



NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

Letter from the President

Happy February everyone,

Mike Kamish is doing such a great job with the newsletter. I'm thrilled to see participation from our members to share their work, including myself!

Going forward I think we shall start with our members list and ask each of you to give us a little profile on yourself and your art journey so far. Pick a month that's good for you and Mike will help you if you need any ideas! It's also a way for each of us to get to know each other better.

Our Barnes and Noble show is coming together, I'm looking forward to seeing all of your paintings for the show!! I'm branching out and trying watercolors, it's a learning experience that I'm enjoying very much. I'll still do my acrylic/oils but sometimes it's nice to change it up, I find I appreciate it more, when I step away from it. This is very challenging at best, but I love the challenge! Have you tried other mediums other than the one you usually do, just to grow, and learn from it? Let us know!

Happy Painting!

Margie

Letter from the Newsletter Editor

Hi fellow PAG members. I hope you enjoyed the January newsletter. I hope to continue to bring useful information about upcoming events as well as some feature articles, product reviews, and more. Please help by suggesting articles – or even better – by writing some and submitting them. This is our newsletter and a great way to get to know fellow members, share useful tips and ideas and more.

Please participate!

Mike

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7th Meeting at The Pittsford Community Center

Speaker: James B. Williams Jr.

Website:

https://www.facebook.com/purplemoo_nstudio/



Biography

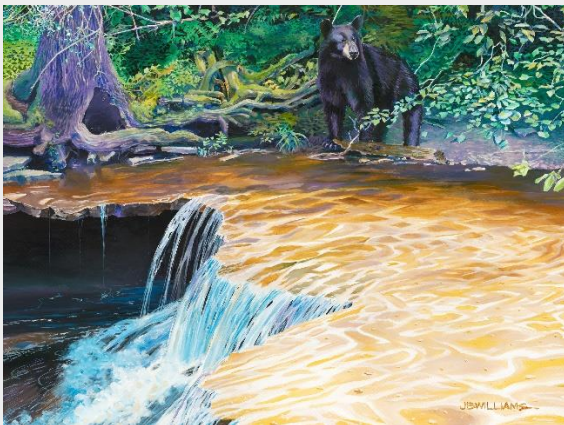
I create acrylic and watercolor paintings of many subjects e.g., landscapes, florals, vehicles, portraits, figure drawing. I'm also experienced with pastel, conte, pencil drawings and with a variety of types of 2-D rendering techniques used in architectural and product design.

I'm a graduate of Wayne Central High School in Ontario, New York; and a 2-time Scholastic Art Blue Ribbon finalist. I received a BFA at Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in Industrial Design at the college of Fine and Applied Art. Former:

- Industrial Design Technical Specialist / Project Manager (Xerox corp.)
- Graphical User Interface Designer (Xerox corp., Eastman Kodak corp., Welch Allyn Inc.)
- User Experience Design Team Manager (Welch Allyn Inc., Paychex Inc.)
- User Experience Design Team Operations Manager (Paychex Inc.)

I am a holder of 7 U.S. Patents, a former poster artist for The Lilac Festival (2006) and Fairport Canal Days (2010), and participant in Rochester-area art festivals: Lilac, Fairport Canal Days, Cornhill, Webster Waterfront, Clothesline. I have also displayed paintings at local galleries: Memorial Art Gallery gift shop, Honeoye Falls gallery, Sodus Point Gallery, The Art Stop, and Earth Tones.

I have also taught drawing and painting classes for adults and children, given demos at local art groups, and lectured at local schools (St. John Fisher College, Rochester Institute of Technology, East Ridge Middle School).



Jim will be presenting in-person, and the meeting will also be shared via **Google Meet**.

Save The Date: PAG Spring Juried Show

At the Pittsford Barnes & Noble

Location	Barnes and Noble , Community Room, Pittsford Plaza Matt Lahoda, Manager
Co-Chairs	Debi Bloom debi@instantmonogramming.com Mike Kamish mike.kamish@gmail.com Assisted by: Paula Fahy paulamfahy@gmail.com
Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Friday, February 16th Postmark Deadline for online registration and payment check.Sunday, March 3rd 10:00 am. to 12:00 pm. Art Drop Off12:00 pm. to 2:00 pm. Hang the ArtSunday, March 3rd 3:00 pm JudgingSaturday, March 9th 1:00 pm. Awards CeremonySaturday, March 30th Art Pick up 9:00 to 11:00 am.
Judge	Patricia Tribastone
Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Best of Show1 Body of Work6 Juror awards6 Merit awards1 People's Choice
Entry Fee	\$5/entry. MAXIMUM of 3 PIECES ENTERED PER MEMBER

Judge Patricia Tribastone



Some Photos from last year's show



UPCOMING 2023- 2024 SHOWS

Paddle and Pour: Pittsford Village

May – to be announced when available.

NEW MEMBERS

PAG currently has 55 members!

Please invite your artist friends to join us as we are starting to plan out a great new season!

OTHER REMINDERS

Check the PAG website for a list of all upcoming events and meetings. <https://pittsfordartgroup.com/>

Guest Policy

GUESTS interested in joining are welcomed and encouraged to join us at our monthly meetings to hear and see what's going on and to watch our wonderful demonstrators. To help with rising costs it would be appreciated if a \$5.00 donation was made to the group for in-person attendance. Any donation amount made will be applied to the joining fee.

Sunshine Committee

Sylvia Ball will send occasion appropriate cards to members or their families. If you know of someone who is ill or a member that has passed, please contact Sylvia.

ROTATING EXHIBITS

The rotating exhibits are an opportunity for members to display their work at various locations around town. If you have questions about this schedule, please contact **Laura Davis**. Remember - you can share any of these exhibit spaces with other members!

Venue->	Pittsford Town Hall	Friendly Home Main	Star P.T.	Presbyterian Church
# pieces->	10 to 15 medium	22	16	3 large, 7 small
Oct - Dec '23	S. Hyatt	H. Jusko	J. Andrews	P. Fahy
Jan- Mar '24	B. Jablonski	C. Schott	L. Davis	S. Simpson
Apr- Jun '24	R. Khan	M. Kamish	S. Zimmerkidd	L. Vannozi
Jul - Sep '24	L. Sciortino/ D. Johnson	S. Zimmerkidd	S. Culbertson	H. Jusko
Oct - Dec 24	R. Boehner	A. Limbeck	K. Herman	N. Varon

CLUB LEADERSHIP 2023 – 2024 Positions

Executive Board Officers

- President, Margaret Mitchell
- Vice-President, Mike Kamish
- Treasurer, Debi Bloom
- Recording Secretary, Carolyn Dey Lobkowicz
- Corresponding Secretary, Joe Sirianni

Standing Committees

- Membership, Carol Schott
- Refreshments, Paula Fahey
- Rotating Exhibits, Laura Davis
- Sunshine, Sylvia Ball
- Website, Joe Sirianni
- Publicity, Linda Vannozi
- Newsletter, Mike Kamish

RECENT EVENTS

FEBRUARY MEETING

Speaker Nathan Fowkes

The February Meeting featured speaker Nathan Fowkes.



Nathan entertained the group with the amazing story of his career, the people he worked with, and a glimpse into the “day in the life” of an animated movie artist.

Nathan shared many inside stories including how image concepts are developed and eventually painted for the final movie. His closing sequence in one movie required more than 14 acrylic paintings of a mountain range. Other paintings were of castles, and fantasy forests, and stages, and dungeons and more.

A few of the key lessons he shared included:

Composition

If everything has focus, then nothing has focus. Nathan stressed the need to identify the story you want to tell and the thing you want to draw focus to – and how every other stroke of the brush is to reinforce that focus and not detract from it. It means simplifying your composition to the core element you want to focus on.

Sketching

Nathan was a master at the sketchbook and created tens of thousands of small sketches over the years. Those sketches (taking no more than 5 minutes) are where he experimented and explored layout and dramatic effect and developing his sense of imagination and composition. That is something we could all do if we wanted to.

Tools

Nathan started with acrylic, went to Photoshop, and now spends more time with gouache and watercolor. But he did that for practical reasons because acrylic dries too quickly and watercolor stays active. But the thought process and the artistic vision is the same for all. Developing that vision and sense of composition and learning to manage focus – is the skill that he wants to master. The choice of paint is just a means to the end.

To learn more or watch his presentation again, check out the recording of the presentation using this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WsswkaofZxgqYE6dpor_9qpGf_7TLnHh/view?ts=65bd71c3&pli=1



MEETING NOTES – General Meeting 2/1/2024

Going forward, meeting notes will be included in the newsletter rather than a separate email. The notes below are for the FEBRUARY meeting.

Pittsford Art Group
General Meeting
Spiegel Community Center
35 Lincoln Avenue
Pittsford, NY 14534
February 1, 2024

Twenty-two members met at the Spiegel Center for the February General Meeting. Margie Mitchell, President, and three other members joined us online.

Board members present were Mike Kamish, Vice President; Joe Sirianni, Corresponding Secretary; Laurie Tappel & Debi Bloom, Treasurer; and Carolyn Lobkowitz, Recording Secretary.

To better accommodate our speaker, Nathan Fowkes, our business meeting was held after his presentation.

New Members

Joy Goodman has recently retired and plans to pursue her avid childhood interest in drawing and painting. We are happy to welcome her to PAG and look forward to seeing her work in several mediums, pastel, watercolor, and sculpture.

January Minutes

The Recording Secretary asked for changes or comments on the Minutes which are part of the January Newsletter online. They were approved as they stand by voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Currently, our balance is \$3624.

Barnes and Noble Show

Mike Kamish reported that the show Prospectus is in the mail and reminded us of some key events.

- Registration deadline for a maximum of 3 paintings is **February 16.**
- Mail your entry to **Debi Bloom, 76 Walbar St., Rochester 14609. Checks made out to Pittsford Art Group.**
- **March 3 is drop off. Refer to the Prospectus for details.**
- **Pat Tribastone**, who has a studio in Canandaigua and is well known in this area, will judge the show.
- Volunteers are needed for **drop off, hanging** and for **pick up**; Excel sheets are available online for signup.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Lobkowitz, Recording Secretary

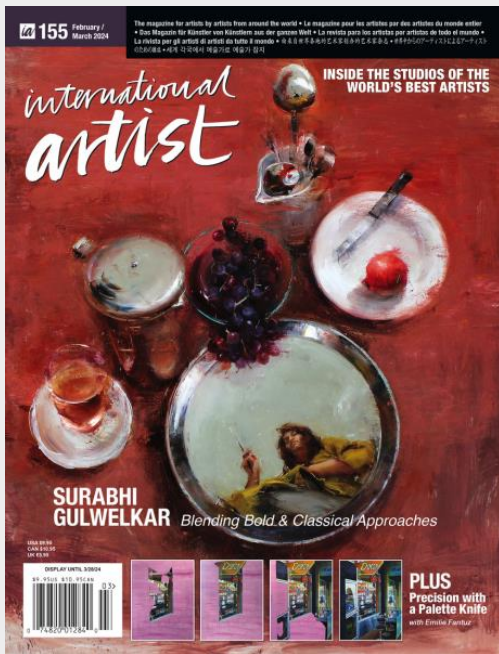
PRODUCT & BOOK REVIEW

International Artist Magazine

Review by Mike Kamish

Everything is on-line these days, articles, videos, on-line seminars. But despite access to all of that available electronic media, I am one of those old-fashioned people that like to read physical, paper, in-your-hands, magazines!

I subscribe to several that I hope to tell you about in the coming issues of the newsletter. But for me – my favorite *is International Artist magazine*.



Taking the words from their web site, the magazine includes

- Demonstrations and workshops from master artists in each issue
- Columns from the most respected artist worldwide - More like a book than a magazine.
- High-quality, full-color glossy magazine covering all paint mediums - oils, pastels, watercolor, acrylics, colored pencils, and much more.

The price is \$48/year and that includes 6 print issues plus unlimited digital access. Web site: <https://www.internationalartist.com/>

That may seem like a big expense at first, but their “pitch” of it being more like a “book” rings true to me. I find interesting articles in each issue, and I find that in many cases, I refer to those articles again and again. I don’t plan to ever throw them out! 😊

The artists, for the most part, are incredible. They come from all over the world and paint in acrylic, oil, watercolor, and pastel. There is even the occasional colored pencil and multi-media article as well. Some artists are hyper-realistic, others more abstract, others paint still-life, landscapes, and there are even articles about unusual experiences like urban sketching from your car, or on a rocking boat, or even in a snowstorm!

I have found myself going to the web sites of many of the artists discussed and have gotten all sorts of ideas about what they do and what I might want to try. I highly recommend International Artist magazine.

Over the coming months I’d like to get your opinions and reviews of magazines, video channels and articles that you read regularly. Have a favorite? Have you heard about something you’d like to learn more about?

Let us know about your favorite products and books!

AN ARTIST YOU MAY LIKE

ARTIST: Miguel Freitas

Article by Mike Kamish



Miguel Freitas was born in Lisbon, Portugal and moved to Toronto, Canada in his early teens where he currently resides. He entered the creative world as a photographer while earning his graphic arts degree, then becoming an illustrator which eventually led him to positions as an art director for companies in both Canada and Europe.

Longing for creative freedom, in 2004, he ventured on his own and has been painting full-time ever since. Using his own unique style, Freitas lays down bold colors along with intentional thick brushstrokes that create a multi-layered surface that appears sculpted creating a unique 3D effect.

Web site: <https://www.freitas.ca/>

Miguel is a special artist to Mike and his wife Jan. They have 3 of Miguel's pieces, including one that he customized and one that was commissioned.

Our first ... we fell in love with Miguel's style when we first saw it at the "One of a Kind" Show in Toronto.



Our second was one Mike commissioned for his anniversary. That is Mike & Jan sitting in the restaurant, daughter Jen on the menu, and personal dates and hidden carvings nearby →



Our third is a London scene. You can't tell in the photo, but the bus says "Pittsford, NY", the taxi has an "I Love NY" sticker and there are 4 other personal references painted in it.

As a bonus: This painting is available as a puzzle (without the personalization) and we were given that as a gift.

MEMBER PROFILE

MEMBER (and President): Margie Mitchell



I started drawing at 5, my father went to RIT for art and was a very talented watercolor artist. He and I used to draw lighthouses in Cape Vincent, NY. It's where I spent many a summer.

From there I taught myself to paint through various classes and online videos. My style is still evolving. I started painted with acrylics and oils over the last 5 year, though I still dabble with watercolor. I enjoy painting people, mostly family, as well as landscapes, architecture, and animals. I find beauty and interest in so many different things! Even something that is common, like trees, when you take the time to look you can see an incredible amount of depth and character! In addition to painting, I also enjoy the sculpting of figures, things like wizards and little people!

I was asked to be President of the Pittsford Art group after being Vice President for Rory Shalhorn, then Brandi Arnold. I learned the job by volunteering for and experiencing every position.

I've always been a "people person". I love to watch artists join the group and grow in their passion for painting. It's also been a great way to meet people from all walks of life, each talented in their own ways, and make many cherished new friends. This volunteer position has been a wonderful experience and I'm hoping that each and every one of you will someday get to experience it for yourself.

Samples of Margie's Artwork

The *"Snails Place"* is my first painting. It received a juror's award! *"My Grandfather's Wagon Shop"* and *"Arctic Bears"* are both in acrylic. I then started using acrylic as a light wash base, with oil over it for details. Thus the *"Elephant"* and *"Barn of many colors"*.

I am currently working on Barge canal locks, and Adirondack landscapes for my brother or perhaps the Barnes and Noble show in March!



New Feature: “Studio Visit”

If you’ve ever gone to the **ArtNet News** web site <https://news.artnet.com/> they have an occasional feature called “**Studio Visit**”. In this article they visit the art studio of an artist, talk about their space, their process for painting, and basically about a “day in the life”. The details are presented in the form of an interview.

Few of us are professional artists and not everyone may have a dedicated workplace, but wherever you paint, can be thought of as your “studio”. So, I thought it would be fun to start our own feature, where we talk about your studios, how you motivate yourself, how you stay organized, and what kinds of rituals you perform to keep fresh ideas coming and produce the great work that you do.

To kick things off, I visited my own studio! However, I only have one - so if you want to keep this feature going, I am going to need more of you to send me photos and describe your studios. Please share with the group – it’s how we get to know one another better and make friends as well as artist buddies.

Studio Visit: Mike Kamish

Where is your studio located?

My studio, like those for many others, is in my basement. Fortunately, our basement is finished, so I have a nice big area to display my work, and then a smaller enclosed area to set up my easel and paints and leave them set up all the time.

Tell us about your process, anything special that you do?

I suppose my most unique technique is the use of textured canvases. I lay my canvases flat and coat them with a thick layer of acrylic gesso, push it around with a small trowel, but leaving lumps and bumps. When it all dries, I have a surface that grips the paint, adds texture to the design, and sometimes is randomly suggestive of new approaches and new lines. I especially like it for scenes with woods and mountains where the rough surface provides some dimensionality.

How do you begin a painting?

I like to look at my old photos and those on a few different photographer web sites. Usually, one of those will spark an idea such as a house on a cliff, or a tree silhouetted against a sunset, and that is usually all I need to get started. I sketch the image on the canvas using a neutral color like a light gray or even a light purple, and once I have my sketch, I am off and running. Thankfully I use acrylics. Because sometimes I am off and running in the wrong direction and have to paint over what I did – but with acrylic you can get away with that, so I don’t worry. I try it – if I don’t like it, I let it dry a bit and go right over it with something new.

Any “best practices” to share?

I’m not sure if I’d call this a best practice, but it works for me. I use a piece of plexiglass as my palette. When I start a painting, I peel off any previously used plastic wrap and cover the Plexiglas with a fresh piece of plastic. That gives me a clean palette to get started. I’ve heard others suggest always using a “stay wet” palette, even at home – and I may try that one day – but right now, my Plexiglas and plastic wrap does the trick.

Can you share some photos of your setup?

The walls of my basement are covered from floor to ceiling with paintings. I’m pretty much filled now on all the walls so not sure what I’ll do next!



My easel needs a little extra offsetting some time, so I supplement it with various sizes of wood. The clown painting is one of my mother’s oil paintings.

