

Brushstrokes

The Savannah Art Association Newsletter

September 2021

EDitorial

First impressions are important, they say. But they may also be misleading.

The door was open, because workmen milled around inside. I looked into the space in the bottom of the building. Renovation had started, but it still had brick walls erected seemingly at random on the floor, dirty ones. The walls were coated with decades of dust, and some of the things that had crumbled to the floor probably looked better with a coating of filth than they would have without it. There were the remains of several fittings that looked like they might have been used during the second Cleveland administration. The agent explained to me that six months from now, this would be suitable for the gallery we wanted to open. And I had final say on signing the lease.

I had more reservations than the hotel down the street, but I signed. And sure enough, six months later... it wasn't ready.

Renovations have problems than new construction doesn't. The floor in the space tilted six inches or more to the east; that is, toward McDonough's bar. I get the attraction, but a tilted floor doesn't suit an art gallery. Work continued. Historic buildings tend to lack ductwork for things like electricity and communications lines.



Just under three times the estimated schedule to complete, the gallery was finished. It was beautiful – everything we could have envisioned. So the Savannah Art Association again had a downtown gallery.

The gallery passed its fourth anniversary this year. Those years included some where Chippewa Square turned into a giant trash heap on Saint Patrick's Day. There was the year that our side of the square was blocked by road construction, just in time for the Christmas season. There were times when homeless people decided our doorstep was a temporary campground, when people explaining that they had been over-served developed an interest in art, an interest that left them in future sobriety. We continued anyway – that's the cost of doing business.

Chippewa Square attracted some art lovers, but not a great number. Many visitors walked straight through the square, north to south, unaware of our existence. The gallery next to ours closed. Then came Covid, which reduced the flow of visitors to near zero, oblivious or not. And the lease was to end, with the landlord unwilling to renew it.

So it goes. SAA retains its exhibitions at the airport and at businesses like Pace Lighting. The opportunities at the airport are growing; twice this year, we've been invited to exhibit outside of the gallery at the airport. We continue to search out exhibition opportunities for our members, and we let you know when we find them. When I first joined, the gallery didn't exist, and we still had more exhibition opportunities than I could fill. That will remain true as we move forward.

We have significantly more members now, and I believe we have improved the general level of skill. If people anticipate our exhibitions, more will appear, and I think they will with the new and different skills I see in the membership today. Still, I harbor a little sadness. Standing a gallery up and getting it running required skill and labor. Some of the blood, sweat, and tears belonged to me. But with that comes some practical lessons, and I look forward to applying them to the next gallery, when the right opportunity appears.

Ed

Airport News

The remaining show for 2021 at the airport gallery will be hung in early October. These are judged shows and winners receive ribbons and monetary awards. All work should be original.

October – December: "Narrative - Stories in Art" (Intake is October 1st)

The Artist of the Month window has openings. Please email Carol Hartley to get your place. cbchartley@gmail.com. The current show is *In The Masters' Style.*:



Here's **Jerry Luke** with his Best In Show entry. *For this painting, I chose to paint in the style of Oskar Kokoschka in order to express my memory of intense feelings experienced during my thirties.*



Mary Atkins entered this work. It recalls many masters, Hopper and perhaps a little Remington among them.



Jime Wimmer took Third Place with this work. It's typical of the work she does – finely detailed, with beautiful color balance and whimsical subjects.

Honorable Mentions



Gwen Frazier-Smith and her work, an indicator both of Gwen's skill and her sense of humor.



Cate Campbell with Madonna and Child



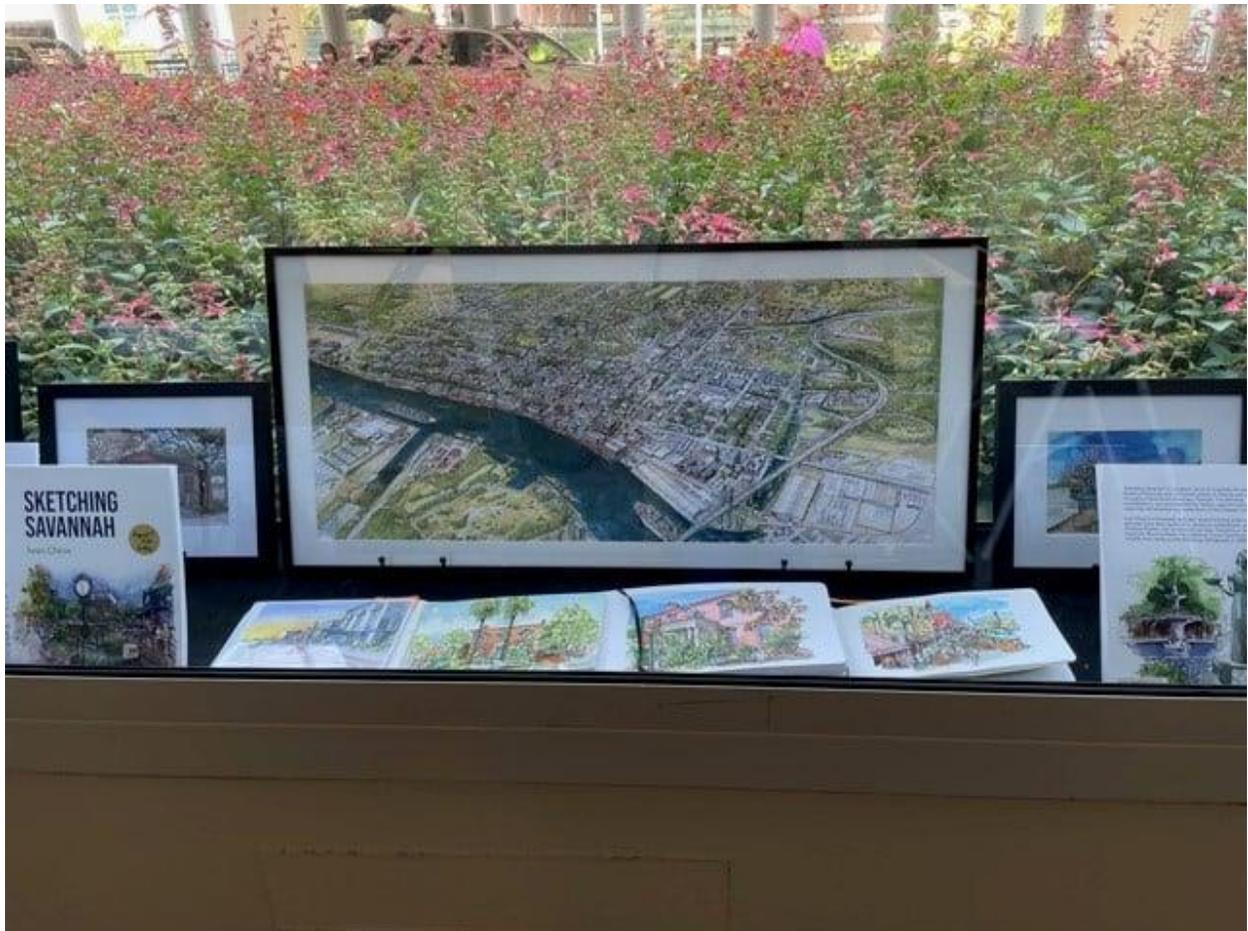
Molly Cusick's photography also earned an honorable mention.

Artist of the Month – Ivan Chow

August's Artist of the Month was Ivan Chow. Ivan was born in England, grew up in Southeast Asia, and has worked in the United States and around the world as an architect, educator and artist for four decades. He has practiced in design firms of various sizes, managed a private real estate firm, served as a department chair and Dean at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and served as Artist-In-Residence at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. Ivan has degrees in



architecture from Harvard and Berkley and a degree in theological studies from Gordon Conwell. He has three grown children and lives with his wife in Savannah.



The display includes Ivan's new book, Sketching Savannah.

Almost two years in the making, I am pleased to announce the publication of a collection of my ink-and-watercolor sketches featuring over a hundred places of interest and charm throughout downtown Savannah, Georgia. The sketches, organized in serendipitous constellations, are accompanied by historic captions and neighborhood maps.



E-Talk

The Savannah Art Association has on-line sites for getting information to you faster and easier than e-mail. Our website is www.savart1920.com. It provides an oversight of the organization, recent and upcoming events, and a way to join or pay dues or purchase event tickets (when we can have events). It also contains an on-line gallery of works from member artists. We also have an Instagram account.

On Facebook, the Association maintains a page ([Savannah Art Association | Facebook](#)) The page is the best way to get the latest information, pictures of works, and listings of local events that may interest Association members.

Savannah Art Association Board of Directors 2021

Officers

Carol Anderson: President
Martha Love: Vice President
Deb Palmer: Recording Secretary
Sue Diaz: Treasurer
Carol Hartley: Airport Gallery Chairperson
Bev Kronquest: Corresponding Secretary

Board Members

Beverley Baynes: At Large
Bonnie Cravener: Hospitality and Airport Art Assistant
Gwen Frazier-Smith: At Large
Martha Love: Plein Air
Nancy Saltsman: At Large

Non-Board Contributors:

Ed Eckstrand
Brushstrokes and
Facebook

Christina Taylor
Website and Online
Gallery

Barbara Gentry
Electronic Routing

Nancy Elizabeth Saltsman

FALL WINTER 2021 ART CLASSES

COVID RELIEF

\$50 PER SESSION



BOTANICAL DRAWING WITH GRAPHITE POWDER AND PENCILS

4 WEEKS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 13, 9-11:30 AM

DATES FOR #2, 3, 4 TBA

#2: DRAWING NATURE WITH COLORED PENCIL

#3: DRAWING NATURE WITH PEN & INK & WATERCOLOR

#4: BOTANICAL PAINTING WITH WATERCOLOR

TO REGISTER AND GET THE MATERIALS LIST;

ncsaltsman@gmail.com

President's Message

To the Board of Directors and Members of the Savannah Art Association

From Carol Anderson, President

August 14, 2021

Sometimes the person elected president of an organization is called upon to make a difficult decision. That's what happened to me last week. With input from some board members, I made the decision that SAA could not support the decision made by Cathy Sizer and the partners to move the downtown gallery to the Bryan Street location.

Due to financial realities, it is not in SAA's best interest to participate in this relocation.

We wish them well in their new venture, and we look forward to the future of our association. *We are 101 years strong.* We welcome new ideas and new programs, as well as re-envisioning older traditions. Let's let our creativity shine!

We welcome new members and encourage active participation by current members.

Please encourage *one* new person to join us. If everyone invited *one* person, we'd double in size, in creativity, and in new adventures together.

Respectfully,

Carol Anderson

East of Savannah

In July and August, La Terra Natural Oils on Bull Street invited member P. T. Bridgeport to exhibit his photographs in their shop. La Terra is known for hosting art exhibitions and has previously shown work by several members and by the Association itself. This exhibit was called East of Savannah.

The Association generously offered to hold an artist's reception, the first live event since the onset of Covid. At that time infection rates were plummeting, and it seemed like a good excuse to gather again. As always, La Terra co-owner Linda Fuller was a gracious and genial hostess.

The reception was a gathering of old friends with some new ones. Carol Anderson and a few others took some photos, which we are including here.



Come one, come all to the 4th Annual,

SLAM 22

(Savannah Local Artists Market)

We had 64 super talented artists take part in the first SLAM in 2019, 74 in 2020, and 65 in COVID 2021..... plus LOTS and LOTS of art lovers took home a new wall hanging... it's \$45 for an 8 by 10 fence section and the artists keep 100% of sales..

If you would like to participate in SLAM 22 ~~next spring~~ **OCT 16 2021** (Date to be determined) contact Charlie Ellis at pojopoint@comcast.net or 912-665-8656..

Salvation Army, 3000 Bee Rd

Thai Food Truck ~ Jenni's Ice Cream ~ Flirt Bakery
 Bojangles Chicken ~ Great Art ~ Great Fun for All

SLAM

The Savannah Art Association will have two walls at SLAM. If you have less than a wall to exhibit, consider using one of our walls. Contact Martha Love for more information.

100 Miles of Georgia Coast

On August 30, 2021, *One Hundred Miles of the Georgia Coast* was installed by the Savannah Art Association at the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. These 47 beautiful artworks, depicting Georgia's unique coast, were created by 26 SAA member artists, nine of whom are new members.

This first-ever show is co-sponsored by *100 Miles.org*, a non-profit organization which strives to protect and preserve Georgia's coast through advocacy, education, and citizen engagement. The home office of 100 Miles is located in Brunswick, Georgia.

The ten-dollar fee for entering the show will be donated to the *100 Miles* organization.

This show, spanning the first and second floors of the airport, will be on view until late February, 2022.

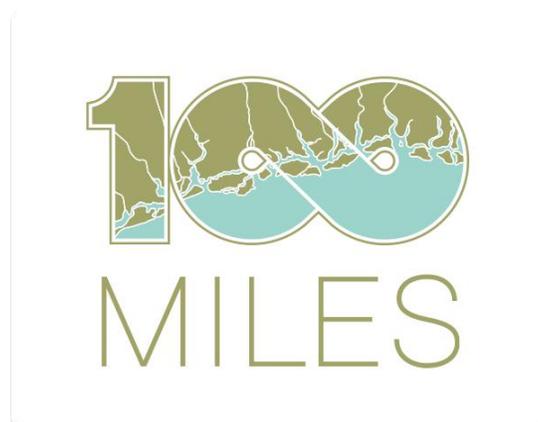
The artworks include oil, acrylic, and watercolor painting, photography, mixed media, and fiber. Works are for sale, with potential buyers communicating directly with the artist.

Working on the installation were: Carol Hartley, Carol Anderson, Martha Love, Paul Downs, and Bonnie Cravener. We couldn't have done it without the expertise of Scotty, airport art-hanger extraordinaire, who was with us the entire day, as well as Candace Carpenter, the Marketing Manager at the airport.

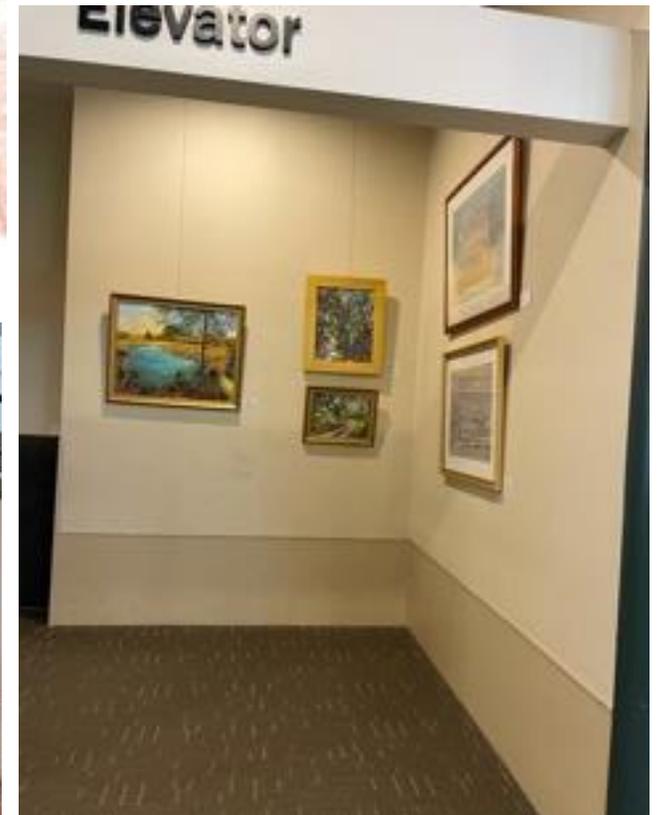
SAA greatly appreciates the opportunities to show our work at the airport. We have been invited to display art in the airport gallery for a number of years, and this new show, is a unique way to display our work in the greater airport area. Thank you, airport!

SAA encourages you all to take a field trip to the airport to view this exciting project.

Many thanks to everyone who participated.







Catching Up With Gwen

Editor's note: I quite casually asked Gwen Frazier-Smith if she had anything to contribute to the newsletter. I hadn't seen her for a while, and didn't know what she'd been doing. What follows is a small portion of her response. Gwen has been very busy with some fascinating things.



Gwen opened her own exhibition space, the Gwen's Urbeau Art Gallery in June of 2020. She shows quite a bit of her own art there. (I've been there, and it's worth a visit). This year, on Mother's Day, the Gallery hosted the kick off for the Mayor's *Get On Top Of Crime* initiative.

The mayor and council members literally got on the roof of the gallery, and groups

rallied.

The media showed interest in the event as well. The Savannah Morning News carried an article on the event and on Gwen.





Next, Gwen visited Frida Kahlo's Blue House in Mexico City. Gwen says: *I have great respect for her strength and resiliency. In spite of her challenges, she did not give up her passion for art.* Gwen was accompanied in her travels by Flat Duck (among others) who will pop up occasionally in these photos.



She also visited the Museo Mural Diego Rivera.



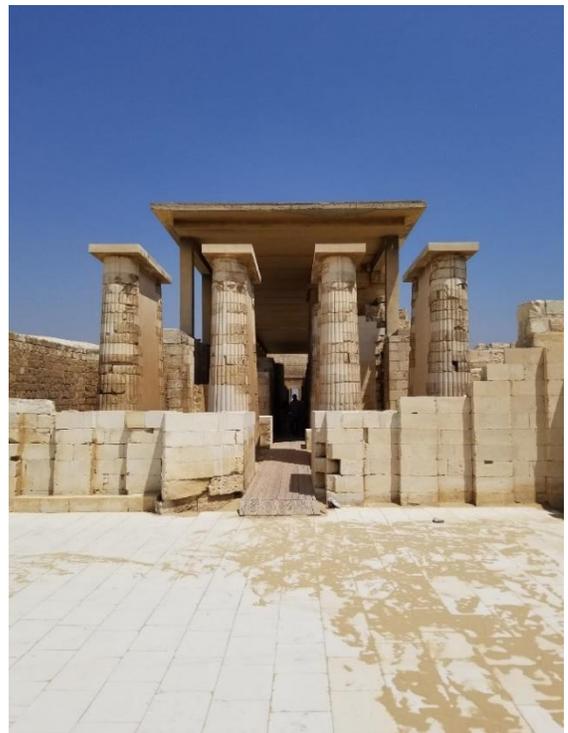


Gwen's next stop was Chicago. Her husband's grandmother turned 100, and she had painted a picture featuring the centenarian. You may have seen the picture on our Facebook site. Here's a photo of the portrait and the celebrant.

Gwen also had the opportunity to visit some of the city landmarks, including "The Bean", the world's largest sculpture.



Gwen's last adventure for the summer was a trip to Egypt.



Djoser's Step Pyramid was built around 2700 BC, about 100 years before the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

Part of that trip was a visit to a rug-making school and distribution of presents to the children of the City of the Dead. That's quite a summer.



Thanks to Gwen for sharing the photos with us.

The Mirror

I recently chatted with someone who has been reading the newsletters. She was complimentary, mostly, but thought that was a certain sameness to the people who appear in it. I must admit that the criticism is somewhat accurate.

But the newsletter isn't exclusive. The people who we profile and who make contributions are the ones who let us know what they are doing. We can't cover the ones we don't know about or the ones we don't get material for.

If you are having an exhibition or participating in an exhibition, or if you are giving classes, we'll happily put your material in the newsletter. If you take photos of an event, we'll try to print them. If we aren't publishing a newsletter in time, we'll put it on our Facebook site. We put many events on the Facebook site that don't really involve the Association – they're just things we think local artists ought to know about. In either case, send the material to farbear@hotmail.com. Text ought to be readable in Word format (.doc or .docx) and pictures ought to be in JPEG format. We've put a few videos on the Facebook site too; .mov format works well.

We display work from the Artist of the Month in the window of the Airport Gallery. If you'd like to be considered, contact Carol Hartley, who handles airport affairs for us. Some months, that includes coverage in the newsletter and it always includes Facebook displays.

At another level, keeping the Association running smoothly requires time and effort. It's currently being handled by a very small cadre of dedicated people. We have several Board positions that we want to fill. If you'd like to help with the operation, contact Carol Anderson. We're looking for organizational and operational skills as much as art background.

Our Association is a collection of independent artists, all of whom have different ways of doing and marketing their art. We can help get out the word on each of them. But the mirror only shows those who stand in front of it.

Ed