

PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER

May 2025

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Members please bring an early art work along with a more recent piece for a special 'GUESS THE ARTIST' feature of our May 19, 6:30 PM meeting. There are no rules except please mask your signature to make guessing harder! Attached are two examples of early works from members whose works you have seen in the 'Spring' exhibit that just concluded at CJT.

We will also hold a vote to amend the BLFA Standing Rules and Bylaws, (Pages 12-14) now combined into one document.



Can you guess who drew these?

The activity for May meeting (the 19th) will be Art Hot Potato...we will supply pads and pencils (or other) and present a beautiful photo on the TV screen. Each artist will draw for 2 minutes, then pass the art onto the person to the left of them, receiving the person on their right's art and add to it for 2 minutes. And so on (for about 30 minutes). Each artwork will be a combination of all artists' work.

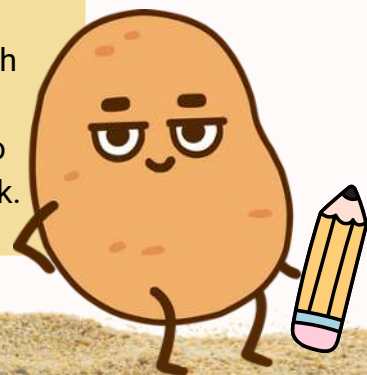


JOIN US

May 19, 2025
6:30 pm



At Creative Junk Therapy
776 W. Lumsden Road
Brandon, FL



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Failures" sometimes magically transform into surprising success.

I've had my share of misfortunes, some of which almost seemed brewed up from The Land of Supernatural Bad Luck. Amazingly I've seen this same mysterious force produce the exact opposite.

EXHIBIT A: As a High School student I worked for months on the required NINE artworks for a scholarship to a prestigious Art School. The day before it was due to be submitted, I found out it was TEN artworks! I quickly put together a watercolor (which I had never done and had a dirty shoe print on the back, no kidding) to fulfill the requirements. Well, I didn't get the scholarship- but the watercolor I did in 20 minutes got Honorable Mention.

EXHIBIT B: Years ago I found out about the popularity of adult coloring books, and prepped up sketches for what I thought were sure-fire winners. Someone suggested I also send a discarded, silly little sketch, hesitated, then relented. The silly sketch was chosen, ending up being the genesis of a top seller online and in Bookshops.

EXHIBIT C: A friend told me of a Butterfly Festival with an art contest as the central feature. I thought "Butterflies? I've never done butterflies... I don't think that's my thing". After much pestering I gave in and did it. It won an award and to this day is a favored art print that inspired other such creations.

EXHIBIT D: An idea popped in my head of an unusual artwork for an exhibit. A fellow artist didn't see the possibilities that I did, but remembering all the times I second-guessed myself, I surged ahead getting it submitted just in time...you guessed it... got an award.

There are in fact no "failures"...just an infinite number of tries and with that, chances of success. Put it all out there and let The Land of Supernatural Luck decide! You never know where it will go.



David Bodo, President,
Brandon League of Fine Arts
bodoartworks@gmail.com

April Meeting



Spring Art Show

Our Spring Art show was full of beautiful works! If you would like to see them all, please [click here](#) to visit our Facebook Page! 😊

Artist & SPOTLIGHT *Michele Young*

Written by Guy Learn



Before the internet and cell phones were available, what could a youngster do to pass the time when they had no siblings to play with? Well, if you had family members that were artistically inclined and you were somewhat curious about their art supplies, you might consider trying your hand at creating some art of your own. Such was the case with Michele, and so at a young age it became common to find her drawing in her free time. This ended up being an interest that would never fade.

If you're familiar with her work, it should be no surprise that she did quite well in her high school art classes. Then, after high school she fully intended to pursue a career in art, but the art world can be a complicated environment. And for better or for worse, an art professor familiar with her work found her style to be "too realistic" for the whims of the contemporary art market, and so he discouraged her in this endeavor. But what was a sad reality with the art world ended up being the good fortune for numerous children with intellectual and physical disabilities as Michele changed her major to Special Education, and there, her pleasant demeanor and talent for connecting with people led to a rewarding career in teaching that spanned thirty years.

So, her art interests took a long ride in the back seat. Actually, teaching wasn't her first stint that involved her talent with people skills, although the first was in somewhat of an incognito mode. The day after she turned 16, she got her driver's license and drove to Orlando to audition for a job at Disney World. There, she ended up working seasonally in the character department and even had the privilege of performing in shows outside of Cinderella's castle and leading the character parade. But much of the fun was in casual venues entertaining guests on Main Street and such. There her repertoire of characters included: Mickey, Minnie, Pinocchio and Daisy Duck. So, it's possible that some of you may have met her before and not even known. It is indeed a small world! But back the more enduring events of her life ... As her Special Education career was winding down, her husband gifted her art lessons from the talented artist and coach, Bob Carter. And so it was, that with her eventual retirement, the gift of lessons, and taking advantage of several self-learning opportunities in art, she began to revive her artistic interests. Fortunately, though, for the special-needs population, she didn't discard her talents there and still enjoys a YouTube channel that she created for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Artist & SPOTLIGHT Michele Young

Written by Guy Learn

For the most part, her art picked up where it left off back in her college years, and she started to refine her talents in creating realistic, finely detailed drawings. Colored pencils seemed best suited to her style and subjects, but she also found the pencils to be quite time-consuming and physically taxing. So, being the creative person that she is, she found a way to speed up the process by combining pastels with the colored pencils. As for her preferred subject matter, Michele favors nostalgic settings and items that lend themselves to working with the finer details in an image. She's found that choosing subjects she enjoys is key to getting pleasure from creating her art. Also, to avoid the stress sometimes associated with commissioned work, she limits that to the soothing subject of pet portraits.

She said that even when creating her non-commissioned art, it can be difficult finding suitable references, and that this stage can be more time-consuming than the physical creation of the piece. But once references have been determined, she likes to combine multiple photos to assemble an appropriate model. Of course, those references don't come easy since she doesn't take her own photographs. Instead, she relies on non-copyright photos from others, and as a perpetual problem solver, she's now begun experimenting with AI to assist in composing usable models.

Anyway, when all of that preliminary work is finally done and her plan is in place, the magic starts as she enjoys being immersed in the process of drawing. It's a joy to where she just doesn't want to stop and often loses track of time; probably fueled by the anticipation of yet another finished piece. I'm sure you could understand why if you saw the results, and I encourage you to do so. Please, take a look at her website and see for yourself: <https://www.micheleyoungart.com/>

One final note, Michele teaches classes and workshops at Creative Junk Therapy and Center Place Fine Arts and Civics Association in Brandon. More information on these classes can be found [here](#).



Exciting Upcoming *Events*

Show and Tell

Show and Tell openings are available for June, July, and August. We would love to see what's keeping your creativity going – past, present or future projects.

Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com SUBJECT: SHOW AND TELL to sign up for your preferred date.



Have ideas for an
event? Let us know!



Empty Space....



No May excursion; members please suggest indoor excursion destinations (during hot weather months) you would like to attend. Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with proposed destinations.



Current

BOARD MEMBERS & CHAIRS

Directors

David Bodo, President

Guy Learn, Vice President

Karen Koseck, Treasurer

Carol Stebbins, Secretary

Key Chairpersons

Photographer - Guy Learn

Membership - Carol Stebbins

Website - David Bahm

Newsletter - Jessica Castrodad

Refreshments - Carol Stebbins

BLFA Shows - Guy Learn

Revolving Exhibits - Roxanne

Tobaison - Marsha Nelson, back up



NEW!

Visit our Website!

<https://brandonleaguefinearts.com/>



**CREATIVE JUNK
THERAPY**

776 W Lumsden Rd. in Brandon
in La Viva Plaza • (813) 324-9777

Hours of Operation

Closed Mondays

Tuesday - 12 pm - 5 pm

Wednesday - Friday 12 pm - 7 pm

Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 7 pm

[Facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy)

www.CreativeJunkTherapy.org



**Bay Area Cardiology
Associates, P.A.**

Consultation, Diagnostic & Interventional Cardiology

BayAreaCardiology.com

Bay Area Cardiology Associates
13029 Summerfield Square Dr
Riverview, FL 33578

Bay Area Cardiology Associates PA
635 Eichenfeld Dr
Brandon, FL 33511

Bay Area Cardiology
TGH Health Plex - Off Falkenburg
Dr.
10740 Palm River Road
Tampa, FL 33619

Thank You Sponsors

This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts.
We're a not-for-profit art league serving the needs of the Greater Brandon Area art community for over 65 years.



Membership Application

Please print legibly.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Medium:

How did you find the BLFA?

Membership Type: ☐ Individual \$40 ☐ Family \$50

Cash or Check only please. Make checks payable to BLFA.

Please contact BLFA if you would like information about volunteer opportunities.

Email us at: BLFABrandon@gmail.com

SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS!

From Membership

The best part of every BLFA meeting (besides a chance to spend time with one's artistic peers) is the chance to collaborate, and create art. Consider sharing your talent and expertise with members by signing up for Show and Tell, a five or ten minute introduction to your inspirations, tell us of your recent or earlier art projects, discoveries. Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com to get on the list for available date.

From the Fundraiser Chairperson

We made over \$200 at the garage sale, with some items still offered for sale on FB Marketplace. I will report those sales when they close. Thank you so much for the generous donations and support from members, and to Steve Champlin, David Bodo and Guy Learn: thanks for wheeling and dealing on behalf of the League! We met some local artists and invited them to come to a meeting for a first hand glimpse of the benefits League membership offers.

From Refreshments

Thank you for the array of appetizers and desserts, beverages brought by our generous members for all to enjoy! There was SO MUCH BEAUTIFUL FOOD!

Seeking Public Relations Chairperson

The League's message of bringing art to the local community will be expanded once we have a Public Relations chairperson to represent League programs and benefits. This Chair will submit articles for publication in newspapers and interact with local community resources by email and in person to invite participation and sponsorship. Please consider lending your talent and interest in becoming more active in BLFA by emailing BLFABrandon@gmail.com for more information.



NEED MORE art in your life?

JOIN A CLASS!

Bring your mom to a class! Mothers Day was May 11th.

BLFA Member Classes at Creative Junk Therapy

Visit Creative Junk Therapy's Event Facebook Page or Website for additional classes, schedules, and fees.

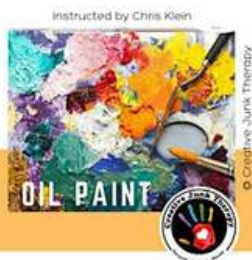
facebook.com/CreativeJunkTherapy

www.creativejunktherapy.org

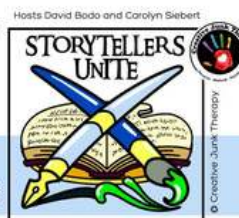
Oil Painting Open Studio

Wednesdays 10:30am - 100pm
\$15 per session or \$56 for 4

Learn, share and develop
oil painting techniques



Storytellers Unite



FREE

4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup
collaborating resources,
ideas, stories and images

Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision

3rd Wednesday 5-7pm
\$10 per session or 4 for \$35

Kids learn basic drawing
techniques and develop
their skill and style



Art and Soul Collage

\$35 - Supplies included

Tap into your creativity and
create a unique dimensional
multi layered, multi medium
piece of art.



Drawing Beginners and Beyond

4th Saturday 3-6pm
\$25 per session or 4 for \$80

Explore different drawing
mediums with new
subjects each class



Beyond Basic Watercolor

\$25 Per Person
BYO Supplies

Ongoing class for painters
who want to go beyond the
basics of watercolor.



Inspired Acrylic Painting

\$25 BYO supplies
\$30 Supplies included

Ongoing class for beginners or
more experienced painters
wanting to go beyond the basics
in acrylic painting.



Watercolor Open Studio

\$25 BYO Supplies
\$5 supplies included

Learn watercolor
concepts, techniques
and develop your skills.



Beginner Watercolors



\$25 per person BYO supplies
+ \$5 supplies included

Colored Pencils, Pastels and More Basics and Beyond

Learn the Basics or Open Studio
4th Saturday 10:30 - 1:30
\$20 Beginner + Supplies \$5
OR \$15 Open Studio BYO Supplies



Standing Rules

Brandon League of Fine Arts

(Herein Referred to as The League)

Last updated: April 16, 2025

Membership dues are recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by vote by League members. The duration of the membership is 12 months from the receipt of dues. To remain a member, subsequent dues must be received by the annual anniversary of the initial dues. The League will not collect, retain, or disseminate members' personal information to any person or party. The financial records of The League shall be kept on a calendar basis, from January 1, through December 31.

Business meetings of The League will normally be held the third Monday of each month and shall be held not less than four (4) times annually.

The League will maintain a secure internet presence, <https://www.brandonleaguefinearts.com>, managed by the Web Master Chair Person. Rules, changes, and content will be made with support and concurrence from Directors, and chair persons. The President will make the deciding vote when conflicting decisions arise.

The League will electronically transmit a monthly Newsletter to members.

The Minutes of the preceding monthly meeting shall be published in the monthly Newsletter so it will not be necessary to read aloud at the meeting for approval.

The Treasurer's report for the preceding month shall be published in the monthly newsletter so it will not be necessary to read aloud at the meeting for approval.

An officer or Committee Chairman should not expend monies exceeding 1% of THEIR current budget without approval of the Board of Directors.

All checks must be valid when tendered. No postdated check will be accepted. The actual bank charge incurred by the League will be charged to any member whose check is returned unpaid.

These Standing Rules may be amended by a majority of voters at any meeting wherein there is a quorum, so long as the members have been given prior notice.

All records are the property of The League.

The Secretary will keep a record of League assets and provide a copy to the elected officers.

Issues requiring Board of Directors approval may be made electronically if necessary to the President who will present to the Board for approval.

Members and guests are prohibited from making personal sales of any nature at a League function without permission from the Board at least seven days in advance. However, sales may be made the day a person presents a Workshop or Demonstration.

Officers and Committee Chairmen will arrive prior to start of the general meeting to assist in set up, and greet early arriving members and guests. All in attendance are encouraged to assist with clean up after each meeting.

All League passwords are disseminated to officers and chair persons as determined by their assigned responsibilities. League passwords may be changed at the Board of Directors' decision without notice.

Brandon League of Fine Arts

Bylaws

Last updated: April 16, 2025

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be "Brandon League of Fine Arts" herein known as "The League."

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the organization shall be:

To educate the public as to the importance of the arts in the community. To contribute to the cultural atmosphere of the community, and support and educate members of The League in their endeavors in art.

Article III - Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all interested persons who, in accepting membership, thereby agree to be bound in all things not contrary to law, by these Bylaws. The League will not collect, retain, or disseminate members' personal information to any person or party.

Article IV - Dues

Membership dues shall be paid on a 12-month basis. Dues for the ensuing calendar year are payable on the anniversary of the payment of the initial dues for the member. New membership privileges are effective upon receipt of the member's dues. All dues collected and other income generated for The League must be for the purpose of The League. The cost of BLFA annual dues shall be determined by the BLFA Board of Directors in the Standing Rules.

Article V - Meetings

Regular meetings of this organizations shall be held not less than four times a year or as stated in the Standing Rules and determined by the BLFA Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall have authority to change dates of meetings, and set places and times for meetings, provided sufficient notice is given to members.

A quorum shall consist of not less than 1/5 of the registered membership at the time of a vote.

The privilege of holding office, making motions, debating, and voting shall be limited to members in good standing.

Members vote in person at the meeting place designated by the Board. No voting by mail or proxy is permitted.

Article VI - Elected Officers

The elected officers of The League shall be:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

The term of office shall be one year. unless the Board of Directors vote unanimously to extend a term.

Duties of officers shall be as follows:

The President:

Shall preside at meetings of The League and meetings of the Board of Directors.

Shall be a member ex-officio of all committees, except for the Nominating Committee and the Auditing committee.

Shall sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer, or as needed.

Shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

The Vice President:

Shall preside in the absence of the President.

Shall assist the President with additional responsibilities as needed.

Shall assist with other duties as stated in the Standing Rules.

The Secretary:

Shall record minutes of all meetings of the organization and Board of Directors.

These minutes shall be digitally recorded, stored in a designated location accessible to directors and chair persons, and are the property of the organization, and shall be a complete and clear record of activities.

Shall provide a copy of the minutes of each meeting to the President and Board of Directors.

A copy of general meeting minutes shall be published in the monthly newsletter to preclude having to be read aloud at a meeting, before voting approval, and other duties as stated in the Standing Rules.

**Voting in person by a show of hands at our upcoming
May 19, meeting will be conducted to approve changes.**

BLFA MARCH GENERAL MEETING

April 21, 2025

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting at 6:37 PM, and welcomed members and visitors. He mentioned the monthly 50/50 drawing, Kevin Bodo (KB) will be collecting for the drawing. DB invited members and guests to bring food and beverages to their seats to enjoy during the meeting.

Guy Learn (GL) Show Chairperson offered members who have not yet voted for the People's Choice Award for the League's April Exhibit a chance to do so before the final tally of votes. He reviewed the People's Choice rules which exclude any artist whose work has won a ribbon in the judging from receiving People's Choice votes.

DB introduced Karen Koseck (KK) Treasurer, who provided the Treasurer's report, the current bank balance is \$4,704.85.

Carol Stebbins (CS) Fundraiser Chairperson mentioned the upcoming April 26, and 27 th garage sale, invited additional donations and asked members to stop by and shop. All proceeds benefit the League's programs and members.

CS introduced the newest member of the League, Roberta 'Bobbi' Ritter, and asked her to tell the members about her choice of medium, and her art.

CS also mentioned the League's new website www://BRANDONLEAGUEFINEARTS.com, advised the directors will be meeting next Monday to discuss ways in which the website can benefit members. Thanks to David Bahm (DB) for working very hard to bring the new website online. DB reminded members to bring an artwork from their earlier artistic days, along with a more recent art work to share with the group at the May 19, members meeting. Members can guess whose art is represented, so mask the signature to make guessing more fun. A photograph or representation of the pieces is acceptable if you choose not to bring the original art. Your art will go home with you at the end of the evening.

DB mentioned the newsletter, thanked Jessica Castrodad (JC) for producing the monthly publication. He reminded members that the revised Standing Rules and Bylaws will be voted on at the May meeting.

DB announced Bonnie Phillips (BP) who brought examples of her art projects for Show and Tell.