



# Paint Strokes

## Murrieta's Gem of the Valley Art Association

January 2026

### President's Message



HERE'S MY VIEW, FOLKS.....

**YOU ARE AT YOUR ARTFUL BEST RIGHT NOW.** Your artwork today reflects every effort, every stroke of your hand, every project you've completed and you're exactly where you should be. We see you! **BUT.....your best is about to change!** ;D Each month we bring you the best pro demonstrator to teach you something new and it's our hope that the lessons learned will bring you to the next level – bring you to **YOUR NEW BEST.** So, get excited, folks, we're about to watch something remarkable on January 5<sup>th</sup>! Bring it, Joe Oakes, we're ready!!

Something else cool to know: A recent note from Debra Braun (CEO) of Kids&Art shared that their organization recently received the Cam Busch Arts for Innovation Award for their ArtKits @Home program. GEM was thanked for being part of this – our support made it possible to distribute nearly 4,000 ArtKits free to patient homes around the U.S. and to +/- 4,400 kids in hospitals nationwide. Thank you, folks, for making a difference for these struggling kids! Please consider your next donation so we can continue our support for 2026

(President's Message Continued)

#### **OK, ONE LAST THING.....JANUARY RIBBON WINNERS, TAKE NOTE:**

1. **ALL** ribbon winners can display their paintings in the Heritage Room Display Case after our January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting! Yay! Easels are already there, just bring your painting, ribbon and signed waiver form (given to you before you leave).
2. Use the **FRONT DOOR ONLY** of the Library to drop off/take home your painting. Side entrances are for Library staff only.

Gem ~ we're all about art!  
Cathy

### Gem of the Valley Art Association

#### General Meeting

**Date:** January 5th

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Senior Center Main Hall  
41717 Juniper, Murrieta

Gem Mailing Address: 24930 Washington Ave., Suite 113, Murrieta, CA 92562

# January Demonstrator



**Joe Oaks**

## *Artist Statement*

My landscapes of the West and Southwest are about the joy of nature and the colors it offers us. I paint with colors that evoke feelings of the first brilliant seconds of sunrise and the last fiery moments of sunset. Expressing those feelings through the use of bold, vibrant highlights and shadows of violet hues is my signature. I paint tributes to the mountains, canyons and valleys in the hopes it will slow us down long enough to appreciate them. Every painting is a challenge to examine the colors of our world and reconnect with nature.

## *Biography*

Joe A. Oakes was a curious and observant child that began drawing at age five. He's been painting full time since 2008 and like other artists, had many previous occupations including, substitute teacher, art consultant and graphic designer. He has survived cancer and the loss of a child and used these life changing events to propel his art career forward.

Oakes' landscapes burn with the first brilliant seconds of sunrise and the last fiery moments of sunset. Expressing those feelings through the use of bold, vibrant highlights of orange and shadows of violet hues is his signature. His work offers a meditative sense of calm and happiness, with a profound reverence for the land. Each painting is a tribute to the mountains, canyons and valleys of the West and Southwest.

Oakes holds a BFA from CSU, Fullerton and his awards include: Third Place, "Sears Invitational", Utah Tech, 2024, Best in Show, "Nature of Color Show" Art Brut 27, 2020, First Place, "Visions", CCMA, Ontario, CA, 2019. His work has been included in many museum shows including, ArtsThrive, Albuquerque Museum, Sears Invitational, Sears Museum at Utah Tech and Art in the West, High Desert Museum, Bend, OR. His work has also been published in International Artist Magazine and most recently in Artists Magazine's "Acrylic Works 11 - The Best of Acrylic". Oakes resides near Palm Springs, California.





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**Your 2025-2026 Board Members & Committee Members**

**We currently have 46 paid members for the 2025/2026 season.**

**Treasurer's Corner**

Nov. Ending Balance: \$ 4,572.57

Cathy Keeney  
 Treasurer

We will have an updated report in the February issue.

# Christmas Luncheon Pics



We had quite a feast ↑



Most of the ornaments were sold and the profits donated to the Kids & Art Foundation ↓



↑ The Art Supplies Raffle sold out



# The Gathering Place

Good Friends, Good Food, Good Times



MACarts951@gmail.com

## Call For Artists

Art @ The Alleyway

Artist vendor fee: \$25

## **Thursdays All Year**

Join us, and many others, each and every Thursday in Downtown Murrieta. Murrieta Market Nights is held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday year-round. 60+ vendors, music, food & of course ART! Open Mic Nights are held on the 2nd & 3rd Thursday @ The Alleyway. All ages & all talents are welcome!