



July-August 2016 Issue

## President's Message

---

### President's Message

You would need some pretty fancy diagnostic equipment to find any similarity between Saint Francis and me. I admire him – he was a man of strong virtue, but we have followed very different trajectories, perhaps starting with the strong virtue.

As just one example, he referred to his body, his corporeal self, as “brother donkey”, because its role was to be burdened, beaten, and eat very sparingly. It only takes a glance at me to understand that I have a different theory.

(This is not the first time I had this thought – I mentioned it to a relative, who promptly pointed out that some of us deal with “brother donkey” and others of us deal with “brother hippo”. It is the duty of relatives to keep us well-grounded.)

Most of Saint Francis's works don't floor me; I can read them without any great emotional response. But a few years back, I picked up a small book that had a portion of his “Canticle of the Sun”. It only had four or six lines, but it had been done in beautiful calligraphy and then richly illustrated. It was so well done that it connected me with his thoughts in a way that the words alone could not.

Most art stands on its own of course, but after a lifetime of putting words on paper, I'm still amazed at how much it can enhance the written word. I shouldn't be – images are much more immediate forms of communication than words. I've read Don Quixote, but my mental image is Picasso's squiggle drawing of the Don. I've read Winnie the Pooh as well, and think only of Shepard's drawings.

We're headed for an image-driven world. Computers, especially Apple computers, rely very heavily on image icons. (By the way, if you use an Apple, what does the icon of a hamburger mean – that it's time for lunch?) There are now people who can't believe a message is sincere unless it's accompanied by emojis. It's something to think about when somebody asks you what use art has.

Moving on, we had a special anniversary this year – not one of the expensive ones that end in zero, but pretty close. I decided to have a portrait of the dog in residence done for the occasion. Aside from minor bickering about who gets the last Byrd's cookie, wife and dog are pretty happy with each other.

The dog and I went out to the sandbar in front of North Pier on Cockspur Island, and I shot some photos. Then I walked the worthwhile ones over to Bess Ramsey and asked her to create said portrait. I briefly considered bringing the dog to her studio at City Market, but City Market has a Byrd's outlet, and that could have

overly entertaining consequences. I had chosen a profile, the dog striking a heroic pose in front of the river. Bess wasn't as convinced, and we wound up choosing another version. The dog loves the sandbar for the digging potential there, and he had a large clump of sand on his nose, which took away from the nobility of the image I originally wanted. We agreed on price and finish date, and then I left her alone. That last clause is important, so I'll repeat it. I left her alone. If you don't trust the artist, hold off on the commission until you find one who you do trust.

After a bit, Bess called me to look at a draft. I was delighted and I was even more delighted with the finished product. It captures some of the personality of the dog, and isn't that what portraits are supposed to do?

I'd go into a detailed description, but what I said about images earlier works here too. Thank you, Bess Ramsey.



## SAA PAG

The Savannah Art Association Plein Air Group that is PAG. We have formed a small group and would like all who are interested in joining us for a little adventure in painting outdoors to join us whenever you can. There is no cost. This summer we plan to meet the first and third Thursday and using the following Friday as a rain date. It is now on our calendar. The locations will vary, we are open for suggestions.

## CALENDER JUNE-JUIY

### June

There are no meetings for SAA in June.

2 PAG meets at the Savannah Botanical Gardens on Eisenhower 10 am.

4 Art on River Street, from 9 til 5. Call SAA 232-7731 to sign up.

11 Painting with the Kids at Oglethorpe Mall. Making Father's Day cards. Call 232-7731 to sign up to help.

16 PAG meets at Lake Mayer on Montgomery and Sallie Mood Dr. Bring water and snacks or lunch. 9 a.m.

18 Playshop at Generation One. Linda Klein will demonstrate how to paint in

ink on Tiles. Call 232-7731 for supply list and to sign up.

**30** Airport, down with the old show and up with the new. E-mail Barbara Gentry at [bgentry@comcast.net](mailto:bgentry@comcast.net) with your new entries

## July

**6** BOD MEETING 5 PM LOCATION Cary Hilliards Restaurant, 8410 Waters Ave.

**7** PAG, Plein Air Painters will meet at Wormsloe Historic Plantation, 7601 Skidaway Road, fee at gate \$10, a person, visit the visitors center, then walk the trails.

**20** General Mtg Cary Hilliards Restaurant, 8410 Waters Avenue 6 p.m

**21** PAG will meet at the Bonaventure Cemetery, in Thunderbolt, GA. Bring your water and food.

## August

**3** SAA BOD meeting, 5 pm. Location TBA

**4** PAG will meet at the Bluffton Oyster House. 10 a.m. Bring your food and water.

**18** PAG Plein Air Painters, location tba.

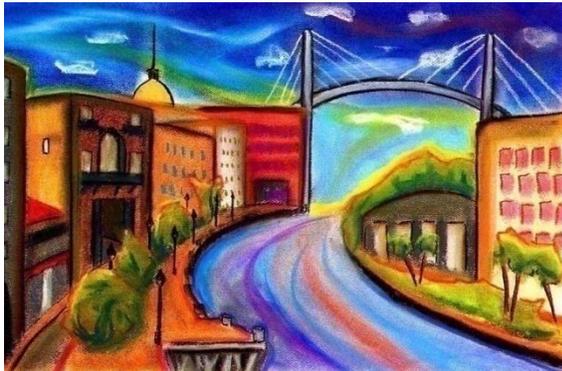
## Featured Artist



### *Gary Covell*

Gary Covell was born in Syracuse, New York in 1961. As a young boy, he had a weak lung and was hospitalized several times. One of these hospital visits would change the course of his life forever. A kind physician did a sketch of him and it sparked an interest in a hobby that was to become his life's calling. After a tour of duty in the United States Navy, he settled in Savannah with its rich tradition in the arts. He specializes in abstract art as well as detailed renderings of Savannah's man-made and natural environments. One of his paintings won 1st place in the painting category at the Fine Arts On The River festival and was used to promote the event.

**River Street by Gary Covell**



**Forsyth Fountain by Gary Covell**

The Epoxy Process....  
First I sketch a preliminary drawing or paint with pastel, acrylic or watercolor. Next, I scan the original artifact at a high resolution and then print the image on canvas with the Canon iPF6100. Finally, I spread epoxy resin on the colored images with a spatula then use a torch to eliminate bubbles and let each piece cure for 8 hours. The result is a deep, almost 3-dimensional, eye-popping affect of color that's virtually indestructible. I provide each piece with a numbered, certificate of authenticity.



**Watercolor by Gary Covell**

*.Miniatures –News in Brief*



*Some pictures from last Saturday at the Mall!*



*Happy Father's Day!  
Thank you Martha Love for all your hard  
work on this venue.*

***HELP!!!**  
Saturdays on River Street will resume if  
we get a volunteer. We need a volunteer  
to organize and manage the River Street  
Shows. Call 232-7731 to volunteer.*



**PLAYSHOPS 2016.** If you would like to give a 5 or 6 hour workshop please call 232-7731, or if you would like to have one given in a particular art area, call.

*What You've Been Up To*

I'm cleaning out my studio and have loads of frames, if any of you need some. They are all Jerryartsarama plein art frames.

- 5x7 black and gold and silver
- 8 x 10 gold and black and silver
- 6x8 gold
- 9x12 black
- 6x6 black

Let me know if anyone's interested

Thanks,  
Page Smoak  
912-401-4060

*From our friends at the Statesboro Art*

*Association:*

**JEFFREY SCOTT BAISDEN**

**Colored Pencil Workshop in Statesboro Ga.**

Our next one-day workshop will be held on June 25th. Our artist will be Jeffrey Scott Baisden, who will instruct us on the use of colored pencils. Some of you may recall that Ms. Baisden's artwork was featured at the Averitt Center for the Arts a few years ago. Her work can be viewed on the link below.

Cost for workshop: \$65.00.

Date: June 25, 2016 (Saturday)

Location: Honey Bowen Building, 1 Max Lockwood Drive, Statesboro, Ga. 30458

July–August 2016

Time: 9am-4pm

Please bring a lunch or plan to go out for lunch.

Contact Deborah Bailey to register: [912-682-7130](tel:912-682-7130) or email [southernexposuresinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:southernexposuresinfo@yahoo.com)

<http://www.floridaartistsgroup.org/html/florida-artist-group-member-jeffrey-baisden.html>



**Romana in Colors**

Painting & Cultural Workshop

Join us as we once again open and blend the worlds of freedom, tranquillity and creativeness in a quest to reveal our individual expression through art.

In our third retreat of Romana in Colors, we will be enjoying our lessons in a picturesque setting that was created by artists with the intention to inspire future artists. Altos de Chavon is the kind of magical place that inspires one to reach their inner soul and serves as a geographical muse to many forms of expression.

Along with Chavon we will also be painting on the white sands of Playa Minitas, a private beach where the land becomes one with the Southern Caribbean Sea.

Date: Sunday, October 9 to Saturday, October 15, 2016



Location: Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic - accommodations at Luxury 5 star resort  
Instructor: Hilarie Lambert -Oil- (All levels)  
Tuition: 4 days instructions  
Price: \$1,800.00 p/p -double room  
\$300.00 p/p -supplement for single room- (limited available)

'Travel Insurance highly recommended'

Our daily painting classes will be combined with other optional activities such as: Beach, Spa, Golf, Riding Horses and different tours.

*Contact Margie Sone Gravina for more info.*

*At margiesone@hotmail.co,*

**Welcome to Our newest Members:**

Carole Carroll, Alan Temple, Patricia Geary, Doris (Ting) Blessing, Christina Taylor, James Stan Arnold, Mary E. Atkins, Steven Nisbet, Kara Haywood.



***New and not new...***

Call to volunteer 232-7731. We need help with fundraising, working on River Street, High School Art Competition, and other areas of assistance as needed.

**Meet your current Board members:**

Ed Eckstrand, President, Facebook  
Carol Anderson, Vice President, Education,  
Karen Borden, Vice President, Correspondence  
Barbara Gentry, Secretary  
Jill Buckner, Treasurer  
Margie Sone Gravina , Programs  
Cathy Sizer, Publicity  
Martha Love, Hospitality, Programs  
Leigh Harris, Hospitality  
Grace Rohland, Special Projects  
Bobbie Kraft, Gallery Manager  
Rebecca Marcussen, Fundraising  
Andrea Stark, Programs