

# WHAL March 2024

Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:01 PM

Business meeting 7-7:30pm

Members present 17

## **Board Reports**

- Treasurer's Report (Audra Zampogna) current balance \$4,461.20
  - Audra connected with Chris from Brutus Monroe (art & craft store in Green Tree) who is willing to come do a demo for one of our meetings.
- Membership Report (Helena Valentine) currently 46 paid members
- Programs Report (Kim Freithaler) next month we have Lynda Kirby presenting.
- Publicity / Communications Report (Lynda Kirby) our next monthly art challenge theme is "art in full bloom".
- Social Media/Multimedia Report (Cindy Gilberti, Jim Tobin)
  - 40 subscribers to our YouTube channel
  - 37 videos uploaded

## **Member News / Call for Artists / Show and Class Announcements (Debbie Tobin)**

- Mother's Day drop off Friday April 26th 9am-12pm
  - \$10 per piece
  - Register your pieces on [our website](#) and find more information on the EXHIBITS/EVENTS tab under the MEETINGS heading.
  - Lynda to update the website to remove 3D submissions
- Plein Air paint out date APRIL 14, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at ROBIN HILL PARK - 949 Thorn Run Rd, Coraopolis, PA 15108. [Sign up](#) to bring something for the Potluck!
  - Other upcoming Plein Air events:
    - Lance is working with Roselea Farms for another plein air painting date in June.
    - Gena Gorder has some nice plein air events coming up for this summer as well:
      - June 5 Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens
      - July 10 at Simmons Farm in McMurray
      - August 24 at Frick
      - September 6 at the wall garden at Mellon Park

## **Demonstration by Steph Moraca**

<https://www.stephmoracafineart.com/>

Steph Moraca's passion for translating the beauty of natural landscapes onto canvas began at a young age. She became enamored with the great outdoors through her childhood travels, where she

visited many national parks and golf courses with her family. Ms. Moraca attended professional studio drawing classes at age 10 and began to paint by age 12. Ms. Moraca received a Bachelor of Arts in Studio

Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. Today, she is still painting what originally

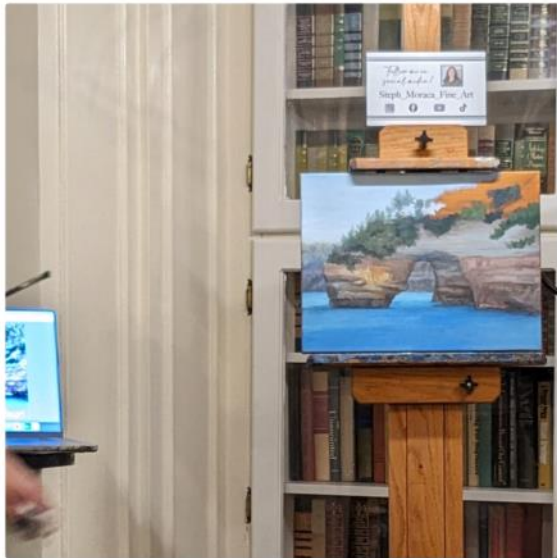
sparked

her passion: golf and nature landscapes. She is a nationally recognized award winning artist. Ms. Moraca creates original oil paintings for private art collectors throughout the United States. You can find her work online, at trade shows, and in golf shops. Her landscape paintings have been recognized in national fine art exhibitions and the talk of podcasts and magazines. She is involved with organizations including the Golf Heritage Society, Oil Painters of America, the Pittsburgh Society of Artists, and more.

“I have developed a unique painting style somewhere between realism and photo-realism,” she explains, “I dedicate many hours to work on fine detail in these paintings.” Her clients boast that her paintings are realistic, yet artistic to the point where a piece can be recognized as a painting when taking a look at an original work up close.

Ms. Moraca completes original paintings in her studio and participates in live painting demonstrations at corporate events and weddings throughout the United States. She accepts custom commission requests for paintings including pet portraits, family portraits, hole-in-one paintings, vacation landscape paintings, and imaginary landscapes. In addition to selling her own artwork, she teaches free weekly painting lessons on her YouTube Channel “The Painting StooF” to help others learn how to paint.

- Steph has trouble with turpentine/mineral spirits and has switched to food grade [citrus solvent](#) to thin her oils.
- Getting started:
  - She starts with a wash on her canvas to neutralize it.
  - Places a dot in the center as a simplified grid method
  - Uses the layering method
- Steph is currently working on a national park painting series, takes commissions, including live wedding painting.
- She works in both oil and acrylic paints.
- She uses both spray and brush-on varnish and because she paints thinner, can apply it after 10 days.
- Steph sells prints on Icanvas & fine art America
- Check out the book [Art, Money & Success](#) to understand the business aspects of art.
- She determines pricing based on canvas size.



*Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Shuck*