

President's Letter - departing

I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as President. And thank you to all the Board members and volunteers who helped the last two AQU years be full of great exhibits, retreats and educational programs of fun and friendship.

Love, Jef Farlow-Dudek

President's Letter - incoming

Last fall, with hurricanes safely behind us and AQU's Natalya Khorover Zoom workshop back on the calendar, I spent three exhilarating Sundays in my studio. By the end of Day 1, I was knee deep in bread wrappers, potato chip bags, bubble wrap, Kraft paper mailers, etc. I enjoyed hours of artistic immersion and didn't even notice the mess at my feet. This is the way artistic life is supposed to flow. There's that lovely suspension of the time/space continuum. When I delve into a studio cleanup, I view it not as a chore but as inventory reconnaissance. (continued)

continued

I get to handle my stuff and get reacquainted. I can't begin to explain how this happens, but studio cleanups produce this enormous data dump—color, texture, weight, depth, sparkle—into my brain. The task is productive and powerful in more ways than meet the eye. Time devoted to cleanup makes my future art making more fruitful.

Housekeeping is part of our life at AQU, and as your incoming President, I need to make sure essential tasks (like filing our annual state forms) don't slip through the cracks while we're busy doing all the fun art stuff! To keep our Board and Chairs on track, Shannan Maggied is compiling an annual "tickler" calendar. If you are aware of any items to add, Shannan would love to hear from you (ssmaggied@yahoo.com).

Keep it tidy! ~Candie Frankel



BEFORE



AFTER

Membership

AQU currently has 50 members, spread the word and invite a friend to join!

2025 Membership Dues: payable online by January 31, 2025

New members are welcome to join at any time.

www.artquiltersunlimited.com Name tags available online too!



Featured Artist

You!



You may have noticed our inspirational "featured artist" are local area and state Florida residents. And who is more local than YOU! In the past we've featured our member's art journeys and their captivating works in this section of the newsletter.

We'd love to get back to showcasing our very own artists! And it's so easy to participate. Simply send a brief write-up or artist statement and submit that along with photos of your work and of yourself to aqumaura@gmail.com That's it!

Your article will be slotted for one of our monthly newsletters.

Requesting your submission throughout the months of January and February to plan ahead for the year.

Don't be shy, it's time to shine!

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

- JAN 11, 2025** **Membership meeting.**
Program: Marbled Design on Fabric with Jan Piscitelli
- Feb 8, 2025** **Membership meeting.**
Program: Fifteen Edge Finishes with Joyce Grande
- March 8, 2025** **AQU's Annual De-stash Sale.**
Membership Meeting & Sale details below.

IMPORTANT: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ATTENDEES

Due to a misunderstanding between Connor's and AQU, Jeri paid the bill for all of our lunches. A button has been added to the website for you to pay your share of the bill. If you made a reservation for the Holiday Luncheon, please go to the website and pay for your lunch. Thank you.

AQU Workshop



Lisa Gorski
Improv Piecing ~ January 25, 2025
10 am to 4 pm
St. Hilary's Episcopal Church
Continued from June or start a new piece!

AQU Workshop



Paula Lenahan
(Fiber) Stained Glass ~ February 15, 2025
10 am to 4 pm
St. Hilary's Episcopal Church

Start Your Spring Cleaning Early, It's Almost Time for AQU's De-stash & Art Sale

AQU members, it's time to unload or stock up at our annual thrift sale. Sell, swap and shop for all things sewing and fiber.

And, you can sell your finished pieces too!

Saturday, March 8, 2025
Set-up begins at 8:15
Membership meeting 9:30 - 9:55
Doors open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Table fee \$10.00 (pay on website)

Invite your friends too!

AQU Workshop



Phyllis Cullen
Layered Portraits ~ March 29, 2025
9 am to 4 pm
St. Hilary's Episcopal Church

2025 What's Ahead



AQU Retreat

Christian Retreat Conference Center
1200 Glory Way Blvd
Bradenton, FL 34212
March 16 - 20, 2025

Special Workshop with Susan Lenz
more info at: artquiltersunlimited.com

Accommodations, double occupancy
Breakfast & dinner
Spacious workroom
~ online registration is open ~

AQU Exhibit

COCO Gallery, Estero ~ Exhibit May 2025

ARTWORK DUE: April Meeting or May 4 at Gallery

SHOW: May 5 - 29, 2025

RECEPTION: May 7, 5:00 - 7:00

DETAILS: artquiltersunlimited.com

THEME: **GLIMMER**

A collection of everyday joy, inspired by the "little things" that bring a sense of comfort or lift. Artists express the peace found in tiny, unexpected moments or momentos that bring contentment.

AQU x ACSWFL

The AQU Board will be sending the names of two AQU member-artists to Art Council of South West Florida to enter in the Winners Circle. If you have won a first, second or third place with one of your AQU art pieces in 2024 you are eligible. If you have not done so already and would like to be considered, contact Jef Farlow 217-493-9263 *on or before Friday, DECEMBER 27, 2024*

AQU CHALLENGE

artwork reveal: Late 2025

medium: textile, fiber, mixed media, hanging and 3D pieces welcome

notes: pieces must include at least one representation of an insect

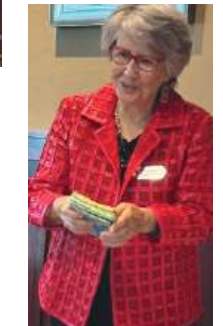
optional: 2nd piece max size 6" x 6" for a collage

Your insect may be based on a genuine natural beauty or a fantastic version of a real creature. Though you must admit, nature does create some pretty fantastic bugs!

Time to get BUZZY!
An amazing show
at the Tribby Center
for the Arts -
Summer 2026!

2024 AQU Holiday Party

Jeri McKay and Paula Lenahan organized a lovely luncheon for our group. The Brown Bag Challenge projects were revealed and some members took part in a gift swap too! Here are some photos from the event.



In Other News

ACSWFL: December 17th Meeting

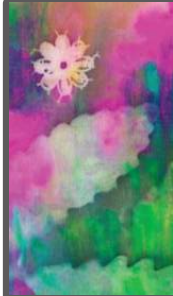
ACSWFL Meeting Highlights as reported by Lori Sebastian:

- *New treasurer (Arlene) is getting a handle on overall budget.
- *Several open positions need to be filled: ACSWF board--President, 1st VP, 2nd VP.
- *COCO Gallery manager at Estero; Maggie Henry is leaving. If you know of anyone for any of these positions, please let us know.
- *ACSWF 60th anniversary juried show starts April 16 at COCO Gallery in Naples. Open to all members of ACSWF guilds.
- *Winner's Circle is for any ACSWF guild member artist who won either first, second, or third place on original work at a ACSWF show from Jan 1, 2023 thru Dec 31, 2024. Artist must display the piece that won the award. Exhibit will be held at the Tribby Arts Center, opening reception March 6, 2025. (see page 3)

ACSWFL: Exhibit

ACSWF 60th Anniversary Juried Show

Coco Gallery Naples
Reception April 16, 2025
Details to come



ACSWFL: Help Wanted

The Art Council is seeking important Board members

- *President
 - *First Vice President
 - *Second Vice President
- contact: aqumembers@gmail.com

Wanted: Exhibit Chair

With such talented members it is important to be able to share our works with the community. The vision of the Board is to have an Exhibit Chair & Committee who would oversee the identification of exhibits and work as the liaison with the sponsoring organization. **At this time, An Exhibit Chair is our biggest need, and an exhibit committee would be quite helpful.**

contact: aqumembers@gmail.com

Volunteer(s) Needed



AQU is seeing a volunteer (or two) to coordinate a show with Arts for ACT in late summer/fall of 2025.

The historic gallery is located in downtown Fort Myers and supports services for abused women and children. Our group has had great success with this partnership in the past and would love to showcase our talented artists in this award-winning gallery in 2025.

contact: aqumembers@gmail.com

Get Involved

AQU Members are creative and curious. Do you have an art or textile skill you'd like to share with the group?

We'd love for you to educate and inspire our many talented AQU Members.

Bookings for 2025 and 2026 are underway!



contact: aqumembers@gmail.com



Artist's Resolutions for the New Year

1. Set ONE big, long term goal
2. Set smaller, immediate goals
3. Schedule time to create
4. Participate in an artist community
5. See more art!
6. Share your art!

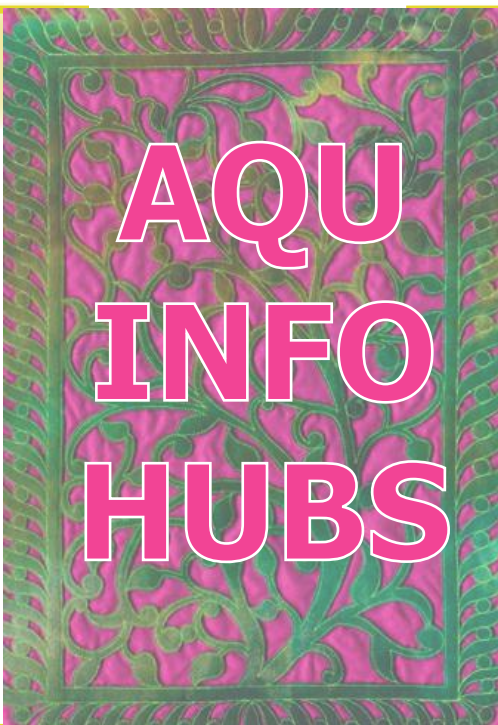


WEBSITE

artquiltersunlimited.com

Check out our website for lots of information including;

- meetings
- exhibits
- events
- gallery
- members only
- join / nametags
- event registration



FACEBOOK

[art quilters
unlimited members](https://www.facebook.com/artquiltersunlimitedmembers)
on
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Join our Facebook Group:
share work
check out events
get inspired

Your AQU Board

President: Candie Frankel
1st Vice President: Holly Watson
2nd Vice President: Lisa Gorski

Treasurer: Jef Farlow
Secretary: Meriul Easton

Membership: Marci Mills
Retreat: Lisa Gorski
Website: Lisa Gorski
& Candie Frankel

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

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