



Iowa Artists - Newspaper

August/September 2026

Note from the President:

It's hard to believe we're already on the other side of the retreat! We welcomed 54 artists from across the state and beyond for a weekend of workshops, conversation, and creativity, and I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who attended, taught, volunteered, or helped make it happen.

It was also wonderful to see you at the Botanical Garden reception for our Gallery Hop. If you haven't had a chance to visit the exhibition there and at the Des Moines Public Library yet, there's still time! Seeing our members' work displayed throughout the community—and seeing people stop to enjoy it—is one of the best reminders of why organizations like Iowa Artists matter.

Now that our first retreat has wrapped up, we're already looking ahead. We're working on scheduling more workshops for the coming months, and we're excited to continue offering opportunities to learn, experiment, and connect. If there's a workshop you've been hoping to take or a skill you'd love to share, please let us know. Your ideas help shape what we offer.

We're also beginning to dream about next year's retreat (yes, already!), and we'd love more people involved in making it happen. Whether you enjoy planning, organizing, welcoming attendees, or simply lending a hand where it's needed, there is a place for you. Many hands really do make lighter work.

One area where we could especially use help is our Workshop Chair position, which is still open on the board. If helping coordinate educational programming sounds like something you'd enjoy, or if you'd simply like to learn more about what the role involves, I'd love to chat. Serving doesn't mean doing everything. It simply means bringing your unique strengths to the table.

Thank you for being part of this community. Every event, exhibition, workshop, and conversation is made better because of the people who choose to show up for one another. I'm excited for everything we have planned this fall, and I hope to see you soon.

Stephanie Swilley

Iowa Artist Retreat Weekend at a glance



Member Awards and News

Barbara Floyd-Campbell

Title: Hamburglar Who??

**Name of Show: Jesup Competitive Arts,
Oelwein Public Library**

Award Received: 1st & Medal, 2nd, BOS



Barbara Floyd-Campbell

Title: Spook

**Name of Show: Oelwein Public Library,
2nd Jesup Competitive Arts,**

Award Received: 1st & Best of Show Adult



Bob Peterson

**Bob's portrait of Vivian, has been accepted by the
Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Iowa
State Fair's 'America 250 Exhibition'.**



**Region 3 member, Pete Tekippe painted this mural in
Winnebago County, at Calmar, Iowa on the south side of
the Horseshoe Tavern. It is at the intersection of
highways, 52, 24 and 150.**

**Awesome work! If you are a bicycle enthusiast, ride the
bike trail in Decorah, check out the College Street
Bridge near the Whippy Dip for more murals completed
by this artist!**



Solo Shows to Check Out

Barbara Floyd

**Barbara Floyd-Campbell Fine Midwest Art
Porch Light Coffee House
Ankeny, IA
Opening Reception/Closing Date: July 23 to
September 22**



Barbara Floyd-Campbell

**Barbara Floyd-Campbell Fine Midwest Art
Venue Name: The Collective
Venue Address: Elkader, Iowa
Opening Reception/Closing Date: August 7th
to August 29th**



Danna Fruetel

**October 8 - The month of October
will be Danna's final Solo Art Show at
Fort Madison Area Arts Association.
The opening reception will be
October 8 in the early evening.**



Sara Spohnheimer

**The Light and Dark of Life
The Blanden Memorial Art Museum
920 3rd Avenue South, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Opening Reception/Closing Date: July 18,
2026/September 12, 2026**





Jon Rudsill will be part of this event. He would like a few members to be involved also. Please email him at ghitarro@yahoo.com

2026 Gallery Hops: The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and the Des Moines Central Library

What an amazing success! We have received nothing but positive feedback about the quality and variety of the work presented at both venues! We have a guest book at each location and have encouraged visitors to share their thoughts and comments. At the close of the shows on 08.31.26, we will collect the guest books and look forward to sharing more of the wonderful feedback with you! One comment we received from a Botanical Garden employee was, "Our offices are right next to the Evergreen Gallery, and it has been so much fun talking to guests about the artwork. I think my favorite reaction so far has been from a kiddo around 10 years old. They stopped, wide-eyed, and said to their mom, "Wow...look...this is so coooool!" Just maybe we are inspiring a future artist!



Upcoming Workshop - Clear Lake, Iowa

Clear Lake Art Center - Saturday, October 17.

The topic of the workshop will be "Painting Loose and Free". It'll run from 10:30-2:30 or so. Class size will be limited to 10 people; there will be a materials fee.

Watch your email for more information.



Contour Drawing Workshop

Join artist Jill Sneed for a fun, beginner-friendly introduction to contour drawing—a simple drawing technique that helps you slow down, look closely, and really notice what’s in front of you.

If you’ve always wanted to learn to draw but aren’t sure where to start, this workshop is a great first step. And if you already enjoy drawing but want to build confidence or try a new style, you’ll feel right at home too. Contour drawing teaches you to stop relying on the brain’s quick “I know what that looks like” guesses and instead pay attention to the real lines and shapes you see. It’s a gentle, encouraging way to improve your drawing skills.

During this 2-hour workshop, we’ll practice three different types of contour drawing, and if you’d like, you can add color with watercolor and colored pencils. Everything is taught step-by-step, with plenty of time to explore and enjoy the process. Each participant will receive a sketchbook to keep.

The following supplies will be provided for use during class (feel free to bring your own if you prefer):

- Fineliners (waterproof, archival pens)
- Watercolor paints
- Paint brushes
- White gel pens
- Colored pencils

This workshop is free to attend (+supply fee) for Iowa Artists Member. Nonmembers are invited to attend for \$25 (+supply fee).

Date: Oct 17th, 2026

Location: Wheatsfield Co-op, 413 Northwestern Ave, Ames, IA 50010

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Supply fee: \$10 payable to instructor at the class

Register Here: <https://tally.so/r/dW6P9V>



General Group Information

Iowa Artists Board Members

President - Stephanie Swilley
Region 7

Vice President - Julie Hughes
Region 7

Treasurer - Diana Turnage
Region 7

Secretary - Megan Wassom
Region 2

Membership Chair - Wendy Ebbers
Region 2

State Show Chair - Kelly Schwartz
Region 6

Newsletter - Danna Fruetel
Region 6

Digital Chair - Linda Andrews
Region 8

Workshop Chair - Open
Members-At-Large

Jon Rudsill
Region 10

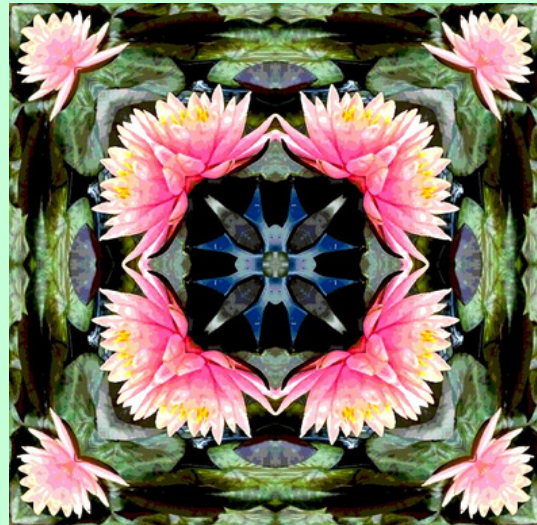
Bob Peterson
Region 8

Susan Kuennen
Region 3

Tracy Ingham
Region 2

Treasurers Report

Net Assets Approx: \$ 12,331



Enjoy the rest of the summer.
Fall is coming.

If you haven't already be sure to
register yourself on the Iowa Artist
Registry
<https://iowaartistdirectory.org/>
This is not part our our group but a
great way for others to find you if they
need a certain type of artist.

Board secretary update: The prospectus has been updated so that 2D and 3D pieces will be judged separately, regardless of the number of entries at both the state show and regional show levels. An email was sent out to inform members. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like a copy of the prospectus sent to you.