

# Northern Indiana Pastel Society

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March 2026

## Northern Indiana Pastel Society Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Francis Branch Library  
52655 N. Ironwood Road, South Bend  
10:30 a.m. meet and greet social time

11 a.m. news and program

Members are invited to bring an appetizer, fruit, or light brunch item. Guests are welcome. We would appreciate help in organizing the room and refreshments before the meeting and clearing up afterward.



## Northern Indiana Pastel Society 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit

May 23 to July 12, 2026, Crowley Community Gallery, South Bend Museum of Art

**Deliver art:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9

**Reception with awards:** First Friday, June 5, 5-8 p.m. with Around the Bend exhibit

**Releasing from exhibit:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, July 13.

**Releasing of art not accepted into the show:** Noon-5 p.m. Wednesday May 13

**Jurors:** Bill Tourtillotte, art faculty at Indiana Univ. South Bend, and Julie Tourtillotte, art faculty at Saint Mary's College

Each member may enter one or two pastel works.

**Fee:** \$10 for the first entry, \$5 for the second entry. The exhibit will be juried so not all works will be shown. Entry fees will not be refunded if the art is not accepted. Art will not be offered for sale by the museum.

**Eligibility:** Work must have been completed within three years of the exhibition. The art should not have been shown in a previous NIPS show or at South Bend Museum of Art. There is no size limit. The show is open to NIPS members who are current with their dues for 2026.

Dues of **\$25** can be paid by sending a check payable to *Northern Indiana Pastel Society* in care of treasurer **Sue Coultas**, 519 Woodruff, Niles, MI, 49120.

The entry form and further details will be available in a separate email.



Brandon Davis Jennings

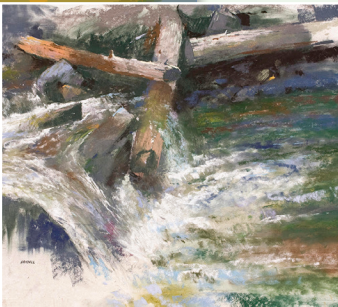
### Program

**Brandon Davis Jennings** will tell how studying Albert Handell's paintings has helped him improve his own art. He will focus on a few of Handell's works that helped him to develop form and depth with shadows. Several of Brandon's studies will be included in the slide presentation.

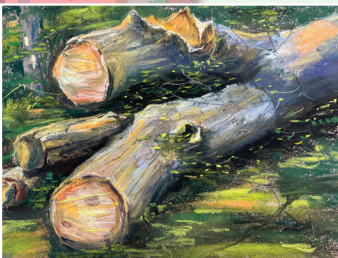
He has found Handell's book, *Intuitive Light: An Emotional Approach to Capturing the Illusion of Value, Form, Color, and Space* to be especially useful, and much of the language used to discuss shadows will be based on Handell's statements in the book.

Brandon Davis Jennings PhD is an artist, author, and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran from West Virginia. His art and writing often explores military themes.

He won a judge's award in the recent NIPS exhibit at Colfax Cultural Center for his pastel of a service member. He won a juror's award at the SBMA student/faculty show, and his painting "I'm Not Touching You" is on display at the ALOFT show in downtown South Bend.



Albert Handell



*It's Felled; Now What?*  
by Brandon Davis Jennings

### Future NIPS Exhibits

**Heartland Art Center, Aug. 4-29, 2026, at 214 N. Michigan St. Plymouth. If this location is not available due to renovations, the show will take place at One More Chapter Books at 108 N. Michigan St.**

**Saturday Aug. 1.** Deliver work between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Saturday, Aug. 29, 1-3 p.m.** Reception, awards and releasing of art. Food and drinks will be supplied by Heartland, but members are invited to bring appetizers and desserts also.

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> **Fernwood Botanical Garden Feb. 19 to May 2, 2027.** Reception Sunday, Feb. 21.

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> **Roti Roti Art Center, Buchanan, Mich., 2028**

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### Scholastics Art Winner

Scholastics Silver Key winner **Xiaohe Wang**, grade 8, won the Northern Indiana Pastel Society Award for this still life.



*NIPS Pastel Society winner Xiaohe Wang*

The award includes a \$100 gift to the artist funded by the pastel society. The exhibition ends April 13 at South Bend Museum of Art and features regional students in grades 7–12.

Free and open to the public Wednesday–Sunday, noon–5 p.m. Visitors are invited to vote for the Community Choice Award.

### Youth Art Month Award

Northern Indiana Pastel Society funded an award to **Lily Ammons**, a junior at Goshen High School, in the Youth Art Month exhibit through April 19 at Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart. High school students in Elkhart County participated.

### Member News

**Liz Kuntz** has three pastel works in the exhibit “Journey of the Mind Through Visual Artistic Expression” presented by Mental Health Awareness of Michiana through March 26 at the St. Joe County Public Library, South Bend. Liz gave the noon time talk, “The Intuitive Artist,” March 12 at Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart.

**Kay Londergan** and **Liz Kuntz** will have art in the “Painted Ladies” group exhibition June 12 to August 23 at Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles, Mich. Reception June 20, 1-3 p.m.



*Lilly by Maureen McKinley Light*

**Maureen McKinley Light** and **Susan Piper** have art in The Space In Between in the Brammel building in the Benton Harbor (Michigan) Arts District until June 6. Two of Maureen’s artworks have been sold.

**Cathy McCormick** has art in the Indiana Women’s Caucus for Art exhibit at Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan, Michigan, April 1 to May 10.

The Northern Indiana Artists exhibit at First Unitarian Church, South Bend, through April 11 features several members including **Mary Meehan Firtl**, **Jude Phillips**, **Diann Nelson**, **Daniel Slattery**, **Tami McNally**, **Susan Piper**, **Dee Thornton**, **Paul Thornton**, **Susan Pelka** and **Cathy McCormick**.

### Past Event

Our annual holiday potluck luncheon was held Dec. 12 at Pinhook Community Center, South Bend. We thank **Dee Thornton**, **Paul Thornton** and **Mary Firtl** for their leadership in organizing the event. Congratulations to **Beth Hamilton** for winning the art wreath created and donated by **Susan Piper**.

### Dues

Membership renewals are due in March. Dues of \$25 can be sent to treasurer **Sue Coultas**, 519 Woodruff, Niles MI 49120. (suecoultas@comcast.net) Make your check payable to *NIPS* or *Northern Indiana Pastel Society*. Dues cover the cost of exhibits, website, hospitality supplies, speaker fees and membership in the International Association of Pastel Societies.