

November 2025

VAS ART SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED ARTIST THIS MONTH IS **Olivia Langley**

Originally from Minnesota, I grew up in a small town of about 20,000 people where creativity and the arts were a vibrant part of everyday life. From the high school honors art program to the colorful murals that adorned local buildings, artistic expression was everywhere. With a father who runs a graphic design business and a mother who worked as a college tutor, it's no surprise that I eventually became a high school art teacher.

*B*old & Beautiful: an abstract expression of mood through symbolism

Although I love creating and exploring my identity as an artist, my true passion lies in teaching. What drives me is sharing my love for art with others, expanding their understanding, and fostering safe, creative spaces where they can thrive. Motivated by this passion, I recently earned my Master's in Art Education. The transition from artist to teacher has been significant, and I now aim to restore balance



between these two deeply fulfilling, yet demanding roles. My passion for art has always served as a form of mental release and relaxation; something I believe everyone could benefit from. As a studio art major, I became captivated by color. I saw it as my responsibility to bring brightness and joy into a world that often felt dull. Over the past five years, my work has become increasingly abstract, shifting focus toward mood/emotion through symbolism. Art has shaped who I am—as both a creator and an educator. Whether I'm in the classroom or the studio, I remain committed to inspiring others, cultivating curiosity, and making space for authentic expression through art.

Author: Olivia Langley

IN OTHER NEWS....

Spotlight schedule for 2025

Name	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Speaker	Jeannette	Wendy	Liv L	Party
Spotlight	Vicki R-H	Helen D	Liv L	Joel K

If you would like to get on our list to be a guest speaker and/or on the spotlight, please contact me or Jaimie Ladysh, our Demos/Workshop chair at dwc@visualartsociety.org. When sending us your stories for the spotlight, make sure please, they are **230-240 words..**

SHOUT-OUTS!!

We are proud to have such talented artists:

Mark Sadoski recently earned *two awards in an international photography competition*. His photograph "Hunt's Mesa Sunset," taken in Monument Valley, Arizona, won a Silver Award in the 2025 Epson International Pano Awards, amateur division. His photograph, "Mystery Valley Rainstorm," taken in Mystery Valley, Arizona, also won a Silver Award in that competition. The Epson International Pano Award Competition is the world's largest competition devoted to the art and craft of panoramic photography. Silver Awards are given to pictures in the top 10% of the judging. Over 1600 photographs were entered in the 2025 competition.



Jaimie Ladysh and **Donna Dangott** have an exhibition, *Otherworld Revealed: The Alchemy of Place and Presence*. This collaborative exhibition presents the work of two artists whose different and distinctive visions converge around a shared concept. Donna and Jaimie each explore landscapes, both natural and internal, where the visible world can transform into another kind of magical world. Opening reception on November 1, 2-4. There will be live jazz music and First Saturday outside at the same time so it's going to be fun!

Vicki Halsell designed and made our VAS wreath (*Paint Misbehavin'*) to be auctioned off at The Arts Center's Holiday Wreath Auction. Wreaths from various organizations will be displayed in the Bradfield Gallery November 1-24, with all auction proceeds to go directly to the participating organizations. Please check it out and bid on our wreath! [Christmas Wreath Auction - The Arts Center](#) More information below.

Jacqui Miller has created the "hARTvest Time" event at the Parker Astin Gallery, organizing VAS members to display their art in downtown Bryan throughout November 2025. This month-long exhibit will showcase a variety of local artwork to welcome visitors during the pre-holiday season. More information below.

Joel Kitchens has published a book! It will be available for purchase this December, but you can preorder now through TAMU Press.

[San Antonio and Its Missions. Three Centuries of History, Memory, and Heritage By Joel Daniel Kitchens](#). This book examines San Antonio's five Spanish Colonial-era missions as enduring "sites of memory," tracing their origins, evolution, and lasting impact on American identity through primary

sources, and highlighting their continued religious, cultural, and historical significance—recognized globally with their 2015 UNESCO World Heritage designation. More information below. Visit his new [website!](#)

Members showcasing their art around town

Brazos Center: Cindy Castillo

Perrine Winery: Joana Rocha and Jacqui Miller

Tavo Coffee Co.: Rene Richards , Liv Langley, and Jacqui Miller

Exciting News - Aggeland Art Trail Grant Awarded!

We're thrilled to announce that the Visual Art Society of Bryan-College Station has received a \$9,750 Arts & Culture Development Grant from the City of Bryan to support Plaques, Advertising, Web, and App enhancements for the Aggeland Art Trail! This year's award is nearly \$4,000 more than last year's funding — a wonderful recognition of the project's growing impact. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the proposal and continues to support public art in our community!

Add the Aggeland Art Trail App to your Phone

1. Go to [aggelandarttrail.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 Aggeland Art Trail by accumulating points! !

Fall Plein Air Painting

As the weather cools, it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors and capture the scenery around you. If you're interested in participating in future Plein Air painting events, please contact our Publicity Chair, Mindy Austin, at publicity@visualartsociety.org.

Note: Continued interest will help keep these events going—don't miss out!

Holiday Wreath Auction - VAS is participating!

The Arts Center's Holiday Wreath Auction is back for 2025! VAS will enter a decorated 30-inch artificial fir wreath to showcase our creativity and mission. Wreaths from various organizations will be displayed in the Bradfield Gallery November 1–24, with all auction proceeds to go directly to the participating organizations.

Explore the "Otherworld" This November

Donna Dangott and member Jaimie Ladysh have an exhibition, *Otherworld Revealed: The Alchemy of Place and Presence*. This collaborative exhibition presents the work of two artists whose different and distinctive visions converge around a shared concept. Donna and Jaimie each explore landscapes, both natural and internal, where the visible world can transform into another kind of magical world. Opening reception on November 1, 2–4. There will be live jazz music and First Saturday outside at the same time so it's going to be fun!

VAS member, Joel Kitchens has published a book

Great news—Joel Kitchens has finished his book! It will be available for purchase this December, but you can preorder now through TAMU Press.

[San Antonio and Its Missions. Three Centuries of History. Memory, and Heritage By Joel Daniel Kitchens.](#) This book claims San Antonio's five Spanish Colonial-era missions are "sites of memory," as defined by French historian Pierre Nora. By that definition, the missions are an enduring, and deeply-rooted part of the city's heritage. As both sacred spaces, as well as being some of the top tourist attractions in the state, the missions

continue to serve some of the original religious and educational functions that began three centuries ago on what was then a remote site on the frontier. In 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization recognized the missions' importance to Texas and beyond by awarding World Heritage Site status to these buildings. By taking a 'deep dive' into the primary sources, this project explores how and why the Spanish built the missions, what happened to the missions after the Spanish colonizers left, and how and why the missions came to weigh so heavily in the American imagination and identity (particularly after the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, and the arrival of the railroad in 1877 which connected San Antonio to the national web of iron and steel), even into the twenty-first century. The primary sources include Spanish Colonial documents, census data, travel narratives, advertisements by railroad companies, tourist guides, and even the buildings themselves. Visit his new [website](#)!

Local Audience for your Art

Display your art on VAS virtual gallery: If you would like to have your art showcased in our virtual gallery, please fill out this [FORM](#) | **Display your art around town:** If you would like to have your art displayed in local businesses, fill out this [FORM](#). These local venues are always showing new art; be part of their rotation! | **Sell your art:** [First Saturday Art Market](#) held @ DeGallery from 11am-3pm starting again in Sept.

Live Model Sessions with Tim Vanya

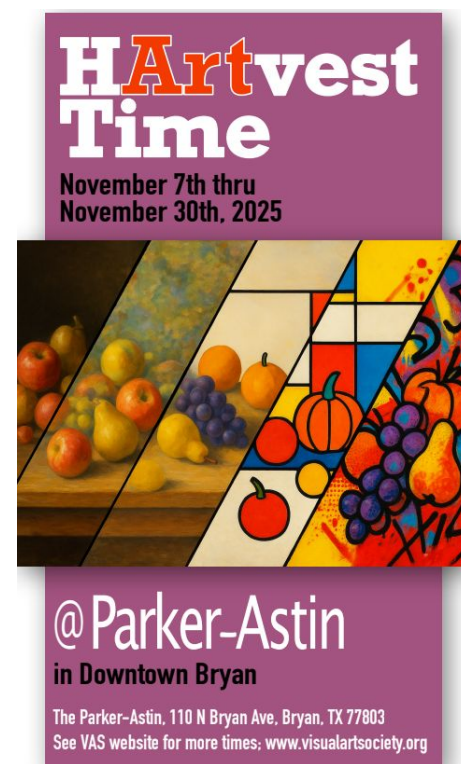
Starting Tuesday, Sept. 16, join us every second Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. at DeGallery for live model drawing and painting. Instruction with Tim Vanya is available for \$15, or attend as an open studio session (without instruction) for \$10. Money will be collected at the door; cash is preferred. More details can be found on the DeGallery website [HERE](#).

Join a Local Glass Artisans Group! Elisa Marchand and Anna Lowary are getting a Glass Artisans group started here in the community! Anyone and everyone is welcome to join. If interested, please contact Anna Lowary email amlowary@yahoo.com | ph. (312) 213-4012

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.

HARTvest Time

The Visual Art Society is excited to share that Parker Astin has invited our artists to display and sell their work throughout November 2025, beginning with First Friday. This month-long exhibit will feature a variety of local art and several activities to welcome visitors during the pre-holiday season. We're grateful for this opportunity to showcase our members' talent in a gallery setting and look forward to a fun month of celebrating the arts with our community.



First Fridays in Historic Downtown Bryan

There is a new application process; visit <https://www.destinationbryan.com/firstfriday/be-a-part-of-first-friday/> for information. [Love Downtown Local](#) has spaces for tents for \$45. Contact lovedowntownlocal@gmail.com for more info. The event goes on till 10 pm at night and you will need good lighting. Contact [Wendy](#) for questions.

First Saturday Art Market at DeGallery

Every first Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at Degallery Square (930 N Rosemary Dr, Bryan) for a lively outdoor art fair—rain or shine! Enjoy live jazz, kids' art activities, artist demos, and unique works from local art vendors. Artists and musicians are invited to participate in the market. Vendor spaces are \$30/day for a 10'x10' booth (**free for VAS and DEGA International Art Association members - a limited number of free tents are also available. Contact Dary if you need them**). For details or to sign up, go [HERE](#).

3rd Annual Mental Health Art Contest

Roots Psychotherapy is hosting its 3rd Annual Mental Health Art Contest, free and open to artists of all ages! This contest celebrates local creativity while opening important conversations around mental health in the Brazos Valley. All contest details, entry forms, deadlines, and prizes can be found [HERE](#). Winners will be recognized at the Art Stories Showcase on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 PM, where their art and stories will be shared with the community.

2026 Judged Spring Show – Call for Title Ideas

America the Beautiful was the title chosen by you to be the theme for our spring show

- In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, this show will reflect the story of America
- All submitted artwork should reflect this theme
- Non-theme pieces may be accepted only if space allows
- The show will run May 1–29, 2026 with opening reception on May 1 and closing reception on May 29.

Brazos Valley Gives

Brazos Valley Gives is a community day of giving that strengthens nonprofits, empowers donors, and builds community. Since 2019, the Community Foundation's Brazos Valley Gives Day has raised over \$7M for participating nonprofits in the 7-county region of the Brazos Valley. The Visual Art

Society of B-CS has been involved with Brazos Valley Gives for the last 6 years. You can visit our [page](#).

Last night, we had our Celebration of Philanthropy at the James A. Baker Pavilion, next to the Bush Library. This was a wonderful event, celebrating all the non-profits in our 7 counties of the Brazos Valley. **We were fortunate to have won for the first time a Golden Ticket - a \$2500 prize sponsored by Tom Light Legacy. Pictures to come.**

Workshops

[DEGALLERY](#) | [Wendy Keeney- Kennicutt Brazos Watercolor Retreats](#) | [Sabra Delyn Wilhelm DeLyn Atelier Fine Art & Teaching Studio](#) | [Lisa Miller Laughing Parrot Studio](#) | [Tim "Pops" Vanya T.W. Vanya Fine Art](#) | [Mary Skow \(watercolor\)](#) | [Chris Wilson](#) (watercolor) | [Jaimie Ladysh](#) Encaustic Photography & Encaustic Arts | [Robyn Glass](#) (drawing, watercolor, paper-cut, colored pencil) | If you teach, we will advertise your business. Contact Wendy at president@visualartsociety.org.

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 Kimball](#)
[The Parker-Astin](#)

If you have something you would like to be depicted in the monthly spotlight please contact me, Joana, secretary@visualartsociety.org.