



Media Contact:  
Lisa Ober  
Tel. 636-362-6152  
[BiartisanProject@gmail.com](mailto:BiartisanProject@gmail.com)  
[biartisan.com](http://biartisan.com)

ARTISTS ANSWER SOCIAL DIVIDE WITH “BIARTISAN” PAINTING PROJECT  
AND JURIED EXHIBIT

Great things happen when artists collaborate.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Louis, Missouri (May, 2018) -- It may be a socially and politically divided world, but pastel artists from different backgrounds, ages, approaches, and ideologies, whether artistically or socially, will join forces **in twos** to create amazing art. Artist pairs will caucus on particulars, compromise, collaborate, and create amazing artwork which will culminate in a juried exhibit.

Creator Lisa Ober says, “We believe art can be a catalyst for positive change in how we interact. We think artists are amazing people. As artists, we want to start a trend that is low risk, dangerously fun, and makes us all stop and enjoy each other for a minute! The opportunities are worth the effort and we have called this collaborative experiment [The Biartisan Project](#).”

The Biartisan Project for Pastel begins this month as artists begin to choose their painting partners. They will then decide together how to handle subject matter, materials, combining painting styles, and the logistics of exchanging/swapping paintings. Upon completion of the paintings, artist pairs will submit their two best works (one painting started by each artist) for a juried exhibit with awards to be held at OA Gallery in Kirkwood, MO. The opening reception on May 3, 2019 is open to the public.

“We expect to be astonished by the amazing collaborative art produced by paired participants, and we can’t wait to hear the stories about the process of creating with another artist,” said Rob Weinblatt, co-creator of the project.

The Biartisan Project between pastel artists of different backgrounds, ages, world views, painting styles, painting approaches, or subject matter, endeavors to provide:

- Encouragement to an angry world that people can still agree to disagree and still “reach across the aisle” to work together.
- An opportunity for participating artists to learn from each other and share ideas.
- A great way to get to know other artists, perhaps even those whose world view’s differ from our own.
- Outrageously beautiful artwork, a combination of two unique artists’ efforts.

The Biartisan Project brings together a chorus of artist duos willing to work together for the sake of artistic harmony as well as a genuine interest in improving dialogue. Artists will be examples of finding common ground and make beautiful art. The resulting collaborative paintings might be better than each artist might have done alone! We shall see...and we are very hopeful.

### **Biartisan**

The Biartisan Project is a year long project designed to inspire the creation of outstanding pastel art through a unique learning experience. We hope to bring artists together, pair by pair, for a painting exchange process that results in new friends, new skills, and shared techniques...and we’d just like to enjoy each other’s uniqueness again. Perhaps we will inspire oil painters, sculptors, and other artisans to duplicate our project. Maybe the broader community will be encouraged.

Website: [Biartisan.com](http://Biartisan.com)

### **OA Gallery**

Located in beautiful Downtown Kirkwood, Missouri, OA Gallery specializes in contemporary representational art and boasts paintings, sculpture, and pottery from the US and abroad. The gallery offers a range of exciting artwork appealing to a variety of tastes and decors. Whether a seasoned collector or just beginning an adventure, OA Gallery will help you guide you to that special piece or collection of pieces.

Website: [OAGalleryOnline.com](http://OAGalleryOnline.com)

### **Lisa Ober**

Lisa Ober, PSA, IAPS/MC, is a portrait and still life painter, workshop teacher, and owner of OA Gallery in St. Louis, MO. When not in her studio painting or busy at the gallery she travels as a workshop instructor, sharing the versatility, beauty, and immediacy of pastel painting. Her contagious enthusiasm for the pastel medium has made her a sought after teacher and mentor, and she considers it her mission to endear artists, collectors, and galleries to pastel.

Website: [LisaOber.com](http://LisaOber.com)

### **Rob Weinblatt**

Rob Weinblatt is a pastel landscape painter whose inspiration is based on emotional reactions to his own observations. His feelings are then translated into design and color. Rob invites the viewer of his work to see scenes from his vantage point, to feel his reaction to the landscape. He enjoys communicating through pastel, sharing what draws him to a particular location. His hope is for the viewer to place themselves in his artistic shoes for a moment - to appreciate the beauty and joyous light depicted in his work.

Visit [Biartisan.com](http://Biartisan.com) for more information regarding The Biartisan Project.

### **Project Mission**

The Biartisan Project is an event enthusiastically hosted by Heartland Art Club and The Academy of Nature and Wildlife Arts as a unique educational opportunity for artists to build bridges across philosophical bound-

aries and technical challenges, and to create new solutions and artistic opportunities by learning from each other.

Pastel artists collaborate to develop an understanding of multiple viewpoints and perspectives while broadening their artistic experience and growing from exposure to new techniques, styles, subject matter, and approaches.

Heartland Art Club and The Academy of Nature and Wildlife Arts are 501(c)3 organizations incorporated in the state of Missouri. Your donation may be tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor.

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