



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

October 2025 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 66 / Issue 10

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

October MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Guests are always welcome!

Join us on

Monday, October 20, 2025, 6:30 pm

Creative Junk Therapy • 772 W. Lumsden Road



This month's meeting will feature

Secret Square

This project was well received during the July meeting, so we're bringing it back. Participants will be given specially sized paper and a portion of an image, then will create a rendition of that portion. When finished, all pieces will be assembled together to reveal the final composition.

This project will be three-dimensional and multimedia. Items will be provided so no need to bring anything.

Letter from the President

Imagine being a person who is the only one who can see something. Not just a thing that is, but what it could be.

Now imagine being able to turn that hidden vision into a creation for everyone else to see. Would you dare to create it?

Would you express it? Explore it? Use your special language to convey it to others?

You'd have to become a bridge between thought and form and translate the invisible into the visible, give it a meaning, make beauty, make change.

If you are an ardent lover of art, participate in the creation of it, and just happen to come together with others with the same gift, you are one of those people. And here we are in the Brandon League of Fine Arts. It's been said that when different people get together with the same thought in mind and drive to make it materialize, amazing things occur.



So thank you to all members, new and seasoned, experienced and novice, current and future, for coming together with like minded folks whose favorite moments in life are sharing this magnificent experience.

Sometimes it's just a fun time, sometimes it's magic.
mic drop

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

UPCOMING ART OUTING

The BLFA November Art Outing will be at Ybor City on Saturday, November 1st. We will meet in front of the Columbia restaurant located at 2117 E. 7th Avenue in Tampa. There are places to park on the street, and in parking garages and city lots (most charge a fee to park).

There will be a market with vendors and music taking place at nearby Centennial Park, which also has restrooms. There are a variety of things to sketch in Ybor from cigar stores, old buildings and balconies to people and chickens! We hope to see you there!

BLFA DIRECTORS ELECTION

BLFA Directors elections upcoming for 2026! Please consider adding your name for consideration, there are four director positions open every year for election, as follows:

President • Vice President • Treasurer • Secretary

If you would like to contribute some time to BLFA, **Membership** and **Refreshments Chairs** are open. Email BLFABrandon@gmail.com with your interest and availability.

From Refreshments

Our October member meeting will have a Fall/Halloween theme. Please come in costume and enjoy the workshop, photo op and fun!



BRANDON LEAGUE OF FINE ARTS

Current Board Members & Chairs

Directors

David Bodo President
Guy Learn Vice President
Karen Koseck Treasurer
Carol Stebbins Secretary

Key Chairpersons

Photography..... Guy Learn
Membership Carol Stebbins
Community Outreach.....Jennifer Milone
Art Outings /
Sponsorship Chair..... Michele Young
Website/Newsletter.....David Bahm
Refreshments..... Carol Stebbins
BLFA Shows Guy Learn
Revolving Exhibits..... Roxanne Tobaison
Marsha Nelson, back up

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

Love talking to people? We need more **Community Outreach** volunteers to join Jennifer 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!



Plant City Main Street Art in the Park

is set to blossom with creativity on **November 22, 2025.**

Hours: 10 am to 7 pm

Participants need to sign up to reserve a booth. They sell out fast, so reserve yours!

For more information:

www.plantcitymainstreet.org/art-in-the-park

Artist Karen Koseck

By Guy Learn

I guess it's only appropriate that Karen's business is helping to make the art experience available to all. One of her earliest pleasant memories was when a teacher complimented her on a drawing. The gesture may not have seemed like much, but it was some much-needed positive attention in days that, for her, were all too often more challenging than they should have been. Now, we know that sometimes kind words are simply the result of someone just being polite, but this was much more. It was earned, positive feedback for her efforts that made her

feel that she was someone significant, and it left a lasting impression. As she tells it: "I've loved everything about the artistic process ever since."

Although she carried this passion for art, she took a more practical and stable career path, working in accounting for over thirty years. As such, she never had the opportunity for formal art training. But, as with so many aspects of her life, she found a way. While she credits that actual compliment and the extraordinary teacher, Mrs. Osborne from Glenside Jr. High, for her inspiration to create, she credits instruction from artists at Center Place and BLFA for her repertoire of skills. Those specifically mentioned were Greg Manley for his instruction in acrylics, Sue Allen for watercolor, and Tim Mandese with drawing. It was from those beginnings that she developed her own processes and an ever-evolving style.

It was in 2020 with much support from her husband Dale, that Karen finally made the transition from accounting to business owner. That was when she opened "Creative Junk Therapy" (CJT). The effort was anything but easy, but Karen's been no stranger to challenges. And despite the many that she faced, one thing that kept her going in the effort was a determination to give back to the community a chance to experience a touch of the peace that she felt with her relationship with art. Now, as you see, CJT is a wonderful shop with a heart that enables the community, and herself, to find ways to immerse themselves in art, and hopefully unveil and develop their individual talents.

Aside from crediting some BLFA talent for her own development and then providing a shop for others to do the same, her genuine appreciation for local talent was further emphasized when I asked who her favorite artists might be. She replied that it would be the late Kim Grant, a mosaic artist and former board president of her shop, and the creative teachers and students at CJT.

Some of Karen's interests other than art include the great outdoors and involve adventures in nature and camping. As such, these facets of her life often find their way into her art with her preferred subject matter being landscapes and other nature-oriented works. In fact, some of her pieces incorporate



organic materials like branches and such into the composition. With this meaningful connection between her art and appreciation for nature, you can understand how it enables her to, as she describes it, "Get lost in the art, letting my mind wander and the image flow." It's her favorite part of the creative process, as it lets her briefly tune out much of the madness of the world as well as the typical concerns of day-to-day life.

While getting lost in the creative process is her favorite part of being an artist, she says that the most difficult aspect is probably justifying time for it all. As she puts it, "Life interrupts, and creativity tends to be the thing that suffers." And wouldn't you know, it just got more complex with a recent interruption that promises to place additional limitations on her time for art. But, unlike the others, this interruption was one of a positive nature as it was literally "life" itself. Earlier in the year, she and Dale welcomed their first grandchild into this world. And being the nature lover that she is, she must have been delighted when the baby girl was named "Juniper." Of course, Juniper will pleasantly complicate the dilemma of properly balancing life, work, and art, but something tells me that Karen will find a way to properly prioritize the three.

Anyway, getting back to art if we must, Karen doesn't like to limit herself when it comes to the various mediums. While her favorites lean to acrylic and watercolor, she's also worked in oils, and as mentioned earlier, is inspired to use organic materials, creating pieces that go beyond the confines of two dimensions. She particularly likes to include tree elements and let the art almost literally reach out to the viewer.



As with so many of the wonders created by the artists in our league, the casual viewer is likely oblivious to the spirit of the person that is injected into their works. So, I hope that this peek into Karen's world gives you an extra sense of appreciation the next time you view her art.



BLFA December Art Show – Public Entries Welcome!

It may be less notice than you're used to, but we're having another show in December, and we're inviting the public to enter.

Here are the details:

1. Who can Enter? Anyone!
2. What are the physical requirements and restrictions on the art?
 - a. Artists are limited to 2 entries for the show.
 - b. Each entry must not exceed:
720 square inches (this includes the frame).
24" x 30" happens to be 720.
25 Pounds in weight.
 - c. As usual, entries must be properly fitted with D-loops and wire for easy hanging.
 - d. All entries must be properly framed.
Canvas-wraps (properly painted) ARE considered to be properly framed.
 - e. Please coordinate with the show chairman prior to the take-in date for any 3D works.
 - f. Entries must not have tags, stickers or ribbons from previous shows.
3. Are there any additional requirements or restrictions?
 - a. All entries must be the original piece. Sorry, no reproductions or commercial prints.
 - b. We want all entries to remain on exhibit throughout the entire length of the exhibit.
NOTE: If you anticipate issues complying with this, please coordinate with the show chairman. We do understand that there may be interferences due to your holiday related travel plans.
 - c. All entries must have been completed within the last 3 years.
 - d. All entries must not have received an award in a previous BLFA show.
 - e. All entries must be ORIGINAL work and created solely by the artist.
 - f. Because children visit the gallery, works containing nudity or horror are not accepted.
4. Is this a "juried show"?
No. All works that meet the eligibility requirements within Rules 1, 2 & 3 will be accepted.
5. Will there be awards? Yes, the following awards will be given:
Category 1: Traditional Art (Adults):
• 1st Place Ribbon and \$100 • 2nd Place Ribbon and \$75 • 3rd Place Ribbon and \$50
Category 2: Creative Works (explained below):
• 1st Place Ribbon and \$100 • 2nd Place Ribbon and \$75 • 3rd Place Ribbon and \$50
Category 3: Traditional Art (Students – High School & under):
• 1st Place Ribbon and \$75* • 2nd Place Ribbon and \$50* • 3rd Place Ribbon and \$25*
**Amazon Cards, sponsored by Pamela Reeves, Bloomingdale High Art Department.*
People's Choice Award: Ribbon and \$50.
We limit awards to one-per-person per-show.
6. Can we sell our entries at the show?
Yes, you can sell your entries. The price should be included on the entry form. Any sales will be handled directly with the artist and buyer with no commission due. Keep in mind when arranging a sale, all entries should remain on exhibit throughout the entire length of the exhibit.



BLFA December Art Show – Public Entries Welcome!

Art-related business cards, if provided by the artist, will be displayed with your entries.

7. What are the entry fees?
 - a. For artists from the general public: • 1 Entry for \$20 • 2 Entries for \$30
 - b. For members of the Brandon League of Fine Arts: • 1 Entry for \$15 • 2 Entries for \$25.
 - c. For high school students (or lower grade schools): • 1 Entry for \$15 • 2 Entries for \$25.
We accept only cash or check made payable to "Brandon League of Fine Arts".
8. What other details do we need to know to enter?
 - a. The event location is the gallery at Creative Junk Therapy, located at 772 Lumsden Rd. LaViva Plaza – Brandon.
 - b. The Take-In day is: Monday, December 1st, from 1:00 to 8:00 pm
The Pick-Up day is: Monday, January 5th, from 1:00 to 8:00 pm
Please contact the show chairman if you have difficulty making these time windows.

CATEGORIES DEFINED:

- a. **Traditional:** This category includes entries such as:
Oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, etc.
Drawings in charcoal, pen & ink, pencil (graphite), colored pencil, pastel, etc.
Sculpture
Any combination of the above.
- b. **Creative Works:** This category includes art created using just about any means or material that would not fall under the "Traditional" category. This would include entries such as:
Photography
Digitally created art
Art derived from repurposed objects
Art that relies on electricity or electronics for its creation or display

SHOW CHAIRMAN:

Guy Learn is the show chairman. Here is the contact information:

ArcherGuy@rocketmail.com

813-679-3863 (Please text. He won't answer unrecognized phone numbers).

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

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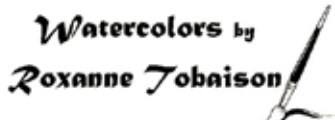


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Elite Occasions

September Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting with a brief greeting to members and visitors, announced the evening's workshop would commence without delay as it required detailed instructions. DB introduced Beth Kaufman (BK) who presented a fused glass pendant class for the members. DB asked that members contribute a donation, if possible (unspecified amount), to cover BK's expenses for all the materials she contributed for the event.

BK began her class with a brief review of her background as an artist and entrepreneur, then gave history of fused glass through history, beginning in the fourth century.

Over the next hour members worked to compile their fused glass project, BK explained the kiln process would take time to fuse the glass elements, then cool down. Finished work will be available at CJT for pickup. BK will have jewelry bales, necklace cords, and an engraver available when picking up your pendant, to etch your name on the back if desired.

During the break, DB introduced Michele Young (MY) who presented suggestions and tips on how to pack for a BLFA Art Outing. MY plans and coordinates BLFA excursions, the next outing will be in October to the USF Botanical Gardens. There will be a five-dollar entrance fee. Additional details will be sent out to members in advance by email as well as newsletter and Facebook.

Members enjoyed the snacks donated for members' enjoyment, thanks as always for the generous donations! The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Order Your BLFA Fundraiser Tee!

Please contact David Bodo (bodoartworks@gmail.com) with your tee amounts and sizes today! Shirts will be available to members and anyone interested November 2025 for \$20. All after-cost proceeds go to BLFA.

FRONT

AMOUNT & SIZES

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YOUTH L

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ADULT S

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ADULT M

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ADULT L

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ADULT XL

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ADULT XXL



BACK



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Jennifer's Studio



Watercolors by
Roxanne Johnson

SouthState

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

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 Tobaison

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 Tobaison

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



Art and Soul Collage

\$35 - Supplies included

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



Instructed by Lois Miller

Storytellers Unite
Hosts David Bodo and Carolyn Seibert

FREE

4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup collaborating resources, ideas, stories and images

