



Friends of Sumi-e

March 2026

Volume 4 | No. 3

Dear Friends of Sumi-e,

As I write this we are three weeks into February, the weather has been very wintry and we are only a few months away from our next show in June. Perhaps it feels like we just celebrated our November show celebration, but we will soon need dedicated members to once again share their talents in creating an exciting summer exhibition. Kathy McMillen is organizing the June show and will be grateful for any offer of assistance in the planning, organizing and behind the scenes work needed to put on another successful exhibit in Room 101.

More news about the parking situation in Balboa Park is pending and it appears to be GOOD news! Gaye is on the inside loop and reports that among other changes, there are plans to expand some of the lots to be available for free and the hours of enforcement will be reduced beginning early in March. As of this writing, the parking portal on the city website is not reflecting these decisions but I am sure Gaye will let us know when it all takes effect. Hopefully we will have a better situation for our March workshop but only for city residents. I once again am offering, personally, to help out anyone with parking expenses they may incur while attending our March workshop. Just get in touch with me at snilsen.5068@gmail.com.

Still learning,
Sylvia

SHINNENKAI

We had a GREAT turnout for Shinnenkai this year! Forty plus folks enjoyed the snacks and saki (brought by Joe) even though the wind off the ocean required most of us to stay indoors. We missed Sylvia, although she did share kinds words of wisdom with us. I guess we were having too much fun to take pictures!

FIRST WEDNESDAY ORIGAMI GANG

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

9:00 AM to Noon

Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park



Vickie is ready to go this month with butterflies! Bring your favorite colors and a dollar bill.

**MARCH WORKSHOP
 PAINT LARGE WITH CINDY & GAYE
 Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 9:00 am to Noon
 Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park**

Bring your largest brushes, largest paper and plan to have a super fun time painting LARGE with Cindy and Gaye. We'll take a stab at lotus leaves, bamboo and, if anyone feels like it, a fire horse! Really, you may paint whatever you wish, but plan to paint it BIG! If you have an old plastic tablecloth, please include it with your usual painting supplies. If you don't have large paper or brushes, some will be available to use. BE BRAVE!

LOCAL ART EVENTS

February 28th: SD Museum of Art is free to ALL with entertainment on the front steps in the afternoon.

February 28-March 1: Lung Hsiang exhibit in Room 101, Casa del Prado from 11am to 4pm daily

March 16th: Art & Design Workshop: Cupcake Bouquets 10am-Noon @ Timkin Gallery. Cost for members: \$105.00, non-members, \$125.00

March 14th: Cactus and Succulent Show in Room 101

March 21-22: Ikebana Show in Room 101

March 28th: The Asian Arts Council (part of Museum of Art) is hosting a bus to the Huntington Library, all day, cost for SD Museum of Art members: \$125.00, non-members: \$135

June 27-28: OUR SHOW!

WORKSHOP TEAM

Our workshop team is looking for workshop ideas and leaders for 2026. Check in with one of them with your fabulous ideas!

Cliff Chally clckms@sbcglobal.net
 Beverly Edge beveredge2@yahoo.com
 Cynthia Ramirez cynthia.architecture@gmail.com

How about a Day Trip to Orange County or Los Angeles County to visit a Japanese Museum or Garden?

**Upcoming Workshops & Society Events/Activities
 All in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park from 9:00 AM to Noon unless otherwise noted**

March	Wednesday	March 4	Wednesday Workshop	Butterflies & Dollar Bills with Vickie Room 104 Casa del Prado
	Saturday	March 7	Saturday Workshop	Paint Large with Cindy & Gaye Room 104 Casa del Prado

April	Wednesday	April 1	Wednesday Workshop	TBD
	Saturday	April 4	Saturday Workshop	TBD

- ✚ Joe Cross Classes – 1st Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM
- ✚ Tuesday Painters: Currently on hiatus

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR | EXHIBITION OF FINE ART



It's that time of year again! Please consider submitting your masterpieces to the San Diego County Fair. The Asian Art Division has decreased in size over the past few years and is in danger of disappearing altogether. It is to our advantage to keep this division strong. Please consider your strengths and enter in 2026. Here is the link to everything you need to know. It's easy and fun!

<https://www.sdfair.com/p/participate/entry/fine-art>

THE FOUR TREASURES OF JAPANESE BRUSH PAINTING

We all know of the four gentlemen – Bamboo, wild orchid, chrysanthemum and plum blossom. We also have “Four Treasures of the Study” (*Bunbo Shiho*): The Brush (*fude*), Ink (*sumi*), Inkstone (*suzuri*), and Paper (*washi or hanshi*).

Our last exploration - this month – the exploration is PAPER (*washi or hanshi*) and how it is made. Follow these links (watch them in order!):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k--cnSbS1gU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeruBYGXaNk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBcq0t50A9w>

After you have viewed the videos, consider your inks and how they react when you use them and how they work in conjunction with your brushes and various papers. Enjoy this journey. If you would like to share your thoughts, please send them to your Editor (ralsgal@gmail.com) and we'll include them in the next Newsletter.

Thank you for sharing this learning journey.



For small creatures such as we, the vastness is bearable only through love. – Carl Sagan

PARKING IN THE PARK

The following information is directly from the San Diego City Mayor's office on February 19, 2026:

1. Effective March 2, FOR VERIFIED CITY RESIDENTS, the Level 2 and Level 3 lots where they may park for free have been expanded to include the Bea Evenson (Natural History) lot and the Palisades lot behind the Comic-Con museum. Residents must be verified through the process outlined on the city of SD website/ Balboa Park parking. Residents must select Level 2 or 3 pass.
2. Enforcement throughout the park will end at 6:00 p.m. (from 8:00 p.m.)
3. Eligible ADA parking placards allow parking in any lot and in any space at all times throughout the park in the event blue stalls are taken.

Here is the City parking website: <https://www.sandiego.gov/parking/balboapark>

Please note that the above information applies only to City of San Diego residents. Everyone else is required to pay the current going parking rates. If you're interested, perhaps finding someone in our group who lives in the city who you can carpool with or take the trolley/bus to the Park would be a viable alternative. The bus does drop you off at a rather convenient location nearest to Casa del Prado.

The Bea Evenson (Natural History) lot is the closest of the two Level 2/Level 3 lots to Casa del Prado. The Palisades Lot may require a trolley ride and a walk up the Prado to Casa del Prado. I have been informed that the trolleys are small bus-like vehicles which should accommodate our "painting luggage".

Finally, the City, in its infinite wisdom, has made it abundantly clear. Ignacio de la Torre, our representative states: "The very clear distinction that the city is making is that a volunteer must provide a substantial benefit **TO THE PARK**, not the club itself." At this point in time, the City feels that none of the members of any of the SDBGF underlying organizations (of which we are one) are volunteers when working our shows and therefore must pay for parking. We ALL respectfully disagree and are in the process of regrouping and presenting proof that all of the organizations DO provide a substantial benefit to the Park and not just to the individual club.



The poster for the Lung Hsiang Exhibit & Sale features a dragon logo on the left and a blue iris painting on the right. The text is centered and provides details about the event, including dates, times, location, and activities.

Lung Hsiang Exhibit & Sale
Featuring original Chinese Brush Paintings
By members of the Lung Hsiang chapter of the
American Artists of Chinese Brush Painting

**Exhibit runs Saturday and Sunday
February 28 and March 1, 2026
11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego 92101**

Admission is free

Meet the artists
Painting Demonstrations
Participate in Brush Painting

Framed Paintings
Matted Paintings
Hand painted cards, gifts and crafts

Artwork by Thesa Jolly