



Creative Connection



What's Inside

Exhibition Updates

Gallery 32

Member Spotlight

Member News

Community Partner
News

Recognizing a Scam

From Judi Cermak OCAC Board President

I have been at OCAC's Gallery 32 helping out from time to time this summer, teaching a class and welcoming visitors. Both experiences have confirmed my belief that the arts are vital to our well-being. When the class participants leave, they take with them the items they created along with an experience that has put a smile on their faces. Visitors, mostly from out of state, frequently comment on the beauty of the Finger Lakes, the public art that enhances the community, and the talent of our local artists.

Mike Murphy, editor and reporter, even noted that "Canandaigua is becoming the art scene." It is a wonderful feeling to know that the efforts OCAC has made over the years are truly appreciated and valued. Judi

I want to invite you to attend the OCAC yearly meeting on Oct. 24th (same day as opening reception for Glisten & Glimmer Exhibit at OCHS) The voting ballot for OCAC board officers and board members will be shared with our members soon.

We need board members and a candidate for secretary!

If you are interested in more information about becoming a board member or the board secretary please contact Judi Cermak, OCAC Board President at: ocartsny@gmail.com



Daisy Case Approaching Storm

**Fluid Expressions
Opens September 4
Gallery 32**

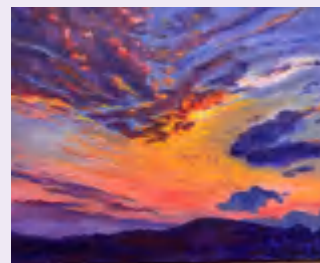
OCAC Exhibition Updates

Member Exhibiton "Inspiration" at

the Ontario County Historic Society

Show closes October 16th

Pick up dates: Fri. Oct. 16th & Sat. Oct. 17th

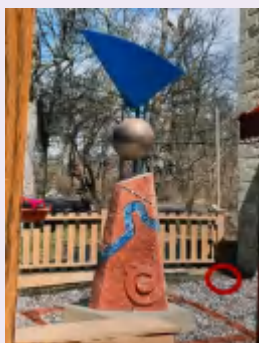


"Fluid Expressions" water media show

Opening reception Friday September 4th

4-6pm at Gallery 32.

Show runs through October 25th.



Barron Naegel's Sculpture dedication

September 13th at Gibson Street park at 1:00 pm

followed by a reception 1:30 to 3:00 at Gallery 32

Friendly Reminder!

Enter your work for the last member show at OCHS "Glimmer and Glisten"

Submissions due October 1 - opening reception on October 24

Creative Connection

OCAC Exhibition Updates

OCAC Rotating Artists for July through September

- City Hall - Randy Kennard
- Canandaigua National Bank Main Street - Joyeeta Mukherjee
- Ferris Hills West Lake - Peggi Heissenberger
- FLX Bone and Joint
 - Canandaigua - Sandy Morris
 - Clifton Springs - Kathy Connor, Cheryl Leonard, Van Denberg
- FLX Hearing
 - Canandaigua - Dana Besaw
 - Geneva - Floyd McGovern
- Hotel Canandaigua - Neal Allen, Tracy Bazarian
- Latimore Physical Therapy -
 - Canandaigua - Joyce Kowba
 - Victor - Barb McPhail
- Parrish Dental - Kimberly Ferguson
- Quail Summit Senior Living - Amber Hanselman

Please take the time to visit these businesses and thank them for supporting our local artists



Announcing New Fall Classes



Neal Allen will teach 2 classes on the basics of working with pastel

INTRO TO THE BASICS OF PASTEL and PAINTING A STILL LIFE IN PASTEL

Saturday, September 12 and 26th

3:30 – 5:00 pm

\$30.00 Registration due by September 4th on the OCAC website.



Kim Ratzel will offer two classes

EXPLORE PAINTING 'MINIATURE' ACRYLIC CANVASES

Friday, September

18 & 25

2:00 – 4:00 pm

\$65 Registration due by September 4th on the OCAC website

\$25.00 paid directly to the teacher at first class, check or cash.



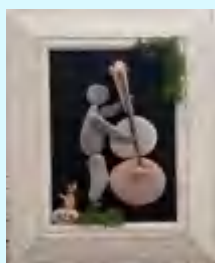
Judi Cermak will offer one class on METAL EMBOSSING

Sunday, September 27

1:00 – 3:00 pm

\$30.00 Registration due by September 4th on the OCAC website

Plus a \$5.00 material fee due to teacher at first class, payable by check or cash.



Tina Blackwood will teach a class on Creating

Saturday, November 7th

1:00 - 3:00 pm

\$20.00 class fee

Registration coming soon.



Tiny Hands Art Studio

Classes for parents and children Ages 3-5, Not in UPK or Kindergarten

Register online at OCarts.org

September 12, 19, 26 - 9:30-10:30

October 3, 17, 24 - 9:30-10:30 am

November 7, 14, 21 9:30-10:30 am



This program brought to you by a generous donation from Canandaigua National Bank

BOOK TALKS AT GALLERY 32

Join us for lively discussions with artists about their favorite reads!

Seating is limited please register online at OCarts.org

Wednesdays 4:30-6:00

- **September 30, 2026** – Laurie Reidman discusses "Diamonds in the Dirt"
- **October 16, 2026** – Judi Cermak and Kathy Ann Morris diving into Frida Kahlo
- **November 18, 2026** – John Kerr shares his book "Breaking Silences"
- **December 16, 2026** – Gallery 32 hosts a Poetry Sharing
- **January 20, 2027** – Mary Delmastro explores "Girl with a Pearl Earring"
- **February 17, 2027** – Tina Blackwood on the trail of "Chasing Portraits"
- **March 17, 2027** – Jenny Goodemote and Carrie Magnan on Mystery Podcasting

For more information contact Diane Olivet at Gallery 32

607-759-7511 14424gallery32@gmail.com

**Look for updates on Facebook
OCAC Gallery 32**



We need volunteers to help with the Open Art sessions.

It is a great way to meet other artists and help keep
this program going. It is easy and fun!

Please email Kendra Fleischman if you are interested in volunteering
Kendra.fleischman@gmail.com

OCAC Member Spotlight - D.E. Bentley



Who or what are your biggest artistic influences?

My high school art teachers (I definitely spent more time in the art room than any other class) and early college educators at Tompkins Cortland Community College were extremely influential. Especially my professors: Mary Kelly (fiber arts), and Nick Klimaszewski (who I did independent study with, exploring kinetic fabricated sterling silver worn art).

Do you have a mentor or a critique group?

Brian VanCampen (BVC), a high school friend and Ithaca-based puppeteer and film critique was an early and memorable influence.

In 2024, shortly after Brian passed away, I joined the Academy of the Wooden Puppet, an online course in wooden puppet making that incorporates video lessons with group Q&As/Zooms and an online interactive global puppetry community.

I have since transitioned to the Academy Mastermind Program (AMP) which includes one on one consultation with Bernd Ogrodnik (the well-known Icelandic puppeteer who started the Academy) and a support and critique network of professional and emerging puppeteers.

Describe what type of art you create? Has this evolved over time?

The earlier foundation work and more recently the AMP interactive time has resulted in wood sculpting, primarily wooden puppets, becoming my primary medium. An exciting aspect of puppetry is that it incorporates so many different mediums; my previous work in metal fabrication, painting, photography, and fiber arts all come into play. The availability of wood is another factor influencing this transition. We have an on-site band saw and cut our own lumber from sustainably harvested trees (my husband, Todd Touris, is a creative custom wood worker).

OCAC Member Spotlight - D.E. Bentley



Do you have a core message or theme to your work? Environmental and social ethics have always influenced my artwork and this thread is evident in my puppet characters, all of which are drawn from my experiences in wild places. Respect for all living things, including fellow humans, is also evident in my dramatic writing for human actors.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on a script for a puppet play I hope to bring to the stage in 2027. The story centers around an ancient imp tree and other forest creatures, including a raven named Poe, who join forces to fight the shadow menace repeatedly threatening their home—a fantastical wild place where everything is alive, and everyone is connected. Imp and Poe are two of my puppets currently being exhibited. I love dramatic writing and storytelling and am co-hosting, with writer George Guida, a Showcase of Shorts—featuring eight untested / new short works from regional playwrights, puppeteers, and oral storytellers. The Showcase will take place on Friday, October 16, 2026, 6-8PM at MacFadden's Coffee Company in Dansville.

How do you structure your day or week?

I believe that an object in motion stays in motion. This refers to me as well as to the animation of puppets. My structure is ever-changing, depending on what current projects I have in the works as well as the weather. I have ornamental and edible gardens and raise honey bees. We also have a canine friend who insists on daily rides and walks. So... when I can be outside, I often am, reserving stormy, or unbearably hot, days and evenings for inside work—including carving and fabricating puppets and writing. Something inevitably falls behind while I focus on something else but each passion feeds and influences the others.

OCAC Member Spotlight - D.E. Bentley

Do you promote your work through social media or some other means?

Any serious artistic endeavor requires promotion. This is especially true for performance arts. I published a print magazine for five years and two literary journals and am now—gradually—transitioning my publishing web page, owlighnews.com, toward my puppetry and dramatic writing. I also have an Instagram page that I post on somewhat regularly, d.e._bentley_art , sharing art images and video (most recently “33 seconds of me doing nothing”- except holding a camera).

Although I understand the importance of online communication and promotion in these times, it never comes easy to me. That said, contemporary performance puppetry often incorporates lighting, sound, moving images, and digital manipulation, so I continue to evolve when it comes to all digital mediums (except AI, which I find distracting).

Where do you want your artistic practice to go over the next few years?

My recent re-introduction to puppet making has included exploring and creating many different styles of puppets, including some prototype puppets for use in workshops I’ve taught. I have enjoyed and learned so much from exploring a range of styles and becoming familiar with these styles and see them all and look forward to applying these experiences as intermediary steps toward the making of marionettes. I have a fully jointed marionette devil puppet in the works and am excited to finish this marionette and continue creating string puppets. Of all puppet styles, marionettes have the potential to look most realistic in their movements and I love this concept of pushing the limits to see how realistic looking a puppet character can become.

OCAC Member Spotlight - D.E. Bentley

Do you have any exhibitions coming up?

You can see the devil-in-the-Works, along with puppets from my planned 2027 performance and others, through September 2026 at GoArt in Batavia. I will be performing my ten-minute play, "Dream Away", at the Showcase of Shorts. And stay tuned for some online time with the devil toward the end of 2026 or early 2027.

What advice would you give someone who is just starting their art journey?

The most important thing to remember when making art, regardless of where one is on the journey, is to experiment and take risks. Every experience, every encounter adds richness and influences our art. Art is a journey not a product and as important as it is to have mentors and develop skills, the final choice on which influences you incorporate into your work and where the journey leads is yours and yours alone.



◆◆ Member News ◆◆

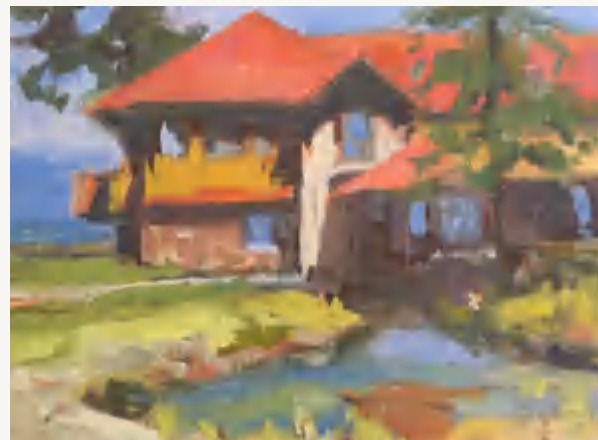


Kimberely Ferguson

I won third place for one of my photos in the Wayne County Fair. It as my first entry there. I was also a judge of photography (not related to the category that I was in). Judging was new for me and out of my comfort zone at first but a dear friend encouraged me to do it. Very rewarding !

Cindy Harris

I am teaching at the Pat Rini Rohrer Gallery Sept 2, 9 and 23. Morning is a studio class and afternoon plein air. Info from 71 South Main 71southmainartclasses@gmail.com or reach out to cindy@harrisstudios.com



I am excited to have my painting "Graycliff" accepted into the American Impressionist Society (AIS) Associate Member online exhibition, one of the highest honors of my painting career. You can take a look at the show here <https://showsubmit.com/gallery/ais-6th-annual-associate-members-online-exhibition>

◆◆ Member News ◆◆

Ellen Horovitz

I have been invited to the Baltimore Clayworks Oktoberfest, 2026. My beer stein will be featured. The link to learn more about the invitational is here:

<https://baltimoreclayworks.org/event/oktoberfest-2026/>



Suzie Quinn

I'll be exhibiting at Artist Row at the Rochester Public Market on September 20th. It's a really fun show. Here's a link.

<https://www.artistrowrochester.com/>

Community Partner Events

Cobblestone Cinema Fall Classic Film Series

Join us for a **FREE** evening
of art and intrigue

"Charade" Film Screening and Pop Up Art Exhibit
Saturday, September 12th,
5:00PM OCAC Pop-Up Gallery | 5:45PM Film + Talk

OCAC Members Pop Up show
featuring artist created masks



Allie Morris Merrill



Jasmyn Morris



Judi Cermak

For a complete list of classes and events visit the Cobblestone Arts Center
Website <https://www.cobblestoneartscenter.com/events>

1622 NY-332, Farmington, NY 14425

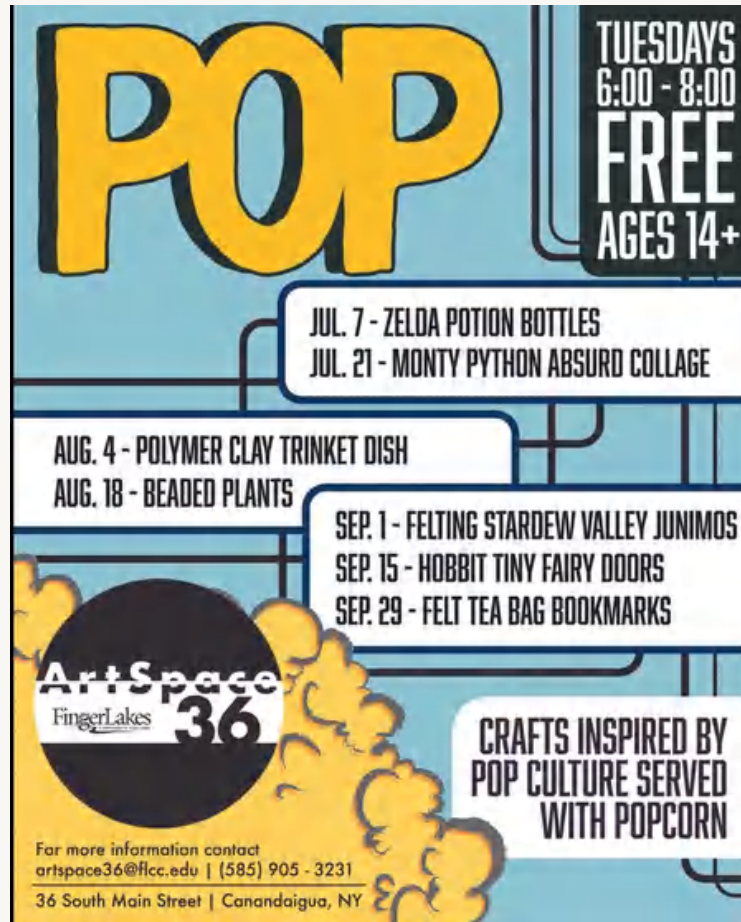


Creative Connection

Community Partner Events

ArtSpace36

For a complete list of events and exhibits visit
<https://www.artspace36.com/upnextevents>



Community Partner Events

Be sure to visit Owner and OCAC member
Jenn Yerden and check out the work of
OCAC Artist Patricia Overmoyer
at Sights and Shades, September through October
<https://www.sightsandshades.com>

Artist reception September 25, 5:30 - 7:00pm

A collage of several artworks by Patricia Overmoyer, including a close-up of a leaf, a circular logo for "SIGHTS & SHADES", and various abstract and nature-themed paintings. The text "FIRST FRIDAYS ARE BACK" is prominently displayed in large white letters, with "Patricia Overmoyer" in a cursive script. Below this, it says "FRIDAY OCTOBER 2ND MEET AND GREET 5:30-7PM" and "94 S. MAIN ST DOWNTOWN CANANDAIGUA".

FIRST FRIDAYS ARE BACK
FRIDAY OCTOBER 2ND
MEET AND GREET 5:30-7PM
Patricia Overmoyer
94 S. MAIN ST DOWNTOWN CANANDAIGUA



Is this a scam?

Advice and thoughts from Kendra Fleischman



Unfortunately receiving scam emails or messages is part of being online. I receive art scam emails several times a year and they are frustrating, as they give an initial feeling excitement followed by disappointment when I realize it is a scam.

To determine if an email is a scam I look at the following things.

- Does the email address look correct? Is the spelling in the email strange? Can you find this person/gallery online? Are there grammatical errors or strange wording in the message? Not having an online presence or awkward grammar can be a red flag.
- Does the person/gallery identify a particular piece they are interested in or is it a general mention of liking your work. Vague praise and interest is a red flag.
- Do they say it is a "surprise" gift for their significant other. Often the scammer will say they saw their wife/husband looking or "storming" your website. This is very common tactic being used to hook artists. Look the person up online, ask to speak to them in person. Do not send them photos or advance payment.
- Strange Payment arrangements. The scammer will offer to pay with a cashiers check or corporate check to cover the purchase and the private shipper's fee. They will send a fake check for more than the total amount and ask you to wire back the excess to the shipping agent. The payment is often an unusual arrangement or using apps like WhatsApp.
- Another art scam involves galleries expressing interest in showing your work but requiring a fee paid upfront. You should always establish a relationship with the gallery in person and discuss any terms before any money changes hands.
- If the person pressures you with a timeline, this is a red flag as well.
- The copyright infringement scam is one I've experienced more than once. If you get a notice of Copyright Infringement supposedly on your website or YouTube channel, there may be a link they want you to click to follow up, this link is malicious and should be avoided.
- In general DO NOT CLICK on any links in an email that you receive from people or institutions without verifying they are legitimate.
- If you receive an email or message asking for money - Always look at the email address, even from businesses, including government agencies you know, to make sure it is a legitimate address. Look up the phone number on the official/legitimate website and call to confirm the email was from them. A few minutes of investigation and confirmation can save you money and heartache.

A heartfelt thank you to all our valued members for your unwavering support of the Ontario County Arts Council. Your membership and volunteer efforts are invaluable in sustaining our creative endeavors.

thank you! 