

Small Stones Festival of the Arts

7th Year

Exhibition Program



Jan. 25th through Feb. 2nd, 2025

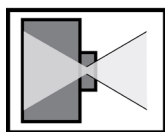
**Brigham Hill Community Barn,
37 Wheeler Rd., N. Grafton, MA**

✧ **Free admission to the public** ✧

About the Small Stones Festival

*Our name comes from the Native American Nipmuc name for
Grafton: Hassanamesit, or "Place of Small Stones."*

Welcome to the seventh year of the Small Stones Festival of the Arts. Our regional arts organizations, the Blackstone Valley Arts Association and the Worcester County Camera Club bring you the very best fine art painting and fine art photography competition in the area. The atmosphere is as inspirational as the art itself!



Worcester County Camera Club

Art Call 2025

Be part of the Small Stones Festival of Art in 2026—submit your Fine Art Photography or Fine Art Painting when our **Art Call goes live: Monday, Sept. 15, 2025**. Look for your SSFA Art Call postcard in the mail, our flyers posted around town or watch the SSFA website for details at: smallstones2025.artcall.org



Program and Schedule

All events will be held at the
Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., N. Grafton, MA

Saturday, January 25 • Exhibition Open, Noon – 5:00 p.m.

- ▶ Opening Reception and Awards Presentation – 2:00 p.m.
- ▶ Artist Talks – 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 26 • Exhibition open, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28 • Exhibition open, Noon – 9:00 p.m.

- ▶ Gallery talk with John Gaston of Gastonart and Frame, during the Worcester County Camera Club meeting, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29 • Exhibition open, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 30 • Exhibition open, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 31 • Exhibition open, Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 1 • Exhibition open, Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 2 • Exhibition open, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

- ▶ This is the final day of the Exhibition for 2025
- ▶ Juror Talks – 2:00 p.m.

The Art Exhibit

The Small Stones Festival Committee welcomes you to the 7th Annual Art Exhibit at the **Brigham Hill Community Barn**. The space is beautiful, befitting an artistic display of such merit. Our Jurors are distinguished by well-established careers, as practicing artists or in a curatorial capacity at museums, galleries and colleges in the area.

When the final juried fine art and photography entries are hung for the Exhibition, the jurors collaborate on the prizewinners for the year. Cash prizes and ribbons are given for the best entries. Likewise during the exhibition, attendees can participate in the People's Choice Awards by voting for their favorites.

The art and photography chosen for the show are featured in a Catalog, available for purchase at the exhibit. It is a beautiful keepsake and permanent record of the exhibition.

All submitted art is displayed in the SSFA Online Gallery, providing exposure for every participating artist. We hope you enjoy this year's exhibition, finding inspiration and delight in the work of our region's talented artists and photographers.

For more information visit **smallstonesfestival.org**



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Fine Art Photography Jurors



Frances Jakubek

is an image-maker, independent curator, and consultant for artists—her photographs explore the boundaries of private and personal space and the emotions that bind them. She is the co-founder of a Yellow Rose Project, past Director of the Bruce Silverstein Gallery in New York City, and past Associate Curator of the Griffin Museum of Photography in Massachusetts. Her recent curatorial appointments include Critical

Mass, Potential Space: A Serious Look at Child's Play, Filter Photo, The Griffin Museum of Photography, British Journal of Photography, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Save Art Space, and Photo District News. Jakubek is a past panelist for the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Photography fellowships, speaker for SPE National and Colorado Photographic Arts Center, and lecturer for the School of Visual Arts, Boston University, University of New Mexico, and Washington and Lee University. She has taught workshops for The Southeast Center for Photography, The Center for Fine Art Photography, Maine Media, and the University of Iowa.

<https://www.francesjakubek.com>



Olivia Stone

joined the Worcester Art Museum in 2018 as Curatorial Assistant, and became Assistant Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photography in 2023. She received her MA in the History of Art and Architecture from Boston University in 2015 and holds a BA in French and Studio Art from the University of Virginia. Her research interests center on the nineteenth century in Europe but broaden to include print and

photographic output across cultures. She is developing an exhibition on prints that engage with the weather an emergent field of meteorology during the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment. Formerly the Assistant Editor at Art New England magazine, Olivia's writing has also appeared in Big, Red & Shiny, the Boston Art Review, The Rib, and other publications. She regularly contributes catalogue essays to the Art Center Gallery at Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA.

<https://annamaria.edu/olivia-stone/>



Steven J. Duede

has a work history in museums, non-profits, art organizations and academic settings, Steven Duede carries his attachment to the creative process to all aspects of artist work. He is a Board member of the Photographic Resource Center (PRC), in Boston, participating in programming and development. He has served on the board at the Griffin Museum of Photography and the Cambridge Art Association.

His work in Fine Art Photography has been recognized and supported as a fellowship finalist by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. He founded and works as principal organizer of Aspect Initiative, an online gallery, showcasing Fine Art Photography. Museum of Photography and the PRC, RISD portfolio reviews, United Photo Industries The FENCE, Palm Springs Portfolio reviews and Critical Mass with Photolucida. His work is exhibited regularly in the Boston area, New England, and across the nation. His works are in the holdings or on loan with the Danforth Art Museum at Framingham State University, the deCordova Museum/Art Loan Program, Boston Properties and Harvard University.

<https://www.stevenduede.com>



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Fine Art Painting Jurors



Scott Nelson

A freelance artist, author, illustrator and cartoonist, Scott Nelson's clients include Hallmark Cards, American Greetings, Golden Books for Children/Random House, NHL properties, and more. His freelance assignments include thirty nationally recognized greeting card publishers, and he has worked for numerous notable children's book companies.

In 2006 he won the prestigious Mom's Choice Award for his book entitled *Mulch the Lawnmower* published by KRBY Creations. He has been an instructor in Drawing, Watercolor, Mixed Media and Children's Book Illustration/Writing classes at the Worcester Art Museum. After studying under Rockport Art Association watercolorist Alex Gazonas, he has continued Alex's tradition of encouraging all his students to market and sell their work. Scott can be found in his Millbury, MA studio rendering various freelance commissions or painting local scenes in his expressionistic style. He recently cofounded Two Bridges Art Academy, an online school offering many beginning to advanced classes.

www.twobridgesartacademy.com

bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-scott-nelson/

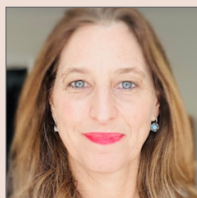


Carol Arnold

After graduating from Vesper George School of art in Boston, Carol Arnold spent several years working in the commercial art field before turning her attention fully to fine art painting. Carol joined the Putney Painters group in 2006. At Richard Schmid and Nancy Guzik's request, she is now leading the Putney Painters group. Her recent awards included (2022) Third Place Award in the Plein Air Division at the

Rocky Mountain High, Wet Paint Competition during the OPA National Convention and (2020) First Place, for best Figure/Portrait in the June Plein Air Salon Art Competition. That year she also received First Place in the Mark Twain Library Show. This is Carol's second time serving as a juror in the Small Stones Festival.

<https://www.carolarnoldfineart.com>



Claudia Fiks

Claudia is an art administrator with over two decades of dedication to the arts and culture sector. She is the founder and director of the New England Art Center, a newly established membership organization featuring The Art Gallery (TAG), and serves as the Director of Galatea Fine Art in Boston. Claudia is the director at Newton Open Studios, contributes as a writer and correspondent for *Artscope Magazine*, and

leads guided tours at prestigious art fairs such as Art Basel and Art Miami Basel. As an independent consultant, she provides expertise to various art organizations and artists, helping to shape their programs and initiatives. Her extensive career includes notable positions such as Program Director and Development Director at esteemed institutions like the Eliot School for Fine and Applied Arts, Fuller Craft Museum, and the Society of Arts and Crafts. Beyond her administrative duties, Claudia serves as a grant panelist for the Mass Cultural Council.

<https://newenglandartcenter.com>

Artist Talks

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2:30 p.m.



Jen Heck - an American filmmaker whose award-winning work has been screened at the Whitney Biennial, Sundance, and major festivals worldwide. She has filmed documentaries from Mount Everest to the West Bank, often directing while operating a camera in remote locations. Her television work includes MTV's "True Life," "Teen Mom," and "House Hunters International." She holds degrees from NYU Tisch and Columbia University.



Jo Ellen Reinhardt - is classically trained, beginning her career with watercolor, but gravitating to oils. She has a gift of capturing the beauty in a portrait, still life, or landscape. Receiving numerous awards and showing throughout the Northeast—she is a member of the Copley Society of Art, Rockport Art Assoc., North Shore Art Assoc., Academic Art Assoc., and Pennsylvania Watercolor Society. She co-founded the New England School of Fine Art, and is the director and principal instructor. JoEllen also enjoys teaching in Italy.

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Juror Talks

Sunday, February 2th, 2:00 p.m.

Don't miss the informative series of Juror Talks at the Small Stones Festival of Art!



The Jurors discuss their experience judging the competition, highlighting specific works that spoke to them and the attributes they found most compelling.



Carol Arnold



Steven J. Duede



Francis Jakubek



Claudia Fiks



Scott Nelson

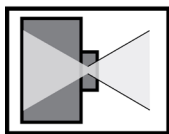


Olivia Stone



For artists who ever wondered, "What were they thinking?" when seeing the often subjective results of a juried exhibition, this is your chance to find out!

The series will be recorded for later viewing on the SSFA website.



Worcester County Camera Club

The Worcester County Camera Club is a group of photography enthusiasts who meet monthly in a non-competitive environment to explore their craft. Activities of the club include skill-sharing, exchanging tips, field trips and workshops, as well as presentations by prominent local photographers. We welcome new members whether they are beginners or professionals.

John Harry Gaston

"Picture Framing for Photography"

Tuesday, Jan. 28th, 7 to 8 p.m.



The WCCC meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28th coincides with the SSFA Exhibit. As a special event during this meeting, we are honored to have John Harry Gaston, of Gastonart and Frame to share his vast knowledge of custom picture framing. John is a PPFA recognized Master Certified Picture Framer who has been a professional framer for more than 37 years. He is a graduate of Framingham State College where he earned his BFA. He will discuss the most current materials and methods

for successfully framing photography as well as a variety of other types of artwork. Anyone interested in his valuable insights are encouraged to attend!

There is no charge to attend and you do not have to be a member of the WCCC.

worcestercountycamera.org

The WCCC meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., N. Grafton, MA.



Blackstone Valley Art Association

The Blackstone Valley Art Association is a community oriented art organization promoting art and culture throughout the Blackstone Valley area. We have been supporting local art since 1957 and have an active program covering all aspects of the creative process from watercolors to oils, from abstract to plein air and everything in between. The BVAA is dedicated to the advancement of the arts and preservation of the finest artistic traditions by means of exhibitions, classes, and other activities. We are based at the BVAA Alternatives Uxbridge Community Art Gallery, 5 South Main Street, Uxbridge and have a very active website: bvaa.org. If you would like to learn more please email us at info@bvaa.org.



The Blackstone Valley Art Association organizes the Fine Art Painting portion of the Festival.

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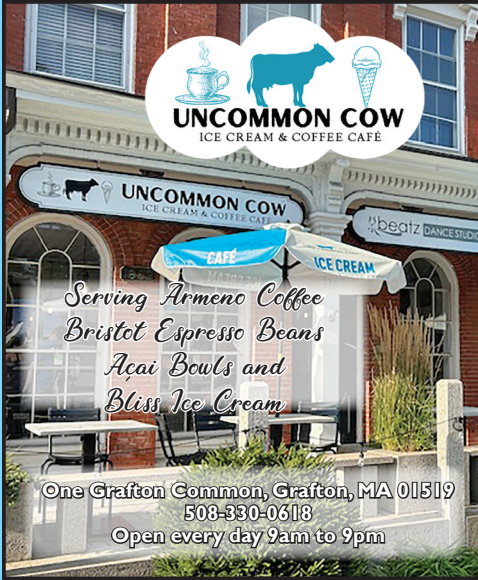


Jim Ball and his team are proud to celebrate four decades of serving the community with unwavering dedication and quality.

Thank you for your continued trust and support!

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The Small Stones Organizing Committee

The organizing committee and volunteers meet regularly to plan and work toward making the Small Stones Festival a success.

The Organizing Committee

Jennifer Behymer
Sue Cardosi
Ken Crater
Bonnie Frederico
Carol Frieswick
Bob Hassinger

James Hunt
Carolyn Kinloch-Winkler
Maggie Lavalley
Roberta Oakley
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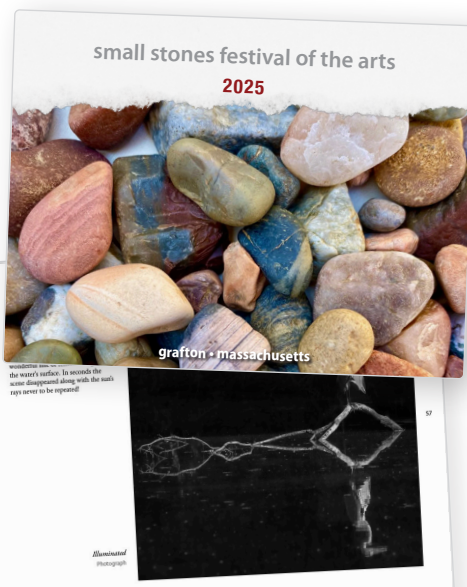
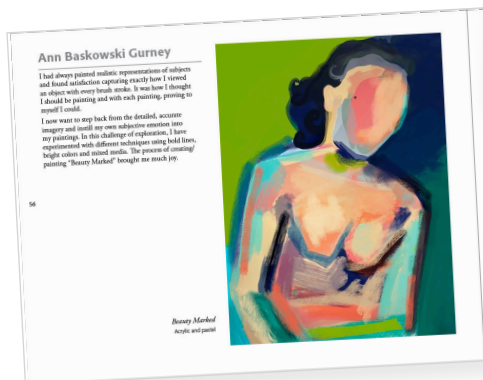
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...and with appreciation of the artists, our jurors,
and our many volunteers, whose hard work and
generosity of spirit make the Festival possible.

Get your copy of the 2025 Catalog!



The 2025 juried work in the Small Stones Festival of Art is bound into a beautiful catalog. (Available online at smallstonesfestival.org or you can pick one up during the Exhibit at the Brigham Hill Community Barn.)

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