



North County Society of Fine Arts

CALENDAR At A Glance

February Artist Janet Keto Demo & Workshop

Demo - Tuesday 2/10/26,
11:30 am to 2:30 pm. RB Library

Workshop - Saturday 2/28/26,
11:30 am to 3:30 pm at
Oasis RB (pg 4)



Looking ahead...

March Artist

Robin Douglas

Demo 3/10. Workshop 3/28

See [NCSFA.org](https://www.ncsfa.org) for details

RB Library Upstairs Gallery

Outside community artists will
be showing until the end of
June, 2026. Then...

New NCSFA member

Aditi Bhatia

July 1 - August 31

February Artist

Janet Keto

Painter and Collage Artist



The next NCSFA Newsletter will be March 2026.
Please submit your wins and announcements
by February 25th.
Send to Joan.bonetti@gmail.com.



President's Message - Quiet Renewal

February brings a welcome shift after January's rains, as hillsides begin to come alive with wildflowers and fresh growth. Greens deepen, and pops of yellow, orange, and purple start to dot the landscape—an inspiring reminder of renewal and quiet transformation.

This month we're pleased to feature artist **Janet Keto**, whose work focuses on creating **small hand-made books** using **gel plate imagery**. Janet thoughtfully incorporates **Japanese haiku poetry** into her pieces, blending image and language in ways that invite reflection and close attention. Her work celebrates subtlety, process, and the beauty found in small formats.

As the season slowly unfolds around us, may it spark new ideas and encourage us to notice the details—both in nature and in our art.

Joan Bonetti, President
joan.bonetti@gmail.com

February 2026

Our Purpose

NCSFA is dedicated to advancing education and the appreciation of art. Our club objective is to promote education of fine arts to our members and through a scholarship program for students in our community.

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Image is AI generated. No actual poppies were harmed in the production of this image.

*As we look to the year ahead,
your willingness to help makes all the difference.
Please consider volunteering with NCSFA.*

January's Demonstration

Our January artist demonstration featured multi-media artist **Anne Gaffey**, and it was a lively, well-attended event with **19 members** in the room. Anne focused her presentation on the **power of contrasting colors**—how intentional color choices can energize a piece, create depth, and guide the viewer's eye.

Working from a drawing, Anne demonstrated her process step by step, talking through her decisions in an **easy-going, conversational style** that members found both engaging and approachable. Her relaxed manner encouraged questions and made the demonstration feel more like a shared exploration than a formal lecture.



To everyone's delight, Anne **gave away the two pieces she created** during the demonstration, adding an extra spark of excitement to an already enjoyable event. Members left inspired, with fresh ideas about color contrast and a renewed appreciation for how bold choices can transform a work of art.



Art winners Meg and Terry Anderson

North County Society of Fine Arts *presents*

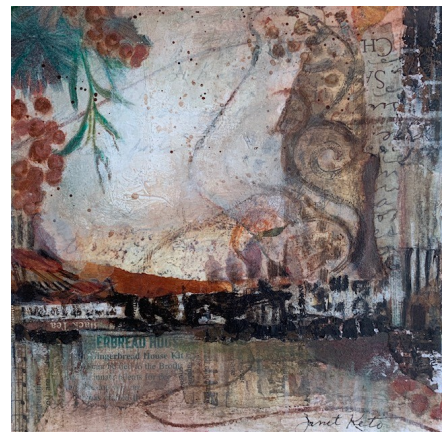
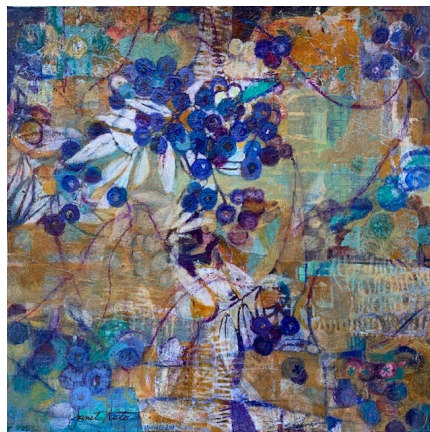
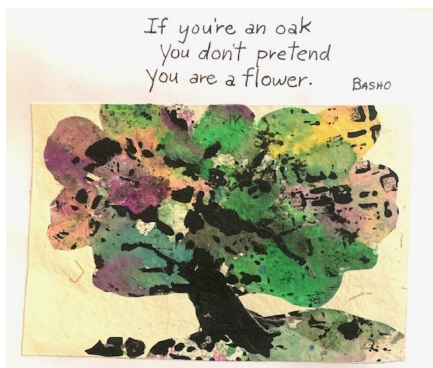
Janet Keto

Painter and Collage Artist

Janet Keto began teaching art after earning her BFA from ASU. Her background includes water media, mixed media, collage, and running her own interior design business. A love of texture, color, and decorative detail shapes her recent series of abstract miniature “jewels,” depicting gemstones on 4” wood panels. Janet has been featured in the *Sketchbook Revival* newsletter, received awards in local gallery shows, and enjoys teaching and inspiring seniors in La Jolla and Escondido.



- **Gen'l Mtg/Demonstration: Tuesday 2/10/26, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. RB Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo CA 92128.** The Demo is FREE to members and the gen'l public. *At the demo, Gel Printing with Multiple Tools*, Janet will demonstrate using curated objects on the gel plate. She will offer a focused demonstration on gel printing techniques using a wide range of everyday items which can be used as mark-making tools to make unique prints.
- **Workshop: Saturday 2/28/26, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm at Oasis, 17170 Bernardo Center Dr., RB, CA 92128.** You must pre-register and pay for the workshop. \$45 members / \$55 non-members. Register at NCSFA.org. Janet Keto guides participants through creating expressive gel prints using botanicals as inspiration. After exploring color, texture, and layered printing techniques, everyone will use their prints to build a refined collage that captures a specific mood or moment. Each piece is paired with a hand-written haiku, inscribed in ink on rice paper.



A WEEK IN THE DESERT

February 2026

by Kathryn Petersen

“Paint the Desert” January 2026 was the 5th annual California Desert Plein Air Festival spearheaded by founder Diane Moore and co-founder Daniel Foster of the Desert Plein Air Association (DPAA), with the goal to become the west’s premier plein air festival. After my experience, I believe it is setting the festival standard.

If you haven’t attended a festival before, let me tempt you with an accounting of my week in Palm Desert.

Our group of eight San Diegans stayed connected via text, sharing where we’d be painting on a given day, while keeping expectations loose. The DPAA wisely scheduled four daily paint-out locations from Saturday through Tuesday. On Saturday, the first day, I joined the DPAA location at the ...



Painting Day One Mountains Landscape

Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Visitors Center

I set up next to a stranger who became a friend over the course of the festival. That’s how it is to connect at these festivals. You

already share the love of art. Painting together makes friendships easy.

The desert had gotten a lot of rain, and this made the landscape verdant. I was astounded by the view of the mountains, the light shift and variety of colors. Being slow to catch on, I finally realized that all vantage points in this landscape come with a view of the mountains. Something you already know, if you’ve been to this region...it is literally surrounded by mountain views.

That first painting took the longest, as I worked out how to shape the mountains with fewer brushstrokes.

Indian Canyon DPAA scheduled El Paseo Shopping district for Day 2. The San Diegan contingent mostly went to Murray Trailhead in Indian Canyon. There’s an oasis of palm trees and a huge slab rock. With a view of the mountains behind. It’s so stunning I had trouble settling down to paint. I hiked the area and finally set up after a couple of hours. But with an overwhelming plethora of subject choices my focus was gone, and my unsalvageable painting shows it.



“Day Tripper” by artist Geoff Allen (Sold)

Ironwood Park

On day three we chose to paint at the DPAA location, Ironwood Park. Because the daily DPAA locations are posted, the art-loving community came to the events specifically to see us paint.



Ironwood Park Day 3

Over the 6 days I painted, I chatted with the public, giving out over 100 postcards of my work, especially to children.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

The DPAA arranged to give festival artists free entry to the zoo on day four. We San Diegans have high standards when it comes to zoos, and we were all impressed with this beautiful space. Some of their 12 giraffes were standing dramatically at the hilltop with a backdrop of mountains, the pond reflecting like a mirror. It was the opposite experience of Indian Canyon.



I knew what to paint as soon as I saw it. I submitted this piece for the exhibit because it was different.

Day 4 -
"Giraffes"

Sunnyland Botanical Gardens

On day 5 we submitted one painting per artist to the Artist's Council Gallery, an impressive, light-filled space. The DPAA left us on our own to choose painting locations; they had a show to hang. We enjoyed the gardens of Sunnylands, painting the profusion of wildflowers in the foreground of the ubiquitous mountains.



Day 5 - "Orange Flower Field"

Shadow Ridge Marriott

My painting buddies and I had made plans to paint the Prescott Preserve on day 6, but I woke up thinking about the resort, sitting by the pool with an adult slushy. So, they pressed on while I toiled in a lounge chair with my paints. I was too lazy to order that slushy, as it turns out.

The reception was in the evening, and it was quite posh, with over 300 people in attendance.

\$15,000 was given in prizes, and the work in the exhibit was outstanding.

The concurrent student show winners garnered \$50 bills along with their recognition. San Diegan Geoffrey Allen impressively won 2 awards.



Art show winners: tap photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6270168176417211/permalink/24838717399135674/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

My Interview with Palm Springs Life magazine:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1807572503516675/?fs=e&s=TleQ9V&fs=e&mibextid=wwXlfr&fs=e>

More information:

<https://californiadesertpleinair.com>



Members Wins and Announcements

2026

Eight of our members are excited to be accepted into the
3rd Annual Dames on Grand.

Expressions Gallery is located at Escondido Arts Partnership,
Gallery hours: Tues. 11:00am - 4:00pm Thurs. - Sat. 11:00am - 4:00pm
Escondido Arts Partnership Gallery 262 E. Grand Ave., Escondido, CA 92025

February 14, 2026, to March 20, 2026. ***We'll announce any winners next newsletter!***



Kathryn Peterson - Oceanside Harbor



Doris Bertch - Lemon Verbena



Karen Krugman - Changing Gears



Janet Keto - Fragrance Exotica



Susan Berkowitz -
Early Morning Darkness



Carol Mansfield - Mother Nature



Shelli West - Raven



Vita Sorrentino - Otherworldly

We **LOVE** to share your great news! Please send the following information to
Joan.bonetti@gmail.com: Name of show, gallery, dates, painting name(s),
medium, and size. AND SEND PHOTOS. The more info the better! ❤️