

President's Letter

I need to tell you about Elaine. Fred's older cousin lives alone in Boynton Beach, Florida. Elaine's hearing has worsened over the years, and to compensate for the loss of sound in her life, Elaine has turned to painting. Her artwork captures so many human moods: joy, despair, worry, hope. It is left to the viewer's imagination to discern sunsets, buildings, sky, water, animals. Two of her paintings are on display in our foyer. We generally work out the details for our visits to Elaine with her daughter Heather, who lives just down the road and has been, over the years, a master juggler of her mother's doctor's appointments, Miso's vet visits, weekly shopping, and similar errands. A recent four-day get-together with Elaine included a jaunt up to the Elliott Museum in Stuart. The SACA "Awakening" exhibit was showing, and I thought Elaine would enjoy seeing it.



Elaine

After viewing fiber art up close and in person in a gallery setting, she told me she finally understands what it is I do! It was one of those Fort Myers/Thomas Edison light bulb moments. Back at home, Elaine works in her glassed-in sunroom. She hums to herself as she paints and doesn't notice me peeking in on her. I have observed many of you similarly immersed at our AQU workshops and annual retreat. How lucky we are to be able to nurture ourselves in this way!

Our Location Search Committee has been on the job scouting out new venues for our meetings and workshops and will make an initial report to the Board this month. A big thank-you to member Linda Carey for offering to serve on the Board as Co-Secretary. We need one more person to serve with her . . . could it possibly be you? ~Candie Frankel

Membership

We all appreciated you being a part of AQU.

Membership cards at the next meeting, so look for me to get your card.

As of now, we have 46 paid members.

Reminder: Magnetic nametags are available online too!



Featured Artist

Gabriele DiTota. Gabriele was born in Northern Germany where her mother was a seamstress. As a young child she would play around the sewing machine trying to stay out of the way of the treadle. Fast forward, Gabriele finds herself in Central Florida where her interest in fabric is rekindled. Gabriele was delighted to learn that her great grandfather was a dyer of fabric by profession, prompting her love of dyeing.



"I create art quilt collages of fabrics and fibers held together with stitch. I especially like to approach the subject matter from a tan gent and design works that tell a story. These stories may be based on personal experiences, photographs from my travels or on research into subjects that stir my interest. The materials for these art quilts rely heavily on hand painted, hand dyed or hand printed fabrics. Recently I have included work using a photographic process called cyanotype. I love the freedom that comes from using fabrics that I have created as well as the effects that I am able to achieve with those fabrics." Gabriele's artwork has been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States as well as in Europe and Australia and can be found in private collections.

What's Happening

AQU Meetings are held at

St. Hilary's Church, 5011 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers | 10:00 - 10:30 Social Time | 10:30 Meeting Begins; Show & Tell

May 12, 2025 **Membership meeting**
Program: Brazilian Embroidery with Marci Mills

June 2025 **No meeting**
Time to work on your AQU exhibit pieces for *Glimmer, All the Buzz*.

July 12, 2025 **Membership Meeting**
Intro to mixed media with Pam Richardson.



WORKSHOP

May 17 10:00 - 3:00 St. Hilary's Music Hall
Confetti quilting with Meriul Easton.

Supplies provided. No machine required. Details on our website.

FREE THREAD

thank you

**We reached the YLI response goal
for \$200 of free thread for the group!**

**The Board will determine a way to
share the bounty - stay tuned!**

AQU Exhibit

glimmer

*A collection of everyday joy, inspired
by the "little things" that bring a sense of
comfort & joy!*

COCO Gallery, Estero
Reception May 7, 5:00 May 2025

DATE CHANGE

AQU Exhibit



fibers
in paradise

Arts for ACT
September 2026

AQU Challenge & Exhibit

*All
THE
BUZZ*

Tribby Arts Center
May 2026

What's Happening



2025 Brown Bag Challenge

Participants needed!

Bring your filled bag to the May meeting for the anonymous exchange.

Once you receive your bag, take about 8 hours to create your challenge piece. All the mystery materials in the bag must be represented in your piece. You may add items if needed to fill out your design. You are not required to use up all the materials or to return anything that is left over. Be adventurous and push those creative limits to create something amazing!

The reveal of your new creation will take place at the December Holiday Party.

ACSWFL 60th Anniversary Exhibit

Our very own Candie Frankel and Carole Price were among the artist juried in to the ACSWFL's Anniversary Exhibit.



My Amsterdam, Candie Frankel



Everything's Rosy, Carole Price



Sweet Dragonfly, Carole Price

Inspiring Places

Our area galleries are just the place to get inspired and share your inspirations. Let's take a look at some of the venues for AQU's upcoming exhibits. We hope to motivate you to show your work at our AQU events & attend the receptions to support fellow members and the local art community as a whole.



Arts for ACT Gallery located in historic downtown Fort Myers. An award winning and 100% non-profit gallery set in an intimate 2,100 square feet.



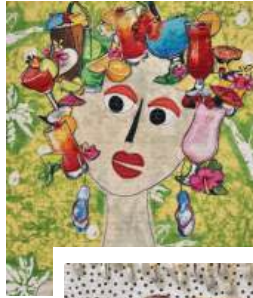
COCO Gallery in Estero, a sprawling 7,000 square-foot gallery, is a year-round venue.



The Tribby Arts Center is a new world-class hub of creative and cultural activity at Shell Point Retirement Community.

In Other News

April Program



Johanna Roll shared a troupe of whimsical "funky faces" with the group; inspired by a class with Jean Impey (Jean's pieces were shown also). The process is fairly quick and easy to do - perfect when in a creative block. Check out www.sewjean.com for more!



April Show & Tell



*Art is not a thing;
it is a way*



More to Know

AQU Exhibit Chair

Thank you to those who stepped up to help support specific events for 2025. AQU would still love to have a "full-time" Exhibit Chair in place. Let us know if this is you!

Urgent: (Co)Secretaries

Per requirements as a non-profit organization:
AQU is seeking a second (co) Secretary.
Duties include: record & publish notes from Board & Membership meetings.
Interested? email: aqumembers@gmail.com

Congratulations!

Meriul Easton will take on the position of Co-First VP. Her duties will begin once someone replaces her as Secretary.

Debra Gluszcak will take on the position of Co-Second VP.

ACSWFL: Help Wanted

The Art Council is seeking volunteers for important Board Members positions

*President

*Treasurer

contact: aqumembers@gmail.com

A Laugh With Quilter-Cartoonist Jen Lopez

Jen is a New England-based quilter, cartoonist ("By the Yard"), and pattern designer—and her approach to combining quilting and humor is quite fascinating. Jen's approach to quilting and cartooning is similar. For instance, she spends a lot of time thinking about her quilts before she works on them. The opportunity to sit down, brainstorm, and draw is rare, but when she gets into the groove, time passes quickly and she can produce a lot of work all at once. She says, "We can't wait to be brilliant. Show up every day, and then there will be a moment of brilliance."

When it comes to writing and illustrating comics, Jen focuses on finding a common experience with her audience and writing about it. Whether it is quilting, cartooning, designing, or even model train building—I think we can all relate to the little sparks of brilliance that keep us excited about our crafts! *Excerpt from quiltfolk.com*



Who's Who

Want to put a name to that face? Check out the membership directory on our website. It contains photos, contact information and highlights of member's talents and techniques. The directory is **almost** complete. We are missing info from a few members, so if you have not yet sent in your details, please pass them along to candiefrankel@earthlink.net



Your AQU Board

President: Candie Frankel
Co-1st Vice President: Holly Watson & Meriul Easton
Co-2nd Vice President: Lisa Gorski & Debra Gluszcak
Website: Lisa Gorski & Candie Frankel

Membership: Marci Mills
Retreat: Lisa Gorski
Treasurer: Jef Farlow-Dudek
Co-Secretary: Linda Carey & ?

Newsletter & Email: Maura Ross
Facebook: Holly Watson
Exhibit Chair: open