



# PERSPECTIVES

## newsletter

February 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 2

*BLFA has been serving the needs of the Greater Brandon, Florida area art community since 1959.*

## February MEMBERSHIP MEETING



*Guests are always welcome!*

Join us on

**Monday, February 16, 2025, 6:30 pm**  
Creative Junk Therapy • 772 W. Lumsden Road

**During this month's meeting:**

SHOW AND TELL will feature **Carol Stebbins**. She will speak about her experience as a guest speaker for Career Day to Bob Martinez Middle School Art classes, at the invitation of their teacher Cassandra Cochran.

**David Bodo** will present the components and guidance to create a "split screen" artwork.

It's 2 pictures in one, depending on your angle of view! Gives a great idea for your own future art creations!

## Letter from the President

**W**hat shall I create today?

Sometimes we feel that incredible urge to create something... ANYTHING.

Occasionally a vision will pop in your head out of nowhere, or you'll see something that just simply must be brought to canvas, paper or whatever medium. Then there's the "subject matter artist block" (I just made that up) that throws a big wet blanket over your motivation to get up and make something great.

Maybe change your environment to beckon new inspiration... break your routine and experiment with a medium you're unaccustomed to... loosen up your creativity by doing some good old-fashioned doodling like you did in 5th grade... set a timer for short focused creative session to see what pops up... take a break and allow yourself to recharge those mental batteries... and my favorite, collaborate with another artist for a new, fresh perspective.



Give one or two a try, see what happens. There's a lot of art supplies out there depending on you! And a big world with lots to run past you for your review and interpretation.

Thank you,

**David Bodo, President**  
Brandon League of Fine Arts  
[bodoartworks@gmail.com](mailto:bodoartworks@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

Hello Creative Friends!

The **BLFA March Art Outing** will be at the **Tampa Thai Palm River Temple on Sunday, March 8th at 10 am** located at 5306 Palm River Road to sketch and participate in the open air brunch and market. We will meet at the dragon statues. This is a great link with photos and information: <https://www.floridarambler.com/tampa-bay-getaways/tampa-thai-temple/>

Here is our schedule for 2026.

Most outings are on the 1st Saturday of the month:

**April** - Apollo Beach Nature Preserve

**May** - Hyde Park Tampa  
(indoor and outdoor options if it is hot)

**June** - USF Contemporary Art Museum (Free)

**July** - Tampa Museum of Art - Art on the House  
(Free on Thursday evening)

**August** - Citrus Park Town Center

**September** - Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art  
Lakeland (Free)

*\*All locations subject to change.*

Please contact Michele Young at [micheleyoungart@gmail.com](mailto:micheleyoungart@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**With grateful thanks**, announcing Charlotte DeMolay has accepted the Membership Chair, which is a vital part of keeping BLFA memberships current, and other important functions. Please look for communications from Charlotte relating to your membership continuity, and important updates for members.

**SHOW AND TELL** for the February 16 meeting will feature Carol Stebbins. She will speak about her experience as a guest speaker for Career Day to Bob Martinez Middle School Art classes, at the invitation of their teacher Kassandra Cochran. This will be a 10 to 15 minute presentation.

If you would like to share your inspiration, experience, latest art project or interest with members, please email [BLFABrandon@gmail.com](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com) to sign up for an upcoming meeting. Openings are available for March, April, and June membership meetings. Each month can accommodate two presenters.



## BRANDON LEAGUE OF FINE ARTS

### Current Board Members & Chairs

#### Directors

David Bodo ..... President  
Open ..... Vice President  
Karen Koseck ..... Treasurer  
Carol Stebbins ..... Secretary

#### Key Chairpersons

Photography ..... Open  
Membership ..... Charlotte DeMolay  
Community Outreach ..... Open  
Art Outings /  
Sponsorship Chair ..... Michele Young  
Website/Newsletter ..... David Bahm  
Refreshments ..... Carol Stebbins  
BLFA Shows ..... Open  
Historian ..... Roxanne Tobaison

**A call to any members for your magical talents in helping the League!**

Love talking to people? We need **Community Outreach** volunteers for regular advertising on social media, website and in-person promotions.

Also need a **Munchie Manager** - someone to coordinate the refreshments we all enjoy each meeting.

Have ideas and want to help BLFA grow?  
We need your help!

Please contact the board members for info.  
[BLFABrandon@gmail.com!](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)



## Artist David Bodo

By Guy Learn

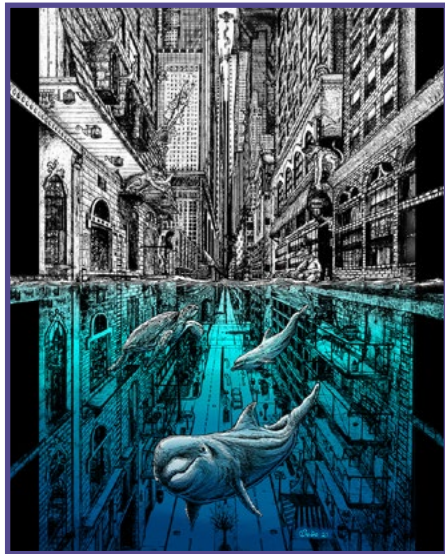
**M**ore often than not, when I create a piece of art, my end goal is to create a realistic image; even to the point that it may have a photographic quality. With that in mind, some might rightly argue “Why not just take pictures?” David, on the other hand, has a far different approach. He uses realistic images as the starting point for his art then leverages his creativity to conjure up a wide variety of fascinating and professional works.

To facilitate his creations, he'll often combine traditional methods such as acrylic, pen & ink and pencil, and supplement those elements with digital options. But please don't confuse his creative tendencies and use of electronic options as a substitute for conventional art talent. It's just not so. If you've seen his works from our league's art outings, using only the basic materials, I'm sure you'll agree that he has more than just a flair for accuracy and composition in his drawing.

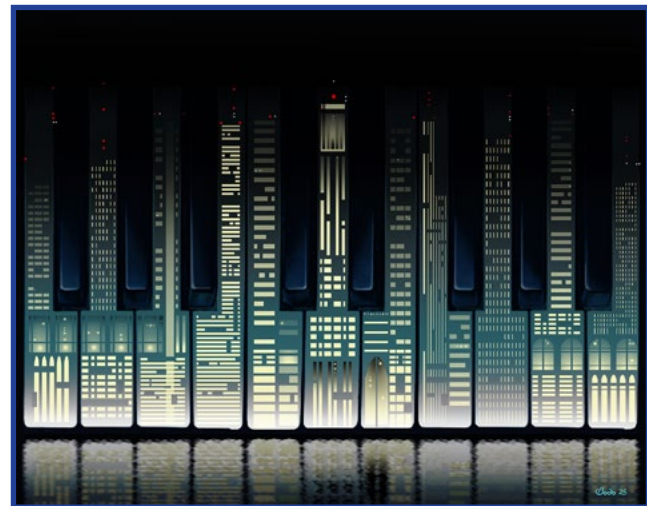


As with many of us, David's interest in art dates back to his childhood years. With him, it began in kindergarten where he simply loved drawing. And perhaps it was in third grade that another phase of his creativity took root. He met a friend on their long school bus rides, and they made use of the time passing cartoons back and forth making up what he calls “goofy little stories” to go with the images.

His creativity never seems to take a rest with his imagination constantly transforming objects or even conversations into possible art subjects. After seeing his art and understanding a bit of his creative process it only makes sense that among his favorite artists are surrealists Max Ernst and Dali. Another favorite that also makes sense, given David's flair for storytelling, is illustrator/author Howard Pyle.



Back to my earlier comparison that I touched on, with my art, the phrase “what you see is what you get” could well apply. But with David's you may want to take a second look or view it with a critical eye that can think outside the envelope. And when you do, as you analyze his work, you might understand why he says there's a degree of amusement in creating art that can be slightly mysterious or unusual to the point that the image might be interpreted completely different from one person to another. This results in art where there can often be more to his images than what initially meets the eye. A great example of this is a piece he calls “The Sound of Lights”. It's what I consider to be a delightful blend of realism and abstract. It wasn't until that “second look” that I noticed the piano keyboard incorporated into the cityscape.





At some point, David says he would like to venture into sculpture. And here, it wouldn't surprise me to see him find a way to combine this interest with a 3D printer.

David does take on commissioned work and particularly enjoys portraits. With those, he says "The more unusual the better." I didn't get a chance to ask him to explain that, or provide examples, but next time you see him, I think it could make for an interesting topic for discussion.



One place where his creativity just hasn't produced results nearly as well as he's hoped is in finding effective ways to present his art to the public; a dilemma that I'm sure many of us are familiar with. If you are curious about his art, please take a look at his website: [Bodoartworks.com](http://Bodoartworks.com), and by all means, please pass it along to others.



One last note of interest about David, and an ironic one at that, is that his roots have ties to an area that is steeped in storytelling and creativity. He tells me that his grandfather on his father's side was born in Transylvania. Now, David himself couldn't be more local. He is originally from Brandon and has never strayed far. At least in the traditional sense. As he puts it "All the major traveling is in my head." That said, if those journeys are anywhere near as creative as his art, I'm guessing that he's seen some wonderful sights!

## January Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2026

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting at 6:40, welcomed members.

Carol Stebbins (CS) announced Charlotte DeMolay (CD) has accepted Membership Chair, added thanks for taking on this important function.

Gunni Price (GP) provided two important updates of interest to BLFA members, an AI information class with \$5 entry fee, and a reminder that the Strawberry Festival submission deadline is February 14th.

Jessica Castrodad (JC) distributed the 50/50 raffle tickets, Roxanne Tobaison (RT) won. Members enjoyed the generously donated treats in preparation for, and during the work shop.

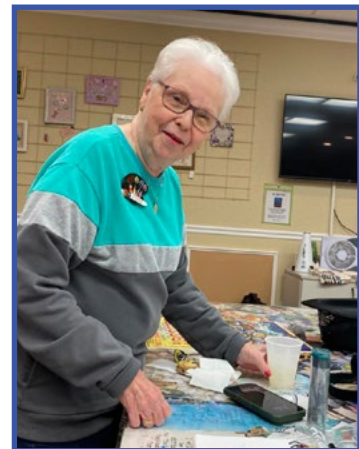
DB announced the evening's work shop, a 'Word Play' exercise that asked for members' written word suggestions be drawn from DB's hat, and the drawn word was used as inspiration for an art work.

After the exercise, members gathered with their art work to take a group picture.

Meeting adjourned.

## January Meeting Photos

January's meeting activity was Word Play. Participants pulled a word from a hat and created their interpretation of that word in their own medium.



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



Jennifer's Studio



## BRONZE SPONSORS

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite Occasions

## Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Medium(s): \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find 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](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

## Order Your BLFA Fundraiser Tee!

Please contact David Bodo ([bodoartworks@gmail.com](mailto:bodoartworks@gmail.com)) with your tee amounts and sizes today! Shirts are available to members and anyone interested for \$20. All after-cost proceeds go to BLFA.

### FRONT

AMOUNT & SIZES

YOUTH L

ADULT S

ADULT M

ADULT L

ADULT XL

ADULT XXL



### BACK



#### GOLD SPONSORS



#### SILVER SPONSORS



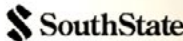
Jennifer's Studio



Watercolors by Roxanne Johnson



Michele Young Art



#### BRONZE SPONSORS

Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite Occasions



## Classes at Creative Junk Therapy

Each is led by a BLFA member!  
For dates and times, visit:  
[creativejunktherapy.org/our-events](http://creativejunktherapy.org/our-events)

**Colored Pencils, Pastels and More**  
Instructed by Michele Young

Colored Pencil Basics  
or Open Studio

4th Saturday 10:30 - 1:00

\$20 Beginner includes supplies OR  
\$12 Open Studio BYO Supplies




**Watercolor Open Studio**  
Instructed by Roxanne

\$25 BYO Supplies  
\$5 supplies included

Learn watercolor concepts, techniques and develop your skills.




**Drawing Beginners and Beyond**  
Hosted by Chris Klein

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.




Instructed by Roxanne Tobiason



**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.




Instructed by Karen Koseck

**Oil Painting**

\$15 per session or  
\$56 for 4 sessions

Wednesdays, 10:30-1:00

Join other aspiring artists in this self directed group to paint, develop and share oil painting techniques and inspiration.

\*supplies not included




Facilitated by Christopher Klein

**Kids Drawing Develop Your Vision**  
Hosted by Chris Klein

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

Kids learn basic drawing techniques and develop their skill and style

Ages 9-14




**Beginner Watercolors**

Facilitated by Roxanne Tobiason

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




**Storytellers Unite**  
FREE  
4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup collaborating resources, ideas, stories and images

Hosts David Bado and Carolyn Siebert

