreiling

National Committees
Membership Committee
Chair: Barbara Jo Converse Stevens
Georgia Mason

Website Committee
Chair: Sue Burke Harrington
Secily Cruse
Miranda Mason
Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

Communication & Social Media Committee
Chair: Nicola Mason
Barbara Jo Converse Stevens,
Secily Cruse

Special Projects Committee
Joint-Chairs: Judie Bordic, Vicky Lennon, Nancy Nikkal

National Exhibition & Conference Committee
Co-Chairs: Rachel X Hobreigh & Miranda Mason
Marlene Meitl
Dottie Staab
Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

Creative Growth Committee
Chair: Jean Griffin
Kathleen Kuchar
Terri MacDonald

$500 Travel Grant Advisor for National Conferences
Lynn Mikami

EX-Officio
Mary Carroll Nelson, founder, 1982–1984
Alexander Nepote, past president, 1984–1986
Richard Newman, past president, 1986–2004
Nancy Dunaway, past president, 2004–2008
Nina Mihm, past president, 2008–2013
Jaleh Etemad, past president, 2013–2018
Laura Pope, past president, 2018–2023

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. All newsletters are on the website homepage/news/newsletter.
Next due date is April 15, 2027.

Membership Roster is published once a year in September, at which time it will be emailed to all members. 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) nonprofit 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 (Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express) to pay your dues. If you prefer to pay by check, send dues directly 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 resume and bio. This will cost a one-time fee of $60. payable directly to Susan. ***You can update it often at no additional fee.***

As your editor, I have enjoyed assembling this issue with news about the national conference, SLMM members, projects, and so much more. The next newsletter will be the spring issue, with your contributions due **April 15, 2027**.

Next year's (2027) conference—marking the 45th anniversary of SLMM—will take place in late October in Albuquerque, NM! Stay tuned for timely updates by following SLMM on Instagram or Facebook! Board member Nicola Mason will be organizing the conference. Feel free to reach out to her at nclmsn@gmail.com with questions or suggestions for conference activities.

In closing, it is a proud moment for SLMM when we continue to connect with people across the USA by supporting worthy causes. The following is just another example.

Vicky Lennon, Florida SLMM member, asked our members to participate in a fundraising exhibition that would aid the Federation of the Blind. She wrote, "Thank you to all my fellow SLMM members who participated in *Feel the Beauty*, a tactile art fundraiser for the National Federation of the Blind, Florida. We were able to donate over $1500 through the sales of the artwork. I started curating this fundraiser at the NFB Florida state convention 5 years ago and this is the best one yet. We had over 200 attendees. I had the tactile pieces lying on a table with both braille and print labels on them. People could go by and touch and feel the beauty of the art. These pieces were purchased by both sighted and blind individuals. It was very interesting to watch the people's responses to the work. This is especially dear to my heart as a sighted artist. I am able to help give back to the people that have done so much to encourage me and John as we adjust to his blindness. Thank you, Nancy Nikkal, for the wonderful blog about me and my project. It can be found on www.artofcollage.com."



