

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

HAPPY SPRING! A time for renewal, rebirth, regeneration of energy and creativity! A time of moving forward, letting our creativity take on a brave new look, to let loose with playfulness, bold strokes, new colors, and FUN! Try new techniques, new mediums, new bases! Or pull out old work and add new papers, text, or materials to change it up! Move your work station, go outdoors, or bring the outdoors IN to add to a collage!

So many of these ideas are shared in our Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday ZOOM meetings where collective support, positive critiques, creative inspiration is shared in an informal setting. If you can't attend a meeting, I hope you are taking time to view the recordings that are sent to you after each Tuesday gathering. Much of the information is then shared on the SLMM.org website.

The best part of SLMM is that there is no judgment or competition. Everything we have to offer is there for each member, free with your membership, to enjoy, participate, share or not. We appreciate your contribution in whatever form it takes. But as spring moves forward into summer, we hope you will take advantage of all that SLMM has to offer and to share all the good works with other artists you know and ask them to join in the fun.

SPRING FORWARD with renewed energy and creativity with new Special Projects, new Web Galleries, new opportunities for sharing and fun. Remember how it felt when school was out for the summer? Well, SLMM holds that feeling for its active members every week! COME JOIN THE FUN!

I would love to get to know all of you. You are always welcome to share your ideas, experience, and brainstorming on the SLMM Website Forum, SLMM FaceBook, Zoom or email me personally (stevensbjc@gmail.com). Let's keep the lines of communication open and STAY CONNECTED!

Hugs to my SLMM family,

Jo

President & Membership Chair
Barbara Jo Converse Stevens



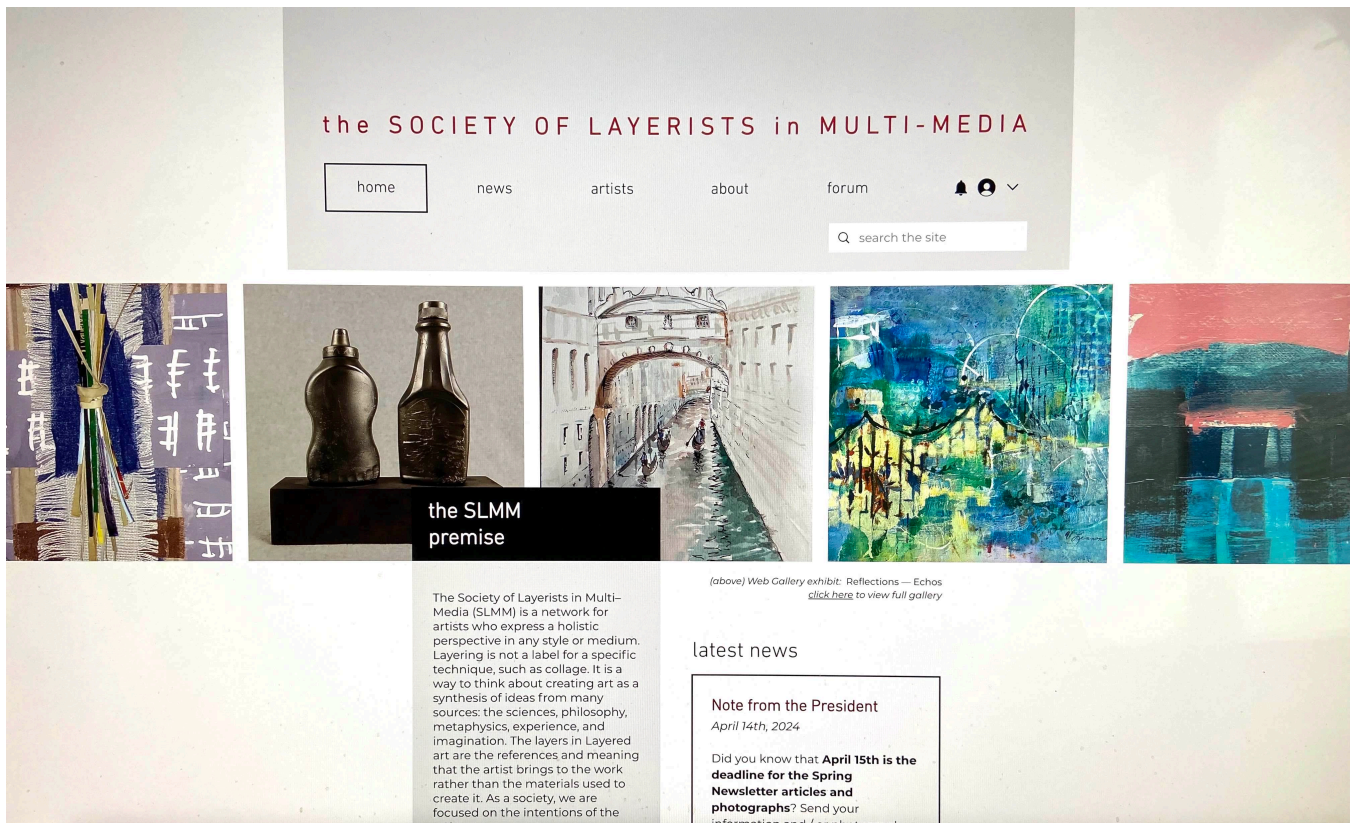
What is this year's newsletter theme?



A SLMM member recently asked me, "What is the theme for this newsletter?" I never really thought about having a theme as I always printed what was sent to me. A couple of recent newsletters, "Celebrating SLMM's 40th Anniversary" (Spring, 2022), and "Remembering and Honoring Founder Mary Carroll Nelson" (Fall, 2022), definitely could be considered themed. *Back to the question, What is this year's theme?* It occurs to me we have been putting lots of effort into "How to SLMM." So, along with the usual information, it is time to review just how to get your money's worth out of your membership and have fun doing it!

How to SLMM

The Creative Growth Committee (formerly called Professional Development) chaired by Jean Griffin with committee members Beth DeMont and Kathleen Kuchar have been meeting to discuss ways to help all members discover how SLMM can enrich their creative journey. The committee's first goal will be to contact the most recent members on "How to SLMM" with a welcome card including a simple outline of all the ways they can participate in our organization. **The SLMM website is where it all begins.**



The **Website Committee** is chaired by Sue Burke Harrington with committee members Liz Ruest and Barbara Jo Converse Stevens. They act as a liaison to Susan Dreiling who is our Web Designer and Administrator. [We are so grateful for all the hard work they put in to making our website current and beautiful.](#)

By looking at the photo from my computer screen, note the **Menu** across the top where you can find so much information. Like we said earlier, "How to SLMM" starts with the website.

Let's start with the **Home page**. This is where you will find the SLMM premise, Note from the President, Calendar of Events, and across the top you will see a banner of the current web gallery artwork.

On the Home page under **resources** you will find **Calendar of Events**. By viewing the calendar, you will be able to see upcoming events. This is where you will notice the three **Zoom** meetings each week and the monthly book club. On the day you want to join the Zoom, just click on the calendar link and you will be connected with the group Zoom. You also can find the most recent **newsletter** and the archives. By looking at previous newsletters, you can catch up on past events and get a better sense of our organization. [If you are new to SLMM or just want to refresh your memory, check out the 2022 Spring issue celebrating the 40th Anniversary of SLMM. The Fall issue of that same year was dedicated to our founder, Mary Carroll Nelson, who passed away in September of 2022. Without Mary Carroll Nelson there would be no Society of Layerists in Multi-Media!](#)

art are the references and meaning that the artist brings to the work rather than the materials used to create it. As a society, we are focused on the intentions of the artist.

Layering is an evanescent metaphor that grows like moss from living and learning. Often there is a sense of something "other" than the visible in Layered art. The kinship among Layerists is their openness to inspiration from all aspects of their lives and their shared perception of an underlying connectedness to everything.


— Mary Carroll Nelson, SLMM founder

[read the full premise >>](#)

[read more from Mary Carroll Nelson](#)

Did you know that **April 15th is the deadline for the Spring Newsletter articles and photographs**? Send your information and / or photographs to Kathleen Kuchar at kakuchar@hotmail.com. And thank Kathleen for the service she provides free of charge in recording Member News for posterity! THANK YOU KATHLEEN!!!!!!

HUGS
— Jo



New Exhibits
View our latest show, "Interpreting the Spirit of Nature by Maxine Masterfield." The SLMM Book Club chose this book to read and were inspired to create art. It was filled it was great fun with many layers! [Click here](#) to view.

resources

Calendar of Events
[View the SLMM Calendar here](#) to see upcoming events and opportunities to connect, like our popular Open Studios.

Newsletters
Check out the most recent [Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter, Vol. 117](#).
You can view the newsletter archives [here](#).

web gallery project

[view the gallery](#)

April theme: **Reflections — Echos**

The **Web Gallery** project is also found on the Home page. The current quarterly exhibition has the theme "Reflections-Echos". The next Web Gallery exhibition will have no theme so anything goes! The deadline will be July 1 and you can begin posting in June. The image should be no larger than 1 MB and you have the option to write a short statement concerning the artwork. [We are striving to get every member to participate so when it is time to post, go to the website and click on "view the gallery" where you will find the link to enter your artwork. If you need help, contact Susan Dreiling or Sue Burke Harrington or one of her committee members, Liz Ruest and Barbara Jo Converse Stevens.](#)

On the Home page you will notice our **President's weekly message**. In this photograph of the Home page, notice the "New Exhibits". Here is where you can view the latest exhibits. Book Club members read the book by Maxine Masterfield called "The Spirit of Nature" and were inspired to create art based on what they read. [Check out this exciting virtual exhibition!](#)

The menu item after Home is **News**. With the drop down menu, you will find the Calendar, Exhibitions, Conferences, Newsletters, Member News, Creative Expressions, and Web Gallery. There is so much to explore.

The next menu item is **Artists**. [Enjoy looking this over and if your name isn't listed, now is the time to do it!](#) The **Artist Link** costs nothing, and since the SLMM website is open to the public, imagine how many people will be able to see your artwork. This is a valuable membership benefit. You will be able to have one artwork, contact information, and an optional statement.

You do have a second option called an **Artists Page**. This does have a one-time \$60 fee but that is modest for all you get. It's almost like having a website of your own. Here you can post additional photos of your artwork, have a bio, resume, and longer statement. [You can update your page as often as you would like at no additional fee.](#) If you prefer this option, scroll down to the bottom of the Artists Page for the link to learn more. Susan Dreiling, Website Administrator, sets this all up for you for a one-time \$60 fee payable directly to her. Susan's email is susya.dreiling@gmail.com

The next menu item is **About**. This is loaded with information about our organization. Have fun browsing and reading about our premise, founder, history, books, and much more.

Up until now, we have been viewing the public parts of our SLMM website. The next menu item is the **Forum**, a private and secure place to connect with other SLMM members. You do need to set up a password and be approved, but it is very easy to do. Here you can post and view many categories. Check it out!

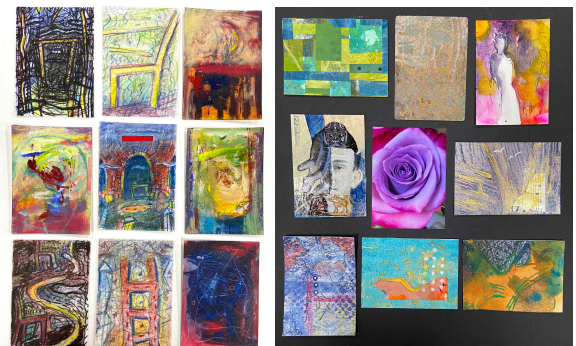
As your editor, I sometimes get carried away. Looking at what I just wrote seems excessive! I should just delete what I wrote and say the following: *Just go to the website and explore. There is so much!* The more I find on it, the more I realize just how connected we are as an organization. I also feel more grateful for our Website Committee of Sue, Liz and Jo. Of course, Susan Dreiling, Administrator and Website Designer, deserves more accolades than I can muster up. *So, please enjoy the ever changing, ever improving, website.*

Additional Ways to SLMM Special Projects

Members are enjoying the **Special Projects** organized by the committee Co-Chaired by Judie Bordic, Vicky Lennon, and Nancy Nikkal. The committee is thrilled for the opportunity to create new fun challenges for all members and to enable new forward connections. *If you have participated in one of these projects, you know just how much fun it has been. Personally, I have enjoyed them all!*

Since the last newsletter circulated, SLMM'S Special Project Committee has enjoyed coordinating some fun and creative activities. Some projects have been collaborations between members. What a great way to promote connections and get to know one another better. Sharing the finished artwork is the icing on the cake! Some have posted photographs on their profile page, on the SLMM Facebook page, Instagram and/or the Forum. The committee points out that showing the artwork to others might be a way to attract new members and possibly garner sales.

The most recent Special Project was the "3rd Annual Artist Trading Card (ATC) Exchange". The ATC group members enjoyed creating miniature 2.5"x3.5" gems that were exchanged for ATC cards from other members. Judie Bordic did a fantastic job receiving and distributing the cards. *What a thrill it is to go to the mailbox and find these treasures!* Pictured are the 9 ATC's I created, and on the right are the ones I got in exchange. Bix Griffith, a new member, put together a slide show of the "3rd Annual ATC Exchange. She did a fantastic job. *We are so happy to have Bix join SLMM. She is a third generation member along with her mother, Nicola Mason and her grandmother, Georgia Mason.*



The current **Special Project** is titled, "Favorites & Their Impact." This theme entails individual members creating artwork influenced by aspects of their favorite artists. The media and size are the member's choice. There are many unique opportunities in this fun challenge which is certain to be *very special*. All you have to do to participate in this exciting project is to send an email message saying "Yes" and "Your Name" to judie_77339@yahoo.com by April 27. You should have received an email inviting you to enter and with the information and details. The next step is to create your artwork. You have until June 29th to finish and send photos of your entry. The virtual exhibition will be displayed on the SLMM website. As the committee says, *Your days will be fun and interesting in your studio, and we can't wait to see all your results.* *I said YES to Judie, and now I am mulling over which artist has inspired me. There have been many...but I will definitely decide and get started on this exciting project. I will be sharing a short note, although not required, to explain who, why &/or what influenced my selection. It could be their process, their media, their design. I can do this!*

In review, there are so many ways to SLMM! If you haven't taken advantage of the ways to connect, now is the perfect time. Nature is starting to bloom, be refreshed, and starting new growth, so why not us! I love the friendships I have made by frequent Zoom meetings and especially through the Special Projects.

Member News

Kit Croucher

She writes, "I am so pleased to be back in this group of outstanding artists. Some years ago I spotted a SLMM book in a San Francisco bookstore, purchased it and joined up. I had found my tribe." Kit's last event as a SLMM member was the conference held in San Francisco in 2015. Since then, she has been creating and teaching art in her hometown of Canandaigua, New York.

The piece shown here is titled *Life is a Multimedia Path* and is a digital image.

[Welcome back to SLMM, Kit! We are so happy to have you back with us.](#)



Beth DeMont

A year ago in March, Beth had both hands operated on for carpal tunnel syndrome.

This March she had rotator cuff surgery to repair two tears and remove the bursa in her shoulder. "Creating art will be put on hold for some time with 12 weeks in a sling and recovery. Physical therapy is going well. I am excited to serve with Jean Griffith and Kathleen Kuchar on the SLMM Creative Growth Committee. These amazing artists are so much fun to work with! I was very sad that Barb Stevens lost the love of her life, Charlie. I always got a chuckle out of him! I learned so many things about him I did not know! He was an incredibly talented artist. I will miss him. Hopefully when I recover I will get back into the swing of things! I enjoy this group so much."

Nancy Dunaway

Nancy is one of the artists participating in an exhibition of art by mothers called "MotherLOAD". The show will be at the Gallery at the Argenta Public Library North Little Rock Public Library System at 420 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR April 18th-May 10th. It began with an opening reception Friday, April 19th, 5pm-8pm, as part of Argenta 3rd Friday Art Walk.

"MotherLOAD" is an exhibition of over 35 artworks, both 2D and 3D, made about motherhood. Art about motherhood is often overlooked or written off as unremarkable or unimportant. The experience and work of motherhood is not to be taken lightly or disregarded. Art created about this universal experience should be seen and celebrated. The work in this show is made by artists in Central Arkansas who are also mothers. Nancy says "Our work invites you to reconsider the depth and significance of the narrative of motherhood, as told by us, *The Mothers*."



Nancy says this will be a great show and the pieces are actually older ones celebrating her own mother and her relationship with her. SLMM folks will recognize the one on the left as it was shown at the Museum in Albuquerque at the anniversary show.

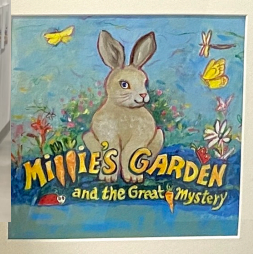
The Burden of Beauty, 47"x36"x1.5" mixed media on canvas. On the right is *Mama Said it Was a Wishing Stone*, mixed media sculptural book, 21"x13"x3".



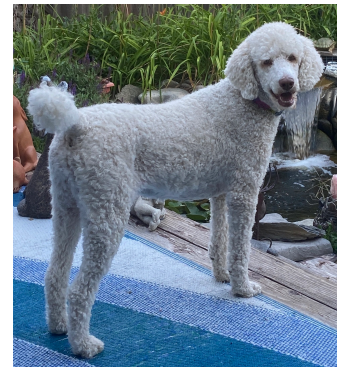


Kathleen Kuchar

The new HaysMed Childcare Center purchased the illustrations Kathleen created for the children’s book, *Millie’s Garden*. The ribbon cutting for the new facility was on November 29, 2023. The author, Joyce Frey (on left) and Kathleen were in attendance and were excited to see the illustrations lining the hall. Millie has found her permanent home and will give joy to children for years to come. *We never dreamed that this little rabbit would end up in a Childcare Center!*



My adopted dog from a breeder release, Ellie, after 14 months of trying to do her best but not succeeding, ended up back at the Rescue where she was adopted by a family with children. I do believe she will be happier with younger folks to keep her busy and out of trouble! For those who have followed her story, Ellie, progressed from being terrified of people to loving everyone she met. She learned her basic commands and graduated from dog obedience class. But her biggest problem she could not overcome was her desire to chew up everything in sight. When I had my back turned, she managed to open tubes of paint, chew on the lazy boy handles, chew up magazines, charging cables, remote controls, and many of Owen’s (my 13-year old dog) soft squeaky toys. I gave it my best shot and it was not easy to take her back, but Owen seems happier and I am getting lots more done in the studio.



Vickie Lennon

Vickie was pleased to have a solo show the month of March at Vicar’s Landing in Ponte Verda Beach, FL. The video is on her website www.VickyLennon.com. “I have really been enjoying our Zoom meetings and studio time. Everyone was so encouraging as I fretted about the show.”

Vickie shared her journey as she prepared for this exhibition by Zooming on Tuesdays and at the studio Zooms on Monday and Saturday. We all could see the work and give her support as she prepared for this big show. We talked, we laughed and shared ideas. I do believe Vickie could feel we were in her corner! *This is one advantage of joining us on the Zooms—support and encouragement.*



Marlene Meitl

Recently, Marlene came to Hays, KS to pick up artwork and have lunch with some high school classmates and SLMM friends. She says it was fun to share laughter and good conversation even if it was just for a few hours. Marlene, a McCook, NE artist, tells us that Nebraska is the only state where the Art Clubs all get together for a conference. This year the Association of Nebraska Art Clubs meets in

Fremont, NE from June 12-15. The judge and instructor is portrait artist Suzann Beck from Minnesota. There will be a variety of classes to take so check out their Facebook page. Pictured left to right: Dottie Staab, Barbara Jo Stevens, Marlene Meitl, and Kathleen Kuchar. *It looks like it was a windy day in Kansas! We are hoping Dottie joins SLMM. We planted the seed!*

Karla Prickett

Karla has been involved in an exciting project. In January 2021, she was invited by Meridith McNeal, Director of Art Yard Brooklyn, to participate in their **Advanced Studio Zoom** sessions. The pandemic had dictated organizations not meet in person and this created an opportunity for Karla to join in from Kansas! "I was a bit nervous but so excited to become part of a much larger world while Covid kept us so isolated"! **ART YARD BROOKLYN** is a not-for-profit arts organization that provides contemporary visual art education for underserved and often marginalized kids, teens, adults, and practicing artists of all ages via dedicated classes and K-12 school partnerships. Participants are supported, mentored and given opportunities as artists and teachers. Last July, Karla received a Salina Arts & Humanities, Horizons Grant to engage with this program as a resident teaching artist for one week during their "in-person" Summer Session. "It was amazing to meet the artists who I had worked with over so many months!"

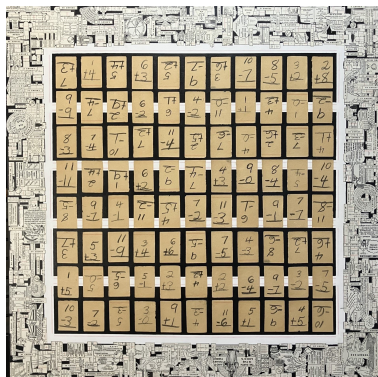
Advanced Studio Zoom is a two-hour class taught by the program participants/artists who are an intergenerational group including many undergrad and graduate level art students and studio artists. Each week's session is taught by a different artist. Teaching artists must submit a well-developed lesson plan with theme and inspirational images, videos, etc., to support a subject, technique or style of expression. Presentations are about 30 minutes followed by one-hour of compositional response time. Works are then shared on screen with each artist explaining their concept and how they interpreted the lesson. Karla says "We then may offer comparisons and each artist is called on to provide any compliments on works shared.

If works are not complete that evening, images may be sent online by the end of the week. A narrative and visual recap is emailed to everyone so completed works can be enjoyed by all. This weekly engagement with artists of various cultures who live such a different lifestyle than I in Kansas, has really challenged me creatively and taken me out of my comfort zone. The classes call for an immediate compositional response, unlike my deliberate and tedious studio works that might take a couple months to complete. I cannot praise this studio model more! I will present a second exhibition, "The Brooklyn

Exchange II', works created in these classes at the Lobby Gallery, Peaceful Body and Wellness, downtown Salina, KS during May and June. Public receptions will be the first Fridays of each month from 5-7pm." Pictured are some of the artworks being exhibited in this show. The titles are *AY Eyrie*, *Collage Lesson Floral*, *Humans*, *Nature and the Built Environment*. (Karla is preparing an exhibit of over 30 artworks created during her once-a-week creative exchanges).



Karla had two artworks selected for the "55th Annual Smoky Hill Art Exhibition" in Hays, KS from April 27-June 7. They are *Rote*, 36"x36" mixed media on canvas and *Solutions*, 30"x30" mixed media on canvas. Another show accepting her work is the Salina Art Center's "Mountain Plains Contemporary Biennial", May 22-September 1.



Liz Ruest

Liz has been working on moving to Vancouver BC, from Seattle, and after many small steps and stumbles in that direction, she sees signs that it's working.



"I have managed to change and update enough of the backend of my website so that I can once again offer sales of my print on demand work. Pieces like *Blaze with Light* are now available here: <https://www.redbubble.com/people/lizruest>

Liz has found a couple of local collage shows, one in each city, that will have work up for World Collage Day, May 11th. Details are on Liz's website: <https://www.lizruest.com/2024/wcd-2024/>

Liz always encourages members to sign up for the Forum on our SLMM website. As your editor, I couldn't agree more. This is a perfect place to post information in the interim between newsletters, in particular, the categories Art News and Life Events. This is a great way to connect and share and also works well for those unable to join us on our weekly Zooms.

Barbara Jo Converse Stevens

For those of you who have not heard, Barbara Jo's husband, Charlie, passed away on February 19th. Barbara says "Charlie lived every moment right up to his last breath and taught us all how to live fully in spite of adversity and do it with Grace and dignity. Because of his wonderful attitude, he left me and my sons with the gift of PEACE. For all of you who continued to support Charlie and me through this amazing journey the last year, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your love and support gave us strength to carry on. Charlie was continually amazed that so many of you reached out to him and this touched his heart and made every day special. I will never forget your help in making his end of life journey so amazing".

Barbara Jo writes, "Often in our lives we are faced with life changes—new jobs, marriage, births, death, so we step forth into the unknown making alterations in routine, schedules, attitudes. Often during those times, I wondered how I would manage, and if I would be able to continue working on my artwork. This last year was one of those times when I put my art last on the list, creating only three pieces. I now have time to get back to my painting, and hopefully my ceramics this summer. I wondered if I had any creative juice left in me! So I decided to PLAY like the 5-year old I always joke about living inside me!"

She continues, "When a child paints, there are no restrictions, no reservations, no 'right or wrong', ONLY PURE JOY! So away I went, slathering the first layer of paint on with my hands, NO BRUSHES ALLOWED—remember, I'm PLAYING! JOY DID BURST FORTH from my chest in a physical feeling that I had never before experienced! My 15-year old grandson happened to be visiting me, and he later told me I looked like a very small child at Christmas! I SQUEALED and LAUGHED OUT LOUD and SQUEALED SOME MORE! OH MY! What a FEELING! I am sharing the painting I completed with you, not because I won an award, or because it is exhibited in a big gallery, but to share my joy of creating with you and ask the question I've been struggling with ever since that day—Why did I have to wait for a life-altering experience to happen before this kind of creative joy was released?"

Pictured is her 36"x24" mixed-media painting titled *Lovely Connection*.



Barbara Jo says, "I am now on a new path, a new journey, but I am determined to let this creative joy, the passion I have held inside for SO LONG, to explode with every new piece. I know not every painting will be a success, or that the joy will always be at such a high level, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that I keep creating, keep PLAYING with passion, and to share it with others who love and support me. I especially thank my SLMM family."

Welcome new SLMM members, 2023-2024

Lynne Anderson, Bix Griffith, Susan E. Hall, Aminah Herrman, Lesley Humphrey, Louise Lachance, Kathleen Mooney, Johanna Riddle, Arlene Seymour, Emmalee C. Treadway.

Welcome back Kit Croucher and Anne L. Morgan. *We are so glad to have you back!*



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.

In Memoriam—Nina M. Adkins. Laura Pope, past SLMM president, wrote this in remembrance of Nina who passed away in December. “The close of 2023 had a very sad ending with the passing of another

longtime SLMM member, Nina M. Adkins, Albuquerque, NM. Nina was a cornerstone of the southwest membership, serving as a regional coordinator before handing it over to me in 2008. She was an enthusiastic and active member, graciously hosting many of our local meetings in her southwest home. Nina had a great love of art and life, blessing all of us who got to know her with colorful paintings, spiky red hair, bright smile, and hearty laugh. Her unwavering optimism was inspiration to us all and she will be greatly missed. Namaste sweet spirit.”



When SLMM held their conference in Albuquerque, Nina graciously hosted a wonderful reception at her lovely home and studio. I will always treasure having met this most generous and authentic woman who made a big difference in everything she did.

Artist Retreat

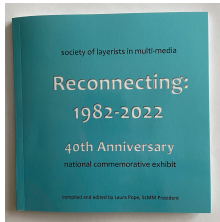
SLMM members, left to right, Ann Hartley, Linda Penrod, Sue Burke Harrington (with her dog Mollie) and Kathy Farr have been painting together for many years at the Hill Country Arts Foundation in Ingram, TX. In January, they set up their easels for a wonderful week of creating art and renewing friendships. This year they had a special guest and supervisor, Mollie, who accompanied her mom, Sue Burke Harrington. Janet Ruffin and Mary Wilbanks usually join the group but both were not up to it this year.



Conference News

The board is still in the planning stages for a 2025 or perhaps 2026 conference. Keep your fingers crossed! Until we meet again in person, we can continue to connect with Zooming, Web Gallery, Book Club, SLMM Facebook page, Instagram, Special Projects and snail mail. Even though we are miles apart, we can still feel connected with all that SLMM offers. I don't know of any other organization that offers so much for a modest membership fee!

Last Chance!



As of June 30, 2024, Laura Pope will discontinue the printing of the commemorative exhibit book *Reconnecting: 1982-2022*. Since it contains a special forward by Mary Carroll and a tribute to her after her death, Laura wants to give SLMM members a last chance to order it before that date. The commemorative exhibit book celebrating the 40th Anniversary of SLMM is currently available for purchase through the SLMM website link under BOOKS (Amazon) and is \$15. The paperback edition contains 72 images of work by members as well as a forward and tribute to our SLMM founder, Mary Carroll Nelson. The book is edited by Laura Pope and was published December 10, 2022.



I love my book! If you don't already have one, this is your last chance. Just go to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and under the books category, type in *Reconnecting: 1982-2022* or SLMM. Easy! Fast! And so worth it to have this 40th Anniversary book. The price is right too. Just \$15. plus tax and shipping. **After June 30, you can't get one.** On the left is an example of two of the 72 artists, Sandra Duran Wilson and Diana Wong.

Pacific Coast Group

The group is currently having an online exhibition with the theme "Yellow" found on the SLMM website under News—click on Exhibitions. They held an online Artist Reception, April 22. In almost every culture, the color yellow represents sunshine, happiness and warmth. Yellow is the color of traffic lights and signs indicating caution all over the world. In Japan, yellow indicates courage and in the west, cowardliness. What does the color yellow mean to you? What feelings, memories, emotions does it invoke? The only requirement for this project was to make the color yellow prominent or obvious. [I love what these artists created! Please look at the website exhibition and be prepared to be awed! Doesn't this give you all inspiration to work with a color that speaks to you?](#)

Karen Van Hooser

Karen shares this poem by William Wordsworth.

"When all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."

She says "Isn't this a lovely thought".

[I was delighted to learn more about Karen when I was reading the September, 2010, newsletter. The headline read: SLMM has a new Executive Administrator.](#) "After many years, Carleen Hearn has stepped down as SLMM's Executive Administrator. Susan Hallsten McGarry, a long time member of SLMM, suggested Karen Van Hooser as a possible replacement...Our new Executive Administrator, Karen Van Hooser, is an accountant who comes to us with experience working with non-profit organizations. '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,' said Carleen."

"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 an accountant for several artists. I make at least two trips to Santa Fe annually, one of which, is for the non-profit 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." Karen.

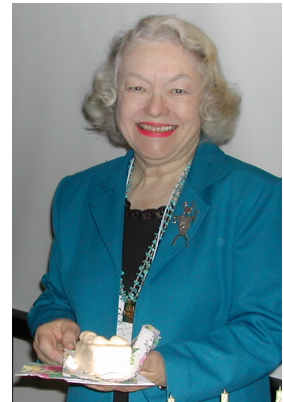
Well, there you have it! Karen has been with SLMM for 14 years! We are so fortunate, so blessed, so happy that Karen Van Hooser said "Yes" in 2010. I first met Karen at the Austin, TX conference held in 2010. Since then we have become good friends and even better ones now that I am the newsletter editor. She is my right arm with proofreading, checking facts, etc. Thanks, Karen, for all you do for SLMM!

Remembering the Past

It was 20 years ago in April (2004) that SLMM held its conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Nancy Dunaway took over the reigns as President from Richard Newman and our 3rd book was unveiled, *The Art of Layering: Making Connections*. You can find all our books on the homepage of the website under **about/books**. There are only a few copies remaining of *Bridging Time and Space* (1998).



The national exhibition, held at the Blue Moon Gallery, was titled "Natural Elements: Internal and External Environments". To the right, Mary Carroll Nelson, founder, celebrated her 75th birthday. On the bottom



left is Ann Hartley, and in the center are four of our members who all have passed away. Left to right, Marilyn Christenson, Mary Carroll Nelson, Hannah Nepote, and Ash Wood.



Book Review by Mary Carroll Nelson

Mary Carroll loved books, read books, wrote books, and reviewed them too! After reading Mary's review of Diana Wong's autobiography, "Merging, The Labyrinth and Beyond," in the 2005 Fall newsletter, I knew I must buy it! I finally found this out-of-print gem on a used book website. I took this picture of Diana, longtime SLMM member from California, at the 2015 Conference in San Francisco. This review is so well written that I felt the need to share the exact words that Mary Carroll wrote in 2005. It also spotlights one of our amazing SLMM members, Diana.



"Merging, The Labyrinth and Beyond", the Art and Life of Diana Wong by Diana Shui-Iu Wong

Diana Wong has been the subject of several distinguished illustrated monographs, but none has matched the personal depth of her new autobiography MERGING, THE LABYRINTH AND BEYOND, Art and Life of Diana Wong. In this gorgeous publication, the author creatively links her life with the structure of the "I Ching". Though Diana's three brothers were named to honor the four virtues of the hexagram 'Chien' from the "I Ching", she writes, "I was left

out of this particular arrangement because of my gender, although I would come into a deep relationship with this ancient system on my own many years later.”

Tracing the square labyrinth of the “I Ching”, Diana describes its Nine Palaces of Water. Earth. Thunder. Wind, the Center, Heaven, Lake and Mountain, fitting her passage through time to this pattern with the delicacy and grace of a butterfly.

In English and Chinese, the book unfolds with a brief reference to how, 6000 years ago, Chief Fu-Hu created the symbols of the Yin and Yang concept which grew into the 64-hexagrams of the “I Ching”. “These hexagrams represent the psychological, ethical and spiritual states of the conscious mind. In the last twenty years, the ‘I Ching’ has been likened to the combined possibilities of the 64 fundamental genetic codes.” Since 1997, Diana Wong has been the president of the American “I Ching” Society.

Wong’s art illuminates her gentle lessons, beginning with the Introduction. One of her masterful expositions of the “I Ching” was presented at the Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles in a performance of music and dance with a commentary in 1994. It later traveled to the Beijing National Art Gallery and the Brea University in Milan, Italy. The work itself is comprised of 721 wooden and foam tiles set on the floor in the pattern of the Labyrinth.

The “I Ching” has multiple meanings, references, and diagrams. On a double-page spread, in red and white, Diana unlocks the “I Ching” code in a chart, comparing corresponding names of the Palaces, their English equivalents, their ancient calligraphic symbol, their cardinal directions, their hexagrams, their contemporary hieroglyphic brushed symbol, their number—one through nine—and five elements of water, wood, earth, metal and fire.

Each of the nine chapters is set off with a black divider, beside the first image of a Gateway formed of a single color of rice papers, centered with a flow of watery tones. These gates create a rhythmic design for the book and a series of openings into the aspects of Diana’s life. She sketches in her father and mother within the palaces of Water and Earth. Her father was a traditional scholarly merchant who brought Western business principals to Hong Kong. She is the daughter of his concubine, later his second wife, a beautiful, sensitive woman whose protection allowed Diana to seek and find freedom, although she was raised in the Old Hong Kong surrounded by an extended family. As a two-year old child during the Japanese invasions, she had a solo escapade that ended with her sucking a lollipop at the police station. She says that it must have seemed that life was a wondrous adventure then and “To this day, I still have that feeling.”

Going out into the world took her to Italy and to England in search of Western art’s bountiful use of color. Here, under the heading “Spontaneity,” she gives us a lastingly useful insight into the life of an artist:

“Spontaneity rises from zero, in the pool of emptiness with infinite possibility. In the creation of art, technique and concept are quite important, but when you are trying too hard, it becomes a struggle. To me the magic of creation happens when intention and serendipity meet—when the heart and hand of the artist become one. Spontaneity requires freedom from one’s own thoughts and judgments of right and wrong. It takes some time and courage not to judge your own work or worry about what other people might think. Where is the courage coming from? It is from a commitment to the best possible. After that, you have to let go and let the work take over.”

On her return from Europe, she opened an independent studio and began a flourishing career as a classic painter. She soon fell in love, married and had a daughter—a time of bliss. Yet, the journey she touches upon so lightly is not without hardships. Her husband, early in their life together, became ill, so ill they left their daughter behind to seek a cure in New York. Sadly, it did not happen, but this unhappy detour brought Diana to America. She and her little girl Lia settled in California. “I found Los Angeles, this huge town of provincial characters and isolated communities, rather settling. The absence of old cultures—a big difference from Europe and Asia—brought out my freedom of expression.”

“Merging” is lavishly illustrated with color plates set within the 10.5” x 10.5” pages in ample scale for us to enjoy their subtle connections to nature and inner experience expressed with assertive color and abstract intent, often with enamel and acrylic paint. Diana Wong has not abandoned her classical art education: she has used it to lend integrity to her bold, calligraphic style. She is herself a tiny woman, but her art is large in impact as well as physical scale, up to 120” is not uncommon for her work.



The book unfolds in themes rather than in sequence, but we can follow Wong's progress as an artist towards vivid synthesis and, finally, Transcendence, a chapter devoted to Nu Wah, the revered mother of "I Ching". Two poetic contributions from Diana's "I Ching" professor Jerry Wang and her spiritual sister Yuen Miao grace this chapter. Diana writes, "I am always delighted to hear what other people see through a different angle. Art is the mirror of the world seen by you and me, reflecting."



When SLMM held its conference in Los Angeles in 2009, Diana graciously opened her beautiful studio. It was a WOW moment for me, seeing the gigantic canvases in progress and hearing how she works. Mary Carroll's face tells it all! I loved the labyrinth near her doorway.



Book Club

Mary Carroll's love for books and her in-depth review of Diana's book is an inspiration. SLMM is the place to go for sharing the love of art through books. To learn more, join one of their Zooms and/or browse the information found on the Forum. These are both found on the website. Their most recent book was Maxine Masterfield's "Painting the Spirit of Nature." The various techniques in the book inspired some exciting new artwork. Please visit the Exhibitions page under News on the website to see this exhibition and others including the March "Artist Trading Cards" exhibition and the recent Pacific group show "Yellow".

Bonus Photos & Information

Wouldn't you know it! I couldn't resist putting in some extras for your enjoyment. Sue Burke Harrington had fun digging back into her pictures from past January retreats at the Hill Country Arts Foundation and sent this photo with the group enjoying dinner out after a busy day in the studio. On the right, sitting behind Ann Hartley, is the late Delda Skinner who brought plastic ice cubes that flashed when put in their wine glasses. Sue said, "We proclaimed ourselves the sisterhood of the flashing lights!"

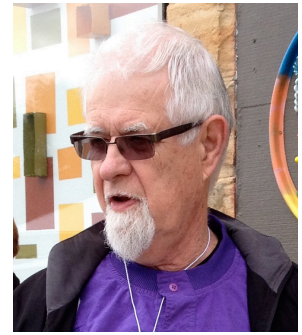


At Christmas, Jamie Kelty, SLMM member from San Francisco, visited family in Hays, KS and joined Kathleen Kuchar and Cal Mahin for breakfast at the local diner.



I found this cool photo of Vickie and John Lennon with Terri MacDonald taken in 2013 at the Atlanta conference. Wow, that was 11 years ago!

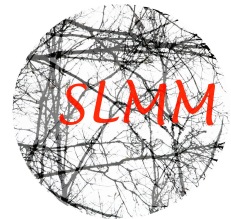
In winding up this newsletter, I think it is appropriate to go back to what both Richard Newman and founder, Mary Carroll Nelson said about SLMM in the 1993 newsletter. Richard Newman in his president's message to the membership said, "The spirit of SLMM is about giving and receiving, not career moves nor competition. If we are going to succeed as an organization, every member needs to feel invested in our future and eager to further our desire to make art less of a commodity and more of a dialogue." That still speaks to us 31 years later!



In that same newsletter, Mary Carroll Nelson, founder, wrote, "Layerists are usually mature artists who have had enough experience to sense the multiple connections that find expression in 'layered art'. When you encourage someone to join SLMM, consider what holism means. It means boundary-less-ness, a network more like our veins than a ladder. SLMM is a society of equals who encourages one another. It is a safe place to be oneself."

Mary Carroll Nelson passed away on Sept. 11, 2022, at the age of 93. I believe she would approve of all the activities that SLMM has introduced for members these last few years. She was all about connecting and networking with all of us being equals. Mary Carroll was a gentle, kind, and wise woman who cared deeply about everyone.

SLMM has been moving and shaking these past six months! If you have been on the ride, you know how much fun its been. If you are ready to jump on board, now is the time! As we said at the beginning of this newsletter, **it all begins with www.slm.org** Hope you can join us on a Zoom. If you can't Zoom because of other obligations, the Tuesday Zoom recordings are sent out to all via email. **And as we learned in this newsletter, there are many "Ways to SLMM"!**



Wishing everyone a happy and creative spring and summer! **Kathleen**



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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 homepage/news/newsletter.

[Next due date is October 15, 2024.](#)

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) 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 (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 am always so excited to receive your news and to share it with our membership. I can't believe this is my 19th issue! Be sure to mention the website to your artist friends and to share your enthusiasm for this amazing organization. SLMM embraces all forms of creative expression, so if you know of artists, musicians, dancers, actors, writers... encourage them to join SLMM.