



PERSPECTIVES

newsletter

January 2026 This newsletter is published by and for the Brandon League of Fine Arts Volume 67 / Issue 1

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

January MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Guests are always welcome!

Join us on

Monday, January 19, 2025, 6:30 pm

Creative Junk Therapy • 772 W. Lumsden Road



Letter from the President

Go listen to Joe Jackson's "Steppin' Out." The song becomes routine and comfortable to do the same thing day in and day out. Too comfortable.

Everybody knows the story that as you get older, time seems to zip by faster. There's a theory that it feels that way because as youngsters, there is a new thing every day to see and explore. The years pile on and it all becomes a predictable, regimented schedule. The same old thing runs like a familiar movie set on fast forward.

Since participating in our League events and art outings, my life experiences have become a brisk, enjoyable, scenic stroll rather than a frantic dash down a generic, soul-less interstate. So come draw, paint, scribble, or just take amazing pics when we meet up for our outing adventures! The company is pleasantly full of laughter and worth any short trip...

This month's meeting will feature

Word Play

January's meeting activity will be Word Play. Participants will pull a word from a hat and create their interpretation of that word in their own medium. It can be anything from drawing to sculpting or anything in between. We will share our artwork at the end of the meeting. All attendees are encouraged to bring a medium and paper or sketchbook of their choice.



"We'll leave the TV and the radio behind, don't you wonder what we'll find." Who knows, it may add some extra time on your life, or at least turn it to youngster speed.

Thank you,

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

UPCOMING ART OUTINGS

The **BLFA February Art Outing** will be at the **Krazy Kup Coffee Shop in Downtown Plant City on Saturday, February 7th at 10 am**. We will meet at the entrance of the coffee shop located at 101 E J Arden Mays Blvd. in Plant City. Krazy Kup is a fun, funky coffee shop with restrooms and places to sit and sketch.

Nestled in historic downtown Plant City, it is across the street from McCall Park, and a very short walk to the Plant City Train Viewing Platform. This will give us indoor and outdoor options depending on the weather, as it can be cold in February. Our art outings are a lot of fun, and we'd love for you to join us!

Looking ahead:

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

March - Tampa Thai Palm River Temple

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*

Strawberry Festival is Feb. 26-March 8, 2026

<https://flstrawberrystreetfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2021-Art-Show-RULES-ENTRY.pdf>

Gasparilla Feb. 28-March 1 <https://gasparillaarts.com/>

Many thanks to volunteers Roxanne Tobaison, Charlotte DeMolay, Leigh Ivy and Michele Young for assist with refreshments (early) set-up, coordination and (late!) clean-up for our December Show reception and the annual BLFA holiday party. Leigh donated additional serving utensils which are always useful. Thank you, Leigh!

Thanks as always for the generous snacks and appetizers contributed by our members, who never fail to bring delicious treats for all to enjoy. Every meeting is a party thanks to you!



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
Historian	Roxanne Tobaison

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!](mailto:BLFABrandon@gmail.com)

Artist Charlotte DeMolay

By Guy Learn

When she was growing up, folks might have guessed that Charlotte was destined to be an engineer due to her serious interests in math and science. And while she also loved to draw, she regarded art as a mere hobby. So, it may be to the credit of some of her teachers, back then, that encouraged her creative work that led her to keep art classes on her agenda when she entered college. As she puts it, "My major was a circuitous route." As early as high school, she intended to study Mechanical Engineering but ended up

starting off with Accounting at a community college. But she switched to Interior Design while enrolled at University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she ultimately decided to graduate with a Fine Art degree with a concentration in Design. But that degree was far from an end goal as she considers herself to be a lifelong student. As such, she continues taking classes when the opportunity arises, but more important is the never-ending "lab" portion of the journey as she learns by creating.

While continuing this perpetual education, she's also helped others along their way. For about 15 years she taught art at nonprofits, a private school and in her own studio when living in Texas.

As with most of us, Charlotte has what she considers to be her favorite artists. Some of these include Toulouse-Lautrec, Alphonse Mucha and Georgia O'Keefe. And whether this appreciation came from art classes, museums or elsewhere, their influence has pleasantly translated into some very aesthetic impressionistic images from her studio that are an excellent blend of design and art.

Getting back to her creative journey, Charlotte says that the easiest part of creating is coming up with ideas. There seems to be no shortage, and since she's been drawing for so long, when she slows down and settles into some new

work, she's confident that she can render a pretty close version to what she's seeing. And "seeing" is an important aspect of her art. While her final works are of an impressionistic nature, she keeps the shapes and designs very true-to-life and relies on her secondary hobby of photography to gather images to make practical models for her art.

What she does find challenging about her creative process is dealing with a lack of patience. She recognizes a tendency to work too fast to properly translate an artistic image from her mind to the canvas. As a result, the few times she's tried oil paints have resulted in what she calls "mud." And although she loves watercolors, because of the impulse to work too fast, she struggles with that medium as well. Curiously though, she's managed to turn that impatient trait



into an advantage. She often has maybe four or five paintings in the works at any given time and says that, in the end, it forces her to go a little slower.

Being that she does work more quickly than some, it should come as no surprise that her favorite medium is working in acrylics. She likes to work in layers and explore with textures, so acrylic's fast-drying property plays well in her style. She also likes the cost-effective aspect of the medium. As she says, "Even the cheapest acrylics will outlive all of us!" And then there's the obvious advantage. One that also applies to oils, that I'm so familiar with, and that is, you can paint over mistakes. Although acrylics are her favorite, she doesn't limit herself to such. She's done work in watercolors, been experimenting with mixed media, and although it's been a while, pastel. She says she loves pastels, but they are so messy to frame and ship that she will shy away from that medium but certainly hasn't removed it from her repertoire.



Charlotte has done a variety of commissions over the years creating anything from book illustrations to indoor murals. Then with the more common surfaces like canvas or paper, she's done a variety of pet portraits, landscapes, flowers and abstracts. These are quite close to her favorite subjects which include natural subjects from wildlife, plants to people.

If you'd like to know more about Charlotte and her work, please visit her website: demolay.com. You can also find her on most major social media apps.



December Meeting Minutes

December 08, 2025

David Bodo (DB) opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests to the BLFA Exhibit Awards presentation, which this month includes non-members, and a special student art division.

Pam Reed (PM,) art teacher at Bloomingdale High School presented the student awards. Guy Learn (GL,) Exhibit Chair person, presented the awards, photographs were taken of the winners standing with their winning art.

BLFA members and invited guests participated in the annual holiday party, including an array of appetizers and snacks contributed by membership. Carol Stebbins (CS,) Refreshments Chairperson thanked the volunteers Roxanne Tobaison (RT,) Charlotte DeMolay (CD,) Leigh Ivy (LI,) and Michele Young (MY,) for assistance coordinating set-up and clean-up.

Meeting adjourned.

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Watercolors by
Roxanne Tobaison

Jennifer's Studio



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Book Corner Tampa Bay



Elite
Occurrences

Sponsor Spotlight: Music Showcase

For those in Brandon looking to enrich their lives with sound, Music Showcase is the premier destination. Located at 402 Oakfield Drive, this “Best of the Best” award-winning store is much more than just a retail space—it is a comprehensive hub for the performing arts.

Whether you are a seasoned professional or a beginner picking up an instrument for the first time, Music Showcase offers everything you need to succeed:

- A large selection of name-brand musical instruments and accessories.
- A Flexible Rental Program that makes starting a musical journey accessible for everyone, featuring everything from violins and flutes to baritones and percussion kits.
- An in-house repair shop staffed by knowledgeable technicians who provide free estimates to keep your instruments in peak condition.

At the heart of their mission is the Florida Academy of Performing Arts (FAOPA). Their ELITE Center provides high-quality education year-round, offering lessons in guitar, piano, voice, brass, woodwinds, and even acting.

We encourage everyone to stop by and experience everything Music Showcase has to offer. We are proud to have them as a sponsor and we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for their support and dedication to fostering the arts in our community!





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

Order Your BLFA Fundraiser Tee!

Please contact David Bodo (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

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- ADULT M
- ADULT L
- ADULT XL
- ADULT XXL



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Jennifer's Studio



Watercolors by
Roxanne Tobinison

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Elite
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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 - 100
\$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

Instructed by Roxanne Tobaison



\$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.

Oil Painting

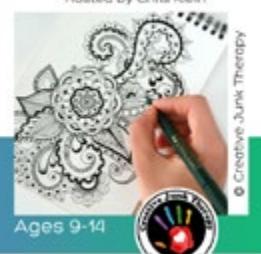
\$15 per session or **\$56** for 4 sessions
Wednesdays, 10:30-1:00

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

*supplies not included

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

Beginner Watercolors

Instructed by Roxanne Tobaison



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

Storytellers Unite

Hosts David Bodo and Carolyn Siebert

FREE
4th Friday Monthly 5-7pm

Storyteller meetup collaborating resources, Ideas, stories and images

