

Society of Animal Artists 2027-2029 Board Candidates

Current Vacancies: 1

Total Positions Available: 4

Incumbents: 3

Jim Coe – Current Board Member since 2009, Distinguished Signature Member since 2003

An SAA member since 2003, I have been a Distinguished Signature Member since 2017 – so I guess that makes me an old-timer! I was first elected to the Board of Directors in 2009, and I assumed the role of SAA Jury Chair in 2013.

It has been during my years on the Board that the SAA experienced tremendous growth and transformation from a provincial New York-based club into a large and dynamic international arts organization. I take little credit for that growth; instead, what I am most proud of is my role as our Jury Chair, having overseen the refinement of rules and procedures to make the selection of each year's Annual show as fair and as equitable as possible. With our new use of ShowSubmit for submissions and jurying, however, many of the procedures I developed are now obsolete. But the changes in the internal Board culture and attitude, and our promotion of equal access to all SAA exhibitions for every SAA member, have continued.

I am also currently working on the Board of our affiliated organization, the Monument Arts and Cultural Center in Bennington, VT. At the MAC Center, I am the chair of the Gallery Committee, and in that role, I help develop our schedule of exhibitions, and I work with ShowSubmit to promote and select those shows. My role there is a good complement to what I do on our SAA Board.

I would like to continue to serve you on the SAA Board of Directors, and I am asking for your support. I hope to help guide the SAA as we continue to grow and prosper in the coming years.

Cynthia Fisher – Current Board Member since 2015, Member since 1992

Animals have been my passion since I was three years old, and my artwork has focused on wildlife since I was six. I have been a member of SAA since 1995. I work in eight different media, focusing on many international species and behaviors. I also have a degree in zoology, which qualifies me in anatomy and the accuracy of wildlife behavior and settings. My artwork has been used for over 35 years to raise money for conservation groups, and I donate thousands of dollars each year to these groups with my art sales. I am an avid birder and taxidermist, which also helps with critiquing artist applications, and I have traveled all over the world, including 25 trips to Africa, in pursuit of references for my artwork. I hope to continue with the SAA board, help new artists improve their artwork, promote SAA, and educate art enthusiasts to appreciate and support our group.

Deborah Lafogg Docherty – Member since 2014

It's an honor to be a part of this talented artistic community, and I am proud to represent my fellow members working with the Board of Directors. It is important for me to continue to contribute to an organization that is doing and has done so much for the wildlife art community. I would like to help the organization grow and to offer more membership opportunities.

I offer my time, energy, and enthusiasm. I also have an extensive background in advertising, fundraising, and computer skills. In the past, I helped to raise funds for the Friend Group for the National Key Deer Refuge and a spay and neuter rescue for feral cats. I am a certified Wildlife Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Federation and the Florida Wildlife Federation, and I am currently pursuing certification as a Florida Master Naturalist.

I have juried for the Florida Junior Duck Stamp competition (700 entries) and the 2019 Pastel Society of South Carolina's Annual Online Exhibition (950 entries), and jurying for the 2023 Southwest Florida Pastel Society Art of Pastel Exhibition.

I have also served as vice president of a local art society with 150 members. My responsibilities included finding show venues, setting up shows, advertising, and working with businesses and the community.

I would like to continue to serve you on the SAA Board of Directors, and I'm excited to be a part of its continued growth.