

Burlington Fine Arts Association

NEW MEMBERS GUIDE



'BRINGING CREATIVITY TOGETHER'

Welcome to the Burlington Fine Arts Association!

I would like to welcome you to the Burlington Fine Arts Association, a founding guild within the Art Gallery of Burlington that is in its 54th year! In spite of the fact that we are one of the largest art guilds in Ontario, now close to 200 strong, we are simply a group of artists, working together to make things happen for the benefit of all within the association.

The BFAA provides access to a unique facility with working studios and multiple galleries, an opportunity to draw, paint and print alongside other artists on a weekly or monthly basis; and so many opportunities to exhibit that you will find it hard to keep up!

We are a friendly group and the best way to meet us and take advantage of BFAA opportunities is to get involved. Here are some suggestions

- The monthly general meetings offer face to face info about upcoming events and opportunities, excellent art-related presentations and demos by leading professional Canadian artists free of charge every third Tuesday evening, 7 pm, September to June.
- Take advantage of our BFAA studio time either as part of an existing group or as a space to work.
- Read the Weekly Updates, calendars and important notices to stay on top of what's happening. Make sure to put Joan Carte's email address in your contact list! jwcarte7@rogers.com
- Get your art featured on the BFAA website! Send your art images to the BFAA Website through Margaret Dent mdentfineart@yahoo.com
- Finally, as you will hear often – get involved in any way that you can. Share your art and your ideas!

BFAA is comprised of a wonderful group of amazing artists at all levels and working in all styles and fine art media. Congratulations on making the smart decision to become part of this dynamic group!

Tim Laspa

President, BFAA

How does the BFAA fit within the Art Gallery of Burlington?

We are the largest of the seven guilds that work out of the Art Gallery of Burlington.

The other Guilds are:

- Latow Photography Guild
- Burlington Potters Guild
- Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild
- Burlington Sculptors and Woodworkers Guild
- Burlington Hooking Craft Guild
- Digital Arts Guild

The seven guilds operate under an umbrella organization known as Arts Burlington. The Arts Burlington council is made up of two representatives from each Guild. They have a constitution which can be viewed on their website <https://www.artsburlington.ca/> . Arts Burlington is also responsible for negotiating our *Partnership Agreement* with the Art Gallery of Burlington.

Arts Burlington organizes the annual *Holiday Sale* which coincides with the Soup Bowl Fundraiser for the Art Gallery of Burlington; Arts Burlington also hopes to organize the Art@1333 Sale in the spring of 2023.

Presently, the BFAA Arts Burlington representatives are Tim Laspa and Lydia Swanson

Volunteering

The BFAA is all about people and art – people who make art happen in Burlington! All BFAA activities happen through artists working together to make ideas a reality. All positions are volunteer, no one is paid for anything they do for the Guild. We do ask that everyone in the Guild volunteer at least **ten hours** per year by either serving in one of our executive positions, or by helping at various shows, sales and other events. Volunteering varies in scope and can include such activities as hanging works, assisting exhibition coordinators and printing labels for a show and can be done during the day, weekdays or weekends and even at home. Please watch for these opportunities and sign up!

We keep track of our volunteer hours for two reasons:

1. Anyone who volunteers 50 hours or more in one calendar year will qualify for either a parking pass for the next year, or a \$100 credit towards a course at the AGB
2. The AGB uses these figures in their grant applications and in preparing other funding proposals. Volunteer hours are critical to the AGB as well as to the BFAA!

We use *Charity Republic* to log our hours. This website is easy to use whether you use it daily, weekly or just once a year. <https://www.charityrepublic.com/>
If you need help logging your hours, please contact Sue Dzida at bfaahours@gmail.com

"BFAA is a volunteer run organization. Volunteering is a fun way to get to know other members. All members are expected to volunteer at least 10 hours a year. Hours are recorded by Charity Republic and 50 hours or more can be rewarded by a year's parking pass."

Sue Dzida

Monthly Activities

The BFAA has several ongoing activities that artists can participate in on a monthly or weekly basis. All skill levels are welcome at these activities. Even if you've never done an activity such as life drawing, abstract painting or plein air painting, you will find the other members are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you. Some of our activities have a modest fee to cover the cost of a model or props, but most are free. The studio is equipped with easels, tables, chairs, stools and drawing boards but each artist is responsible for their own materials such as paints, paper, canvas, brushes, pencils etc. Monthly activities are described below. Currently, members who wish to attend the fine arts studio must sign up at <https://signup.com/go/czCjVuP>

Schedule	Time	Activity	Location	Contact /Comments
3 rd Tuesday Sept – June	7:00pm-9:00pm	General Mtg & Speaker	Virtual	Executive Committee
Wednesday	1 pm - 4 pm	portrait or life drawing \$8 or \$10 model fee	Fine Arts Studio	Dan Maelstrom
Thursdays May to Oct	9am-12pm	Plein Air Painting	Various locations	Ivan Fernandez
Tues to Friday	12:00pm-5:00p m	open unfacilitated BFAA studio time	Fine Arts Studio	
Saturday	10:00pm-5:00p m	open unfacilitated BFAA studio time	Fine Arts Studio	

Subject to change

Note: - Check Weekly Updates for possible studio cancellation notices as the studio will sometimes be needed by the AGB for classes.

All mediums are welcome, but oil painters have some restrictions. See below.

“Oil painting is permitted at the AGB and in the Fine Arts Studio however, solvents and nut based paints or mediums (ie; walnut oil) are not permitted. All paint brushes and rags should be taken home to clean and/or be disposed of. I would be happy to share my nut free / solvent free materials list with anyone who is interested in using oils in the studio.” Vanessa Cress Lokos

Exhibit Opportunities in the BFAA

The BFAA has worked to establish clear, objective and transparent processes for access to the various exhibit venues available to BFAA members. This endeavour responds to a natural progression of needs after a number of guild members have very successfully developed relationships within the community to increase the exhibit opportunities offered to a growing BFAA membership.

Membership in the BFAA provides a good balance of exhibit opportunities for ALL members as demonstrated by the following chart.

<u>Venues/ Exhibit Opportunities</u>	<u>Targeted Artist Level*</u>	<u>Participation & Decisions</u>
Fireside (Groups) Committee	E/M/Est	BFAA Coordinator Oversight
Fireside (Solo/Sm. Groups)	M/Est	BFAA Selection Committee
The Hub (Solo/Sm. Groups)	M/Est	BFAA Selection Committee
The Artist's Mark (Juried Exhibit in The Hub)	E/M/Est	Juror Decision
Office Galleries - M&H Law	M/Est	curated
Karina Gould MPP office	M/Est	curated
Holiday Sale-	E/M/Est	Open to BFAA members
Art@1333 Sale	E/M/Est	Open to BFAA members
All Guild's Show		AGB Curator Oversight

* Artist Levels

Emerging (E): "toe in the water", new to exhibiting
 Mid-Career (M): "treading water", have experience exhibiting
 Established (Est): "in the deep end" recognized artist

Exhibit Overview by Month

MONTH	EVENT	LOCATION	COORDINATOR
November	BFAA Juried Show "The Artist's Mark"	Burlington Centre – The Hub	Artist's Mark Committee
January, March, July	Solo Show	Fireside Lounge	Cathy Lorroway
February, May, November	Group Show	Fireside Lounge	Cathy Lorroway
Spring	Art@1333	Art Gallery of Burlington	
April/May	All Guilds Show	Art Gallery of Burlington	Tim Laspa Lydia Swanson
November	Holiday Sale	Art Gallery of Burlington	
Ongoing	Group and Solo Exhibits	Burlington Centre – The Hub	Vanessa Cress Lokos & Briar Emond
Ongoing		M&H Law office	Lydia Swanson
March to May		Karina Gould MPP office	Lydia Swanson

* Subject to change

"Painting with both the Sketch Group and the Plein air Group gives you the experience of painting from life. It teaches you to really see the world around you with new eyes. Life drawing with live nude models is the time honoured way of learning to draw. Still life as well as portraits with live models, and painting outdoors on site is a very different experience to copying photographs. Come and join us for a unique experience and learn how to see. We are a very friendly group, and range in experience from beginner to professional."

Programs

The BFAA offers an encompassing program of events at each of our general meetings taking place from September to June. **At this time held virtually via Zoom.** Aside from the social events noted below that take place in December and June, we have excellent art-related presentations and demonstrations by leading professional Canadian artists and representatives from suppliers of art products or services. The speaker presentations can range from a multitude of fine arts disciplines, including printmaking, drawing, painting, and mixed media applications to name a few.

Ideas for programs/speakers can be sent to Deirdre Barron at deirdreabarron@gmail.com

Social Activities - currently held virtually on Zoom

The BFAA is a very friendly group and we enjoy several social activities throughout the year including our semi-annual "*virtual potluck dinners*" which happen on the 3rd Tuesday of December and the 3rd Tuesday of June. We host our General Meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, September – November, and January – May

Workshops - currently held virtually on Zoom

The BFAA generally hosts several workshops per year in the Fine Arts Studio with acclaimed instructors from within and outside of our guild. These workshops are usually geared for all levels and offer a chance to learn something new or hone existing skills. Past workshops have included collage art with Kal Honey, Painting Sparkling Glass with Shelley Prior, pastel workshops with Cathy Lorraway and Clarence Porter, portrait painting with Juan Martinez and acrylic landscapes with Andrew Sookrah, to name a few. Our workshop coordinators are Irena Skoczny Gratton and Edith Houde. Feel free to share your suggestions and requests for upcoming workshops with them. Workshops are individually priced and have participant limits. During the pandemic we have been having virtual workshop sessions, and plan to have a mix of both virtual and in person workshops in the future. Watch our newsletter and weekly updates to see upcoming workshops. Apply early to reserve your spot.

Other Perks

10% discount at the **Burlington Artist Gallery**, 3500 Commerce Court, Burlington.

From time to time, opportunities arise to participate in community events both within and outside of the Art Gallery of Burlington. These events include painting bowls for the Soup Bowl event, demonstrating at the New Year's Levee and Culture Days.

Website and Links

You will find lots of useful information on our website www.burlingtonfinearts.com including a Members Only section (password is provided to new members) which will give you a list of members, and a list of the executive members and their roles. Our webmaster is Margaret Dent, assisted by Glenda Wood. Margaret is the person to contact to get your pictures up in the Members' Gallery. Margaret also manages facebook and other aspects of our media including hosting our Zoom sessions. Barbara Reade oversees the other social media and Darcy Thompson is our primary contact for membership.

"My name is Margaret Dent and I am the membership coordinator. In addition, along with Glenda Wood, I help manage our web presence. During our New Member Social we will take a quick look at the BFAA website, Facebook and Instagram pages. Any questions computer and internet related can be directed to me at any time through my email mdentfineart@yahoo.com "

Weekly Update

Watch your emails for weekly updates, monthly newsletters, calendars and Calls for Entry from our Communication Executive, Joan Carte.

"BFAA members receive important BFAA news through email communication. Exhibition calls for entry, our newsletter and monthly calendar are sent as they become available. Reminders and updates will come in the Weekly Updates. Checking your emails regularly assures that you don't miss anything. Please 'whitelist' my email address jwcarte7@rogers.com by adding it to your computer's contact list so that your provider doesn't send them to your junk mailbox."

Newsletter

The BFAA Newsletter appears monthly from September through to June with one edition covering Dec./Jan. It provides highlights and information on events, Artist Tips and features member information plus much more. Enjoy!

Material to be considered should be sent to Ron Greig at bfaanewsletter@gmail.com

*The **Fireside Lounge** is a venue in the Art Gallery of Burlington for both emerging and professional artists to showcase their work. The Fireside Room is a small gallery which the BFAA currently shares with Latow for themed, small group and solo shows. Our themed shows, open to all BFAA members include themed exhibits with the themes published to members yearly. See the Call for Entry process about the opportunity for solo or small group exhibits in the Fireside Lounge.*

Cathy Lorroway

***“The Artist’s Mark, our BFAA Annual Juried Show** is a very popular event that brings the BFAA, the AGB and local art out into the community. Funded through a City of Burlington Arts and Culture Grant, it is an exciting annual celebration of art within the Burlington community. As a juried exhibit, artists are invited to submit work based on the entry criteria. The commentary on accepted works by the professional art juror is always a well-attended event that provides great artistic insights for all.”*

The Artist’s Mark Committee

A few links of interest-

Photographing your art

<https://www.arttutor.com/blog/201811/how-photograph-your-artwork-non-photographers>

<https://www.artworkarchive.com/blog/4-steps-to-photographing-your-art-like-a-professional>

<https://dgillart.wordpress.com/2017/04/05/photographing-artwork/>

How to wire your art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVNxEfijuTI>

How to use Entrythingy https://www.entrythingy.com/vtour_entrants.html