

March 2025

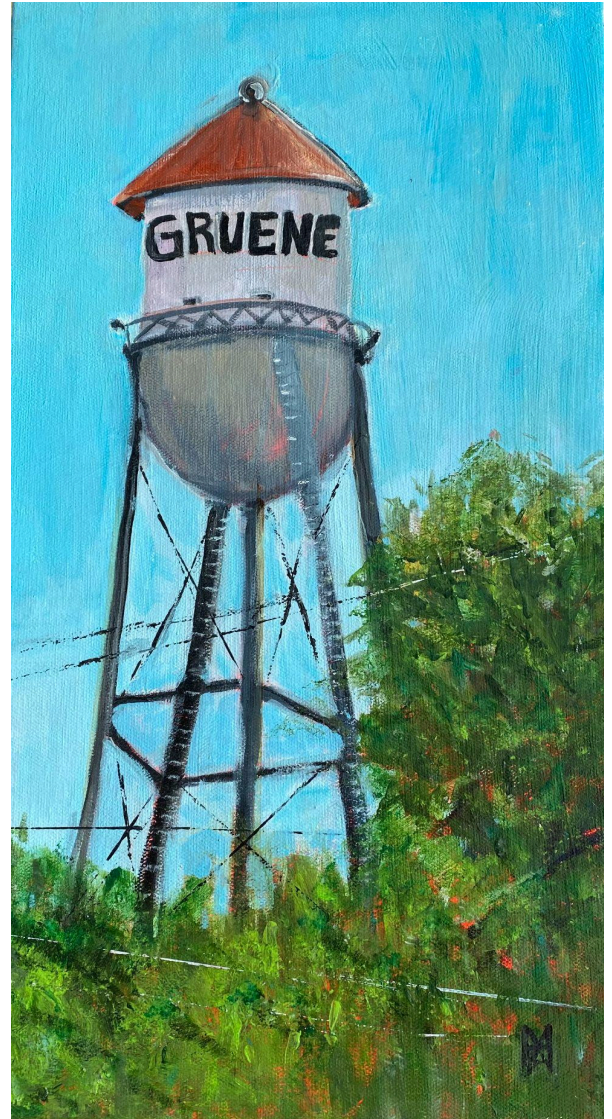
VAS ART SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED ARTIST THIS MONTH
IS *MINDY AUSTIN*

Art has always been a defining part of my life. As a painter and lifelong lover of creativity, I am inspired by the process of making art. A quote by Amy Ringholz resonates deeply with me: "The beauty of being an artist is that you're never done and you've never reached your peak. It's a long-term struggle alongside a happy journey." Painting is both a challenge and a joy, always offering new opportunities to grow.

***P**ainter, art educator, plein air enthusiast, lifelong learner, and community arts advocate.*

I earned a degree in art education from Texas State University and later completed my PhD at Texas A&M University. My career has taken me through different aspects of art and design. I worked in marketing and fashion merchandising in Los Angeles and New York City before returning to education. For 14 years, I taught art in CSISD, guiding young artists in their creative journeys.



I primarily paint in acrylics and oils and enjoy working *en plein air* whenever possible. As an active member of the Outdoor Painter's Society, I take inspiration from nature and fellow artists. I also enjoy attending workshops to continue learning and refining my skills. In addition, I have participated in the Visual Art Society B/CS for several years and love volunteering in community arts. Engaging with other artists and giving back to the arts community is incredibly fulfilling. Painting constantly challenges me, but it also brings endless rewards—a journey of creativity, discovery, and growth.

Author: Mindy Austtin

IN OTHER NEWS....

Join a local Glass Artisans group! Elisa Marchand and Anna Lowary are trying to get a Glass Artisans group started here in the community! Brazos Glassworks has graciously offered to let people interested in joining this group, meet in their shop at 202B W 26th Street on Thursday, April 17th at 5:30 pm for their initial meeting. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join. There will be some light snacks. If interested, please contact Anna Lowary (email amlowary@yahoo.com | ph. (312) 213-4012) so she can anticipate what to expect for this initial meeting. If you can't make it but are still interested, please respond as well.

Sell Your Art at TAMU Vet School! Showcase your animal-themed artwork at the Veterinary Technician Conference on Saturday, May 3, 2025 (11 AM – 4 PM), with 300–400 attendees! Contact Dr. Jordan Tayce at jtayce@cvm.tamu.edu if interested.

Design an Album Cover! Zac Clifton, a country music singer-songwriter is looking for an artist to design his next album cover! Interested? Reach out to Zac at zaccliftonmusic@gmail.com or (832) 278-3422 with samples of your work.

VAS looking for people to fill a couple of positions on their board by May

- 1) Vice President and Exhibits Chair - organizes artists for Brazos Center and other business around town
- 2) Publicity Chair intern – to be trained by Mindy Austin

Also available, 2 positions for Member-at-Large. If interested, please contact our president at president@visualartsociety.org

Want to see your art on a bottle of wine? The 35th Annual Messina Hof Texas Artist Wine Label Competition is the centerpiece for the 41st Annual Wine & Roses Festival on Saturday, April 26. This year's theme is "MODERN RENAISSANCE." In partnership with the Arts Center of Brazos Valley, Messina Hof aims to support local Texas artists and give back to the arts community. Each entry fee is

donated to the Arts Center directly to fund local programs that further young artists' passion and careers. Messina Hof does not handle these funds in any capacity. [CaFÉ](#)

Add the Aggieland Art Trail app to your phone

1. Go to aggielandarttrail.app
2. Sign Up (it's free)
3. Checkout, add your info and complete the order
4. You will receive the link to your mobile pass in the email.
5. Once you are logged into your pass in Chrome on your Android phone and you want to make it an app on your phone, you must be in Chrome browser. You can follow the directions given in FAQs in the top banner.
 - If you see the 3 dots on the top right side of your screen, proceed directly to Step 8.
6. Hold your finger on the 3 horizontal bars at the bottom right on your screen (don't click, hold). Up pops the Chrome info.
7. Pick Open in Chrome Browser
8. tap the 3 dots in the top right corner and look for "Add to Home screen"
9. The app will be installed.

Note that you win awards for visiting the art featured on the Aggieland Art Trail by accumulating points! !

List of Community Galleries

[Benjamin Knox Gallery & Wine Bar](#)

[Brazos Glassworks](#)

[Cushing Memorial Library & Archives](#)

[Degallery](#)

[Forsyth Galleries](#)

[INTERSECTIONS \(home of the Brazos Spinners & Weavers Guild\)](#)

[J. Wayne Stark Galleries](#)

[Perrine Winery](#)

[Tavo Coffee Co.](#)

[The Arts Center of Brazos Valley](#)

[The Frame Gallery Downtown](#)

[The Parker-Astin](#)

Community Paint Out! Join us for free at the Community Paint Out Day! Saturday, April 5, 2025 10am-6pm. We are joining Degallery's DEGART Grand Art Event – a week of Plein Air! We will be *plein air* painting in historic downtown Bryan TX during the Downtown Bryan Street & Art Fair. If you are a VAS member, you can sell your art at our tent if you volunteer at the tent. If you want to participate more in the week of DEGART activities, VAS members join for free all paint outs and demonstrations. Note that workshops are 10% off and you need to buy a ticket to the gala, if you wish to attend.

Applications for art scholarships end this month

- 1) VAS College Scholarship – 2x \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors. Applications due March 31, 2025
- 2) The Arts Center of Brazos Valley – college scholarships and emerging artist scholarships. Applications due March 21
- 3) Benjamin Knox Art Gallery scholarship opportunity – This is a scholarship for artists aged 17-25 to attend the National Plein Air Convention & Expo on May 19-25, 2025 in Lake Tahoe/Reno. Deadline: March 19, 2025.

Nominations Open for 2025 Art Spark Texas Artist of the Year Awards. Austin, TX – These awards honor artists with disabilities who challenge perceptions and demonstrate artistic excellence while serving as catalysts for change in their communities. Each award includes an honorarium and an invitation to the 2025 Artist of the Year Celebration Event on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Rollins Theatre at the Long Center in Austin. Travel expenses will be covered for awardees outside the Austin area. To submit a nomination, visit ArtSparkTX.org and complete the nomination form by Friday, April 11, 2025.

