



BANANA FACTORY

THE FOWLER
Arts and
Education
CENTER

**BANANA
FACTORY**
ARTS CENTER

Exhibition Guide

Welcome to the Banana Factory Arts Center!

We are home to ArtsQuest's Visual Arts and Education programs, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing access to art, culture and educational programs for the diverse residents of the Lehigh Valley and others who seek access to our community. The Banana Factory Art Center was founded in 1998, in efforts to mold, encourage, and support the artist via the cultural spirit of the Lehigh Valley.

What's Inside:

- 30 Resident Artist Studios
- 5 Art Classrooms
- 3 Galleries
- 3 Resident Organizations
- ArtsQuest Glass Studio

Our Galleries

The Banana Factory has three gallery spaces within the building: The Crayola Gallery, the Banko Gallery, and the Corridor to the Arts. Each gallery space features approximately five to six exhibitions per year, with a mix of group, juried and solo exhibitions. Annual exhibitions include our Resident Artist Exhibition, Compendium Juried Exhibition, ArtsQuest Staff and Teaching Artist Exhibition, and the InVision Photo-Based Art Juried Exhibition. Every November, all our galleries feature artists who work in photography and/or photo-based art to celebrate photography month in the Lehigh Valley and our InVision programs.

We also have a permanent selection of artwork by our current Resident Artists on display on the second and third floors of the building.

Banana Factory Arts Center Gallery Guidelines

Please help us protect our artworks by respecting the following guidelines:

- Please do not touch the artworks on display in the galleries and throughout the building; the salts and oils naturally produced on your hands are damaging to artworks
- No running, shoving, or horseplay, as they endanger the safety of both the artworks and other visitors. Children should be supervised at all times.
- Keep a safe distance between you and each work of art. This helps to avoid accidental touching or bumping.
- Do not lean on walls or cases (either to write or for physical support) or place any objects on pedestals or cases. This helps keep works of art hung on the walls or displayed in cases safe. Feel free to sit on the benches or the floor as you talk, write, or draw.
- Use only pencils when sketching or completing activities in the galleries. If an accident should occur, a pencil mark is easier to remove than a pen mark. Be careful not to point with your pencil or other objects; this can endanger works of art.
- Handheld photography for personal use is permitted throughout the building and galleries. If you are photographing for use in publications or promotional materials, please first get in contact with the ArtsQuest Public Relations team by emailing pr@artsquest.org

We appreciate your help keeping the art safe so that it may be enjoyed by all of our community!

For More Information

All of our exhibitions are currently available digitally online through the Banana Factory website: bananafactory.org. In-person tours of our exhibitions are also available through our website. Additional inquires on tours and digital exhibitions can also be sent to visualarts@artsquest.org. Don't forget to follow us on our social media pages below!

 [@bananafactory_pa](https://www.instagram.com/bananafactory_pa)

 [@TheBananaFactory](https://www.facebook.com/TheBananaFactory)



Crayola Gallery

Current Exhibition: Lehigh Art Alliance 86th Annual Winter Juried Exhibition

About the Lehigh Art Alliance:

The Lehigh Art Alliance was founded in 1935 by Professor Garth Howland of Lehigh University, the LAA continues as an organization for amateur and professional artists in the Lehigh Valley, and as a cultural and educational entity for the people of the area.

The LAA has always attempted to serve both the artist and the community equally. Juried exhibitions give the artist an opportunity to display their work, and give appreciators of art an opportunity to view what regional artists are producing

Juror's Statement

I was honored to be asked to be the juror for this year's Lehigh Art Alliance Exhibition. It was a difficult task with so many high quality entries. The submissions included an impressive range of styles, techniques and medium. This show is a delightful blend of everything you could

ask for in an art show. The Lehigh Valley area historically has a very strong art community. It is encouraging to see that the current group of artists are continuing that tradition. - Jaz Szygiel

Juror Biography

For nearly 40 years Jaz's work has been exhibited in regional galleries and has participated in countless regional and national juried shows and competitions. He's won numerous awards for his oil and watercolor paintings and has been featured in area newspapers and magazines. Jaz's talents have been commissioned by private and corporate clients. He is often engaged to lecture and speak at art seminars and events. He is proud to be a committee member of Annual Traditional Artists Show, a yearly art show that helps raise funds for not-for-profit organizations. Jas was an adjunct professor at Arcadia University for nearly 20 years and taught at the Hussian School of Art in Philadelphia.

Selected Works | Artist Highlights

Sandra Corpora, *Final Touches*

Garth Howland Award

"Final Touches" is a portrait of Lauren Beauchner as she painted in my studio. She won a grant from Kutztown University to study with me for a semester and we worked side by side. I was inspired to paint her intently working on one of her smaller pieces. The backlighting of my studio windows gave it atmosphere. I painted this same concept first as a small, more loosely handled piece.

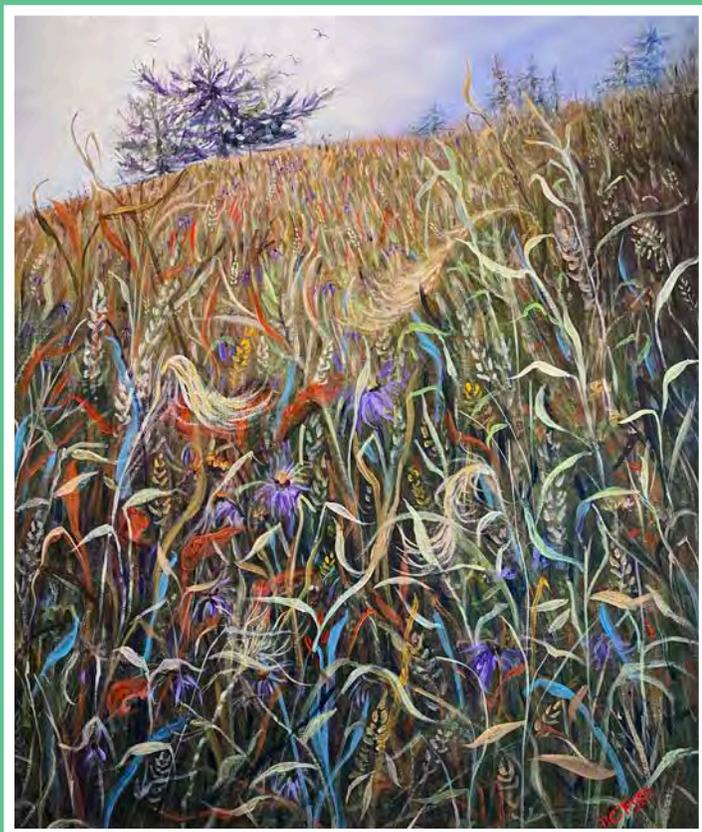
Laura Elmore, *Just Waiting*

Walter Mattern Award

"Just Waiting" was inspired by the model's pose. Created in stoneware, it was finished using a natural, heavy iron oxide wash and high heat to create a warm, sensual feeling and question the honesty of the material from which it was made.



Sandra Corpora, *Final Touches*



Barbara Tracy, *Rising Up in the Time of Covid*

Elena Shackleton, *Keurner's Door Yard*
Rollin Wolf Award

This painting depicts a near-perfect day of painting at Keurner's Farm, where Andrew Wyeth prowled for many years. He was a constant fixture in their house and property, like a human barn cat. The back door to the house is just to the right of this scene. You are seeing the yard as if you are coming up the walk, reaching to open the screen door and enter. I envision Wyeth pausing to consider the dappled light on the space or the rusty, decaying roof of the build out. A simple yet complex scene.

Nancy Bossert, *Midnight Star Mask*
Harry V. Beidleman Award

Barbara Tracy, *Rising Up in the Time of Covid*
Anna Riley Award

My painting "Rising Up, In the Time of Covid," communicates my personal apprehension of the global pandemic as well as the divisive political unrest that was occurring then and now. The varied and colorful grasses in a large field seem to rise up toward a dark tree in the horizon, communicating my hopes that diversity and goodness can overcome the foreboding gloom at the horizon. The spiky evergreen tree situated on a high, diagonal horizon symbolizes pain and suffering which can be overcome by the force of beauty in the natural world as well as by common humanity. This

is an acrylic painting on 25 x 22 canvas and took several weeks to complete while 'sheltering in place' in my home studio.

Rhonda Counts, *Early Morning Mist*
Paul Wieand Award

Honorable Mentions:

Connie Gilbert, *I'm NOT Looking At You*

Diane Hutchinson, *Our Winter Moon*

The ethereal beauty of the moon has inspired artists and scientists for centuries! There is something dreamlike about moonbeams dancing across the snow. We don't have to travel far to catch a glimpse of this sublime wonder! It belongs to all of us. We only need to look up.

Jonathan Bond, *Feathered Friends*

The array of feathers featured in this egg tempera serve as a metaphor for many of my departed family members and friends. I wanted to convey the feeling of life's fleeting moments. I often take hikes in the Kempton countryside and gather mementos. These feathers are the result of many of those solitary walks.

Brenda Gadow, *Bayonne Bridge*

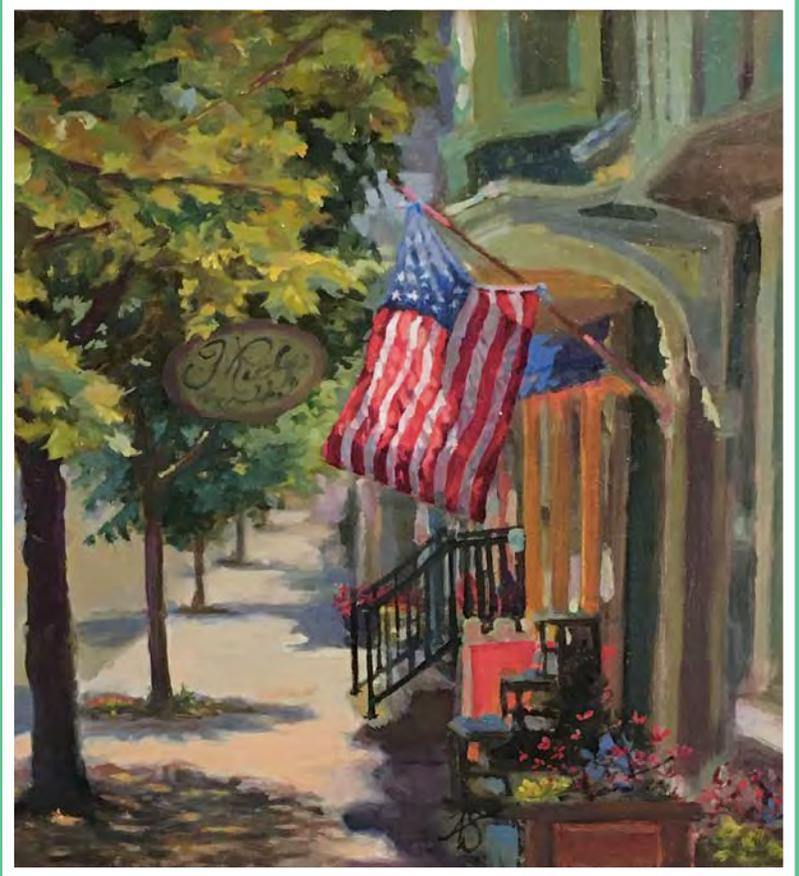
Bayonne Bridge's inspiration came from what I call 'love letters' from my husband. He sends photographs from his job as Docking Pilot in New York City Harbor. I translate these into paint, letting the color and brushwork vibrate thru the memory of the image he sent- as a way for us to write back and forth about an experience we want to share, although separated by distance and time.



Connie Gilbert, *I'm NOT Looking At You*

Focus on Local Art & Artists

The Lehigh Art Alliance exhibitions feature a wide range of artists, artistic styles, and subject matter, but a connecting theme is a focus and highlight on local arts and artists. As a community arts center and in connection with the mission of ArtsQuest to provide access to art, culture and educational programs for the diverse residents of the Lehigh Valley, exhibiting groups such as the Lehigh Art Alliance helps to support to artists within the community and helps to get the community in front of their work.



Anne K. Sikorski-Schneider, *Flat Day on Main Street*



Anne K. Sikorski-Schneider, *The Sentinel*

Love of the Landscape!

While the Art Alliance opens their juried show to a variety of mediums and subject matter, a favorite theme is landscapes or floral/foliage themes, with roughly 48% of the works in the current exhibition falling under one of those two categories. Often, these scenes depict local area, such as Maria Kazakia's *Monocacy Creek* or Anne K. Sikorski-Schneider's works "*The Sentinel*," Allentown, PA and "*Flag Day on Main Street*," Nazareth, PA

Questions to Consider

Spending time just observing the artwork in our galleries is fun and important, but art is more than just looking at an image! To really enhance your experience of this exhibition, use these questions below as a start. Feel free to use the space provided to write down any additional thoughts or questions that come to mind as you walk through the exhibition.

1. Find a piece of work that is representational and one that is more abstract (see Vocabulary Terms for clarification on these terms). How does the artist use the basic elements of art (Color, Line, Shape) differently in each work?
2. Many of the works in this exhibition fall into the category of landscapes. Pick one landscape image and ask yourself the following sensory questions: If you were standing in this location, describe the sounds you might hear. What about smells? How did this immersive practice enhance your viewing of the artwork?



Slow Art Challenge

On average, a person only spends about 15-30 seconds looking at a work of art!¹ While considering these questions, we challenge our guests to spend a longer time looking at one or pieces that speak to you in this exhibition. Try setting a timer or stopwatch for one minute to start, and really focus in on one piece for a whole minute. Challenge yourself to try for two minutes, or even up to five minutes!

¹ <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-long-work-art-it#:~:text=But%20it%20is%20safe%20to,15%20seconds%20and%2030%20seconds.>



Vocabulary Terms for Lehigh Art Alliance Exhibition

Representational | Blanket term for art that represents some aspect of reality, in a more or less straightforward way. The term seems to have come into use after the rise of modern art and particularly abstract art as a means of referring to art not substantially touched by modern developments.²

Abstract Art | Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect. The term can be applied to art that is based on an object, figure or landscape, where forms have been simplified or schematised. Since the early 1900s, abstract art has formed a central stream of modern art.³

Landscape | The depiction of natural scenery in art. Landscape art may capture mountains, valleys, bodies of water, fields, forests, and coasts and may or may not include man-made structures as well as people. Although artwork from the earliest ancient and Classical periods included natural scenic elements, landscape as an independent genre did not emerge in the Western tradition until the Renaissance in the 16th century. In the Eastern tradition, the genre can be traced back to 4th-century-CE China.⁴

Photorealism | Photorealism is a painting style that emerged in Europe and the USA in the late 1960s, characterised by its painstaking detail and precision. The early 1990s saw a renewed interest in photorealism, thanks to new technology in the form of cameras and digital equipment which offered more precision.⁵

Still Lifes | One of the principal genres (subject types) of Western art – essentially, the subject matter of a still life painting or sculpture is anything that does not move or is dead. Still life includes all kinds of man-made or natural objects, cut flowers, fruit, vegetables, fish, game,

wine and so on. Still life can be a celebration of material pleasures such as food and wine, or often a warning of the ephemerality of these pleasures and of the brevity of human life.⁶

Portrait | A portrait is a representation of a particular person. Portraiture is a very old art form going back at least to ancient Egypt, where it flourished from about 5,000 years ago. Before the invention of photography, a painted, sculpted, or drawn portrait was the only way to record the appearance of someone.⁷

Oil Paint | Oil paint is a form of a slow-drying paint that consists of particles of pigment suspended in a drying oil that forms a tough, coloured film on exposure to air. The drying oil is a vegetable oil, often made by crushing nuts or seeds. For paints, linseed oil is most commonly used, but poppy, sunflower, safflower, soya bean and walnut oils can also been used. The advantage of the slow-drying quality of oil paint is that an artist can develop a painting gradually, making changes or corrections if necessary.⁸

Acrylic Paint | Acrylic paint is water-based fast-drying paint widely used by artists since the 1960s. It can be used thickly or thinly depending how much water is added to it. First made in the 1950s acrylic paint uses a synthetic resin to bind pigments. As it can be diluted with water and used thinly or thickly depending on how much water is added to it, it can resemble a watercolor or an oil painting, or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with other media. Acrylic paint is waterproof once it has dried. Because of its versatility and the fact it dries quickly it has become a popular painting medium and is widely used by artists today.⁹

Pastel | Pastel is fabricated from one or several finely ground pigments, a pulverized inert white filler such as ground calcium carbonate or kaolin, and a minuscule amount of binder

such as gum tragacanth. The powdered ingredients are combined and rolled into sticks of colored powder, the consistency of which must be sufficiently cohesive to allow them to be grasped between the fingers, yet crumble when stroked across a support. Pastel is usually drawn on paper, which must have a slight texture or “tooth” to grab and hold the medium on its surface. Prized for its brilliant color, pastel was first used in the sixteenth century, notably by Leonardo da Vinci. It flourished in the eighteenth century, again in the late nineteenth century, and remains popular today.¹⁰

Watercolor | Watercolour paint consists of fine pigment particles suspended in a water-soluble binder (adhesive substance). It is usually used on paper. As watercolor is semi-transparent, the white of the paper gives a natural luminosity to the washes of color. White areas of the image often are merely left unpainted to expose the paper. Watercolors are sold as cakes of dry paint or as liquid in tubes, to which water is added. The paint can be applied in various techniques such as wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry to obtain different effects. The binder usually used for watercolor consists of gum, glucose, glycerine and wetting agents.¹¹

² <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/r/representational>

³ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/abstract-art>

⁴ Blumberg, Naomi. “Landscape painting”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 3 Apr. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/art/landscape-painting>. Accessed 11 February 2021.

⁵ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/photorealism>

⁶ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/still-life>

⁷ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/portrait>

⁸ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/o/oil-paint>

⁹ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/a/acrylic-paint#:~:text=Acrylic%20paint%20is%20water%2Dbased,water%20is%20added%20to%20it>

¹⁰ <https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/curatorial-departments/drawings-and-prints/materials-and-techniques/drawing/pastel>

¹¹ <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/w/watercolour>

