

Creative Strokes

Farmington Art Foundation

March 2024 | www.FarmingtonArtFoundation.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members of Farmington Art Foundation, I hope this letter finds you well and inspired to produce new art. As your president, it has been an honor to serve alongside of such talented and committed people. Our love of creativity and expression has made our club a gathering place for artists of all backgrounds. However, after much reflection, I have decided not to seek another term as president. This decision was not made lightly, but I believe it is time for fresh perspectives and new leadership to guide Farmington Art Foundation. Serving in this role has been immensely rewarding and I am grateful for the friendships, collaborations, that have occurred during my six years as president. As I step back from president, I am confident our club will continue to grow. I encourage you to support the next president for 2024-2026. I want to express my gratitude to each of you for your support. Our shared journey has been filled with exhibitions, guest speakers, and memorable moments. During my time as president of Farmington Art Foundation, we achieved several important milestones. Here are some of our accomplishments.

1. Community Art Exhibitions. We organized several successful art exhibits some of which were in new venues. These exhibits showcased the diverse talents of our members. These events not only provided a platform for artist to display their work but also created connections within the local community.
2. Collaboration with Local Schools. Art Smart reached out to elementary and middle schools to promote art education. A new storage area had to be located to store Art Smart Materials. FAF members also served as jurors in student art shows and members conducted workshops during art night at Gill school.
3. Art Scholarships. FAF established a scholarship fund to support an artist pursuing higher education in the arts. A student from Oakland Community College received financial support.
4. Farmington Art Foundation collaborated with other organizations. We collaborated with galleries, libraries and the Costick community center. These partnerships encourage a stronger artistic community.

5. During the Covid quarantine we established a Zoom virtual meeting to conduct membership meetings.



As I step down from the presidency, I am confident that the Farmington Art Foundation will make even greater strides. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside the members and artists of the Farmington Art foundation, and I look forward to witnessing the growth of our artistic group.

Let us continue to encourage creativity, inspire one another, and celebrate art. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this artistic journey. I look forward to remaining an active member and witness to FAF's progress.

Richard Adams,
President of Farmington Art Foundation
readams50@yahoo.com

The Farmington Art Foundation meets September-May at the 12 Mile Farmington Community Library, 32737 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 4833, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:45pm

Looking Ahead: 2024

March 13: DIA Speaker **April 10**
"Behind the Seen Program" "More information on page 3"
May 8

 **IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND THE FARMINGTON SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, THE FAF MEETING THAT EVENING WILL BE CANCELED.**



Care, Concern, or Congratulations

A card can be sent to a member of FAF. Please email info to **Sunshine Chair, Sharon Daitch**
kramerdaitch@aol.com
and put FAF in subject line.

Liberty Street Exhibit: Farmington Library

The Farmington Library lineup includes: **Linda Pelowski for March and Sharon Daitch in April.** July and November are also taken.

Please sign up for May, June, August, September, October or December.

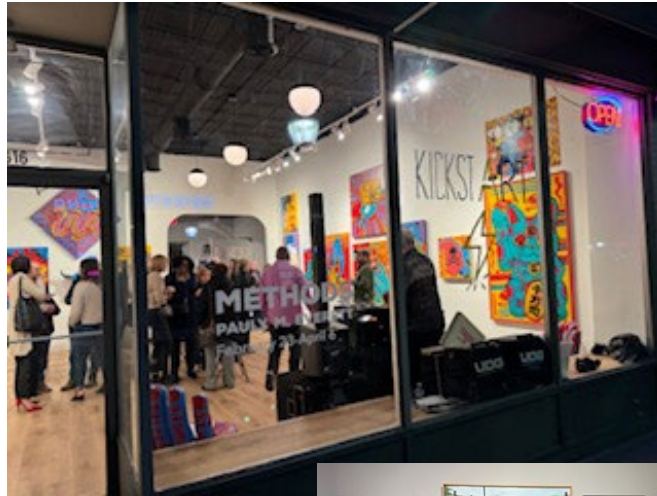
There are no commissions for sales. Email or call me for the open months.

– **Kathy Boettcher**
Katmb@att.net
248-471-5563



KICKSTART FARMINGTON

Grand Opening and Artist Reception was held February 29. It was great to see everyone!



Farmington Art Foundation currently has eight artists in the display: Linda Pelowski, Chuck Schroeder, Penelope Trikes, Anne Cleary, Terri Paterson, Richard Adams, Cathy Szumlinski and Jan Hall.



**Kickstart
Gallery &
Artisan Shop
is now open
and located
at 23616
Farmington
Road in
downtown
Farmington!**

*Photos submitted by
Lynn Manzi & Jan Hall*

Program Announcement: Wed., March 13, 2024

Our presenter will be from the Detroit Institute of Arts and will speak on "Behind the Seen Program: Cows at the Opera and Other Museum Mysteries." The speaker will talk about the many mysteries of the DIA including stories and images and newly discovered meanings and issues of authenticity. Sounds mysterious!!!

– Linda Shewbridge, Program Chairperson

Farmington Art Foundation participated in the Art Night at Gill Elementary held February 29 by hosting a bookmark-making session where students K through Fifth Grade crafted their own bookmarks with markers, beads, stickers, and ribbon. Each student also received a book, donated by The Civitan Club, of their own choosing and reading level upon completion of their project. It was a fun and creative way to promote art and reading together, just in time for March is Reading Month.



Online Prompts Help Promote Inspiration, Motivation, & More Art

Last week, I completed my third year in a row of "February Flowers," an online daily art challenge. Again, it was hosted by artist, and Insider Studio founder, Amanda Evanston as a private Facebook group throughout the month of February. Similar to previous years, the entire month of prompts were provided upfront. The overall purpose of the challenge is to brighten up February, while creating new art each day, regardless if the prompts are stuck to or used as loose inspiration. Participants are encouraged to share with the group as well as across all social media platforms. All all mediums, sizes, techniques, and interpretations are welcome.



And you know what? It was amazing! The talent, the online community, the encouragement, the tips, the shared techniques, the artwork! Amazing!!! Some participants, spent days working on multiple prompts. While others, posted redos, or in-progress pieces. Others created daily doodles in date books and planners, while others collaborated with their kids to create fascinating and fun works of art!



Because, I create a majority of these in the evenings after work, I kept all of my pieces at 5in x 7in to keep them at a manageable, non-overwhelming size. I also tried to give myself a more firm time limit than I had in previous years, as a way just to let the art happen and reduce stress. While this may have made me choose something different on certain days to fit my self-imposed restraints, it felt good overall. And on days, I was unsatisfied or wished I would have painted or drawn something different I made a note to revisit that prompt on a day I felt stuck again. I did not redo during the month. I told myself whatever happens, happens. The challenge is about making something every day, not making something perfect. Believe me, this mantra helped. I also used this challenge to experiment, which as an artist I think it is hard to do most days as we all instantly want to pick up our favorite medium and stick with our personal style, but I felt like this challenge gave me permission to just go for it! Get out of the box! Try something new!



I successfully created several pieces that were in a much "looser" style than is my norm, which was surprisingly satisfying. I experimented by adding ink pen to my waterbrush pieces. And I also found googly-eyes in my "odds and end drawer" to add to a collage of mixed-media grapes.

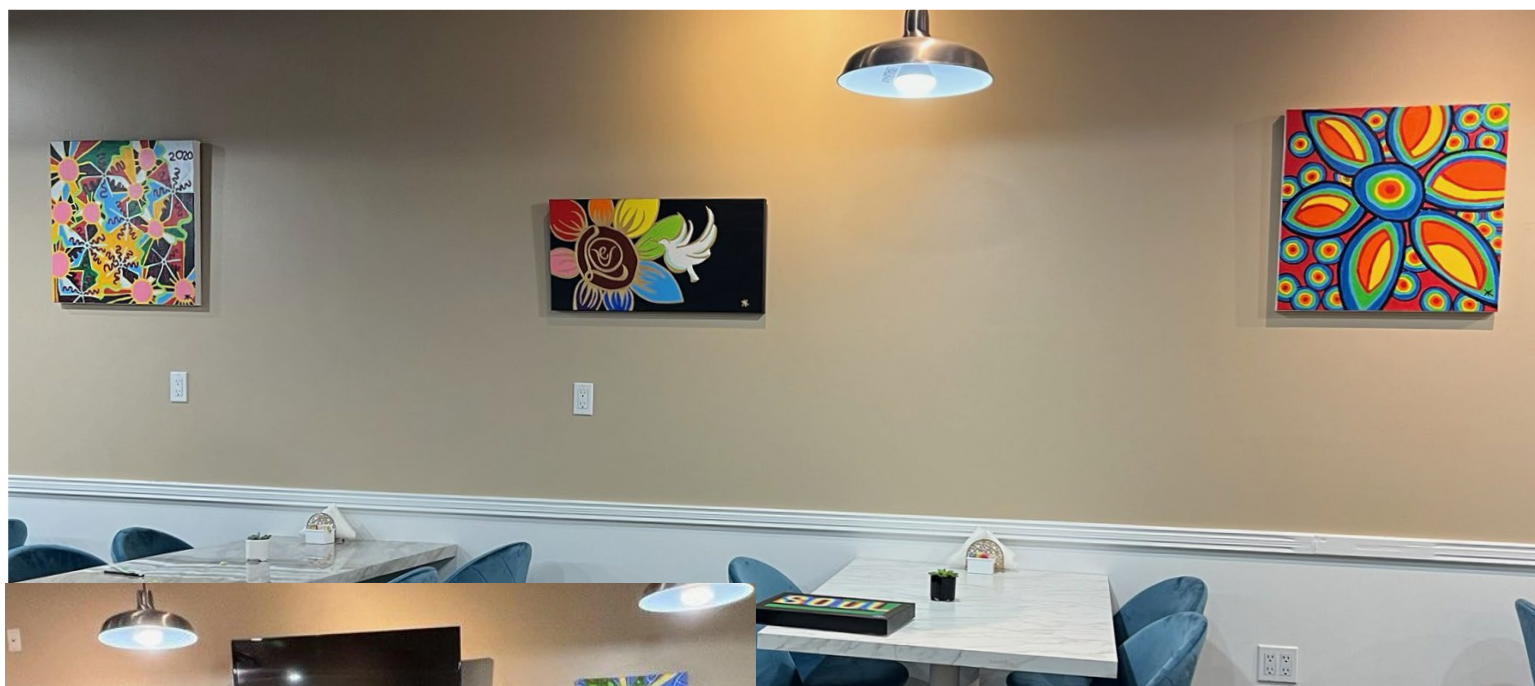
Like in previous years, I referenced most of my own photos and experimented with mediums: acrylics, waterbrush, oil and chalk pastels, colored pencils, sharpie markers, cut paper, glitter, and foam core based on my decision for each day's prompt, which included (pictured right, top to bottom), "Geranium," "Fluffy," and "Roses." However, (pictured below, left to right) "Collage," "Texture," and "Hollyhocks" inspired the most creative moments of the past month, as these prompts pushed me out of my comfort zone to be spontaneous and abstract with out-of-the box techniques. Once done with Day 29, it was fun to compare this year's collection to the previous two. Other favorite prompts included, "Cheerful," "Scrumptious," Poetry" and "Starts with H." Maybe you can try one of these?

So, the next time you find yourself stuck in a rut or just want to try something new, but don't know what to do, go online and do the first art prompt you find—and have fun!

–Karen Reasoner
Creative Strokes
Newsletter
Coordinator



MEMBER GALLERY & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Six of **Yevgeniya Gazman's** paintings are on exhibit at Toasty Treats Cafe in West Bloomfield. (6335 Haggerty Rd, West Bloomfield Township, MI 48322)

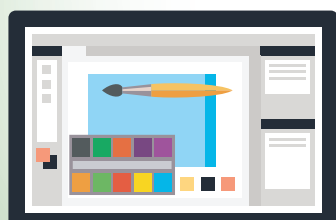
FAF WEBSITE

FarmingtonArtFoundation.org

Updated!

Feature your artwork on the site by emailing your images and updates to Fred Keebler:

FredKeebler@FredKeebler.com



You can also have your webpage added to our site. Any suggestions for additions or corrections to the website are welcome. Please put FAF Website on the subject line.



Gift from a friend | Watercolor
– Margaret Platte RSM