

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME 2021!

Wow, it felt great to say that. 2020 was a very long year but we made it through the challenges and hopefully, came out with new knowledge, perspective, and with our priorities in order.

We all experienced loss in various forms over the past several months. Namely the loss of freedom to travel, freedom to see family, and freedom to visit our favorite places. Some of us lost family and friends due to COVID.

Know that your Visual Art Society Board of Directors has kept you all in our thoughts and are working diligently to find ways for our organization to continue moving forward in 2021 in a way that will not put our members at risk. We are livestreaming many events and practicing social distancing at gatherings.

Starting a new year is a great time to fire it up.

So are you fired up? Are you ready to go? I hope so. We have a great year planned! Have you renewed your membership? Membership dues are used to provide quality demonstration artist and experienced contest judges and contest awards. Cannot do it without your support!

We've scheduled demonstrations through April that should appeal to artists of many media, including painters, photographers, and sketchers. Look for meeting announcements on visualartsociety.org and on our Facebook page.

At 11:30am, January 11, 2021 we kick off the new year with Greg Lewallen, an art professor at Baylor University. Since he was a little boy, Greg has collected objects of natural history, from insects and birds to reptiles and animal skulls which often become the subjects of his artwork. His personal fascination with the natural world led him on collecting expeditions to exotic and remote regions of Africa and tropical America and provided him with a lifetime's worth of material to draw and paint. For Greg, the compulsion to collect and draw links his desire to share his fascination with those that may not otherwise see the beauty in the miniature world that is all around us.

Join us at 11:30am for food and fellowship. The presentation begins promptly at noon.

930 N. Rosemary Dr., Bryan Tx.

[Read more](#)

We will also stream the January 11th demonstration: the ZOOM link is emailed to you after you register at <http://bit.ly/3hHPJWO> (limited spaces available)-livestream begins at noon

Now let's look forward to a new year with **new opportunities**. Let me announce that the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley awarded the Visual Art Society grant funds to help support our Art Trail project. The Art Trail will be a fall event designed to attract visitors to the Bryan-College Station area. Please consider volunteering to help with this project. The board needs your help to make this event happen. Some areas you might help with are:

- Scouting the area for art-related items to include on the art trail (public art, venues hosting art display, art exhibits, etc.)
- Help with hosting a kick-off event in the fall
- Serve on Art Trail website committee (no web development skills needed, your input as a website visitor is needed to guide our developers in creating the best online experience)

Keep letting our membership and publicity chairs know about your projects. There may be ways we can share your news with others. Who knows, your story may help boost another artist who has been struggling to stay motivated.

Do you have ideas for events or topics you want to learn more about? Reach out to us through email at contact@visualartsociety.org

"We cannot walk alone." ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This is truly a community of artists. We cannot do this without your support. While we do require membership dues, we are in dire need of volunteers. I cannot stress this enough. Want to know how you can get involved?

- *Volunteer to serve on the board. We currently have one vacant board position for webmaster.*
- *Volunteer to serve on the grant project committee by contacting me, president@visualartsociety.org*
- *Sign up to sell your art at the First Saturday Art Market - <https://www.visualartsociety.org/first-saturday-arts-market-signup>*
- *Volunteer to bring food to our next meeting by contacting Gigi, hospitality@visualartsociety.org*

Let's stay positive in 2021. We are in this together!

Carol

Dr. Carol Fox Henrichs

President, Visual Art Society B/CS

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