

Nan's Notes

Nan Kohr, President

Hello, it's December !

May the spirit of December bless you with inspiration to splash colors all around.
If you like your masterpiece consider the title JOY !

Leda Rabenold has been the VAA Webmaster since 2017 and she has brought the website to a high peak for an eager new Master.

The website is the best source of information for all things that are the Visual Arts Association. Now Leda needs a member familiar with websites in order to transfer access and continue.

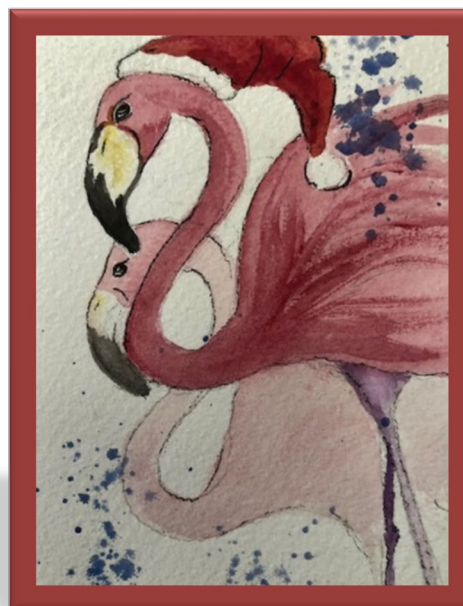
leda.rabenold@gmail.com or c. 352-299-5433

Two VAA's main opportunities to display members' artwork are at the

Annex Showcase (Sheriff's building at Morse & 466) on December 6 th
and the La Galleria Exhibit (Hacienda Recreation Center) on December 13 th .

MERRY, HAPPY

Nan Kohr, president
Eileen Sklon, vice-president
Raymonde Winans, secretary
Bob Schutte, treasurer





New Member Liaison

Jo Magram



We had a lovely get-together today with some of the newer members the last couple of months at my home getting to know more about the club and about themselves and their art. The names from left to right are Annette Jaret, Susan Rogers, Renee Mullen, Ginny Rupy and Donna Kindle.



Spotlight on you

Carol O'Brien

Martha Ayotte



I am a watercolor artist and photographer who finds inspiration in the beauty of the natural world. My deepest connection to nature began in my childhood in the Midwest—I was a true country girl who only wore shoes when I absolutely had to! I loved animals and the outdoors, but my world shifted when my family moved to Massachusetts during my senior year of high school.

After just one year of college, I married, and my husband and I raised six wonderful children. All the while, I kept my hand in art, dabbling in pastel portraiture, and I also completed my college degree at night, earning a degree in Computer Science. This eventually led to a successful career as a consultant to some large companies in Boston.

When I retired to The Villages, I was faced with so many exciting activities! I quickly realized I could either be a "Jack of all trades, and master of none," or I could zero in on one activity and try to master it. I immediately focused on Watercolor, hoping to merge it with my lifelong loves of nature and photography.

As I took classes and learned the medium, one thing always stumped me: backgrounds! I never knew what to put behind my subjects! The problem was solved after I attended a workshop with the master of negative painting, Lian Quan Zhen. His technique of negative painting completely captivated me, and from that moment on, I was determined to master it. For the last ten years, almost all my artwork features this fascinating technique—now I always know what to put in the background!

My love of negative painting has led me to teach numerous classes and receive frequent requests for one-on-one instruction. To meet this demand, I compiled all my expertise into a step-by-step instructional guide and I self-published it on Amazon! Now, when artists ask me to teach them negative painting, I can simply tell them to go buy my book!





Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

Conversations: The Art of Pausing

Jane Furr Davis

December has a way of quickening the pace. Calendars fill, to-do lists grow, and the days slip by in a pleasant blur of lights, music, and gatherings. Yet somewhere in that swirl, most of us find a quiet hour — the kind that invites a deep breath and a slower gaze. For artists, those pauses can be just as important as the time spent creating, because they give us a moment to reconnect with the simple act of noticing.

It's in those in-between moments that we often see freshly. A particular shade of winter sky may catch your attention, or the way early sunlight glances off a piece of glass. Those who work in clay might find themselves studying the curve of a bowl at a holiday market or feeling the weight of a handmade mug with new appreciation. A painter may notice the soft shifts of color on a poinsettia leaf, while someone who works with paper or textiles might be drawn to the textures of ribbons and fabrics that appear everywhere this month. Even a beautifully wrapped gift can become unexpected inspiration — an exploration of color, shape, or harmony.

These small details, noticed in passing, feed the creative spirit. They remind us that art begins not only in making, but in seeing. December's busy rhythm can tempt us to put our creative lives on pause entirely, yet often the season gives us something subtler: the opportunity to observe without pressure. Sometimes that's exactly what we need to feel restored.

Some of us will set aside our brushes, pencils, tools, and materials this month; others may find joy in a quick sketch, a new glaze test, or in arranging a few silk petals just right. Creativity doesn't have to take the form of a full project. It might look like laying out your supplies for January, organizing your colors, shaping a bit of clay simply to feel its coolness, or making a note about something you'd like to try in the new year. These small gestures keep us gently connected to our artistic selves.

As the year draws to a close, may you find rest in the pauses, inspiration in the quiet, and warmth in the company of others who love to make and to see. Art, after all, thrives not only in motion but in stillness — in those tender moments when we stop long enough to notice what is shining right before us.



Scholarship

Helen Poor, chair

We are excited to announce our special holiday fundraiser for the **VAA Scholarship Fund**! Thank you all for your past generosity and support—it makes a difference every year!

The Santa Elf Exchange & Supply Donations

This holiday season, we are launching the **Santa Elf Exchange** at our December 7th meeting. We invite you to participate in two wonderful ways:

1. **Donate Supplies:** Please bring in **new or gently used art supplies, tools, and mediums** to contribute to the Exchange. Every donation helps us build our inventory!
2. **Shop the Exchange:** This is a wonderful opportunity to add some "new-to-you" supplies to your own artistic stocking! **A donation container will be available next to the supplies.** We do not set prices for these items; we simply ask that you be generous in the spirit of the season.

Direct Cash Donations

Our usual **Scholarship Santa Stocking** will also be available for any monetary donations.

We hope you will be generous and help us support the next generation of artists. Thank you for your continued support!

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a healthy, creative New Year!



VAA members, it is a very unfortunate situation that we can no longer have the Great outdoor event ' Art Round The Square ' but I would like to personally thank Nan for all of the years that she has volunteered to chair this event and make it a delight for so many of our members and for the people who have attended over the years. She has worked many hours to make this event so memorable and I know that I am not the only one that certainly appreciates this. I also would like to thank Doreen Lowther for her many hours assisting in this event who I never failed to see walking around and making sure that everything is running smoothly. These efforts certainly have not gone unnoticed.....Jo Magram

Brownwood: Artists Round The Square (ARTS)

1st place = Lois Bixby - acrylic - "Life's a Beach"

2nd place = Maureen Terrien - Photography - "Egret Preening"

3rd place = Peter Kushner - Colored Pencil - "Lake Sumter Landing at Sunset"



MOREAN

ARTS CENTER

St. Petersburg, FL



\$99.00!

Wednesday March 11, 2026

- *A private, docent led tour of the Morean Arts Center !*
- *View the beautiful collection of Chihuly blown glass !*
- *Also included, a visit to the Morean glass studio !*
- *Enjoy a narrated, glass blowing demonstration !*
- *Visit the famous Mazzaro's Italian Market & Deli !*
- *Lunch: on your own - bring a cooler for take home treats !*
- *Deluxe, Ship & Shore motor coach transportation !*
- *Personalized V.I.P. service with onboard host/hostess !*

V.A.A.

For more information and reservations:

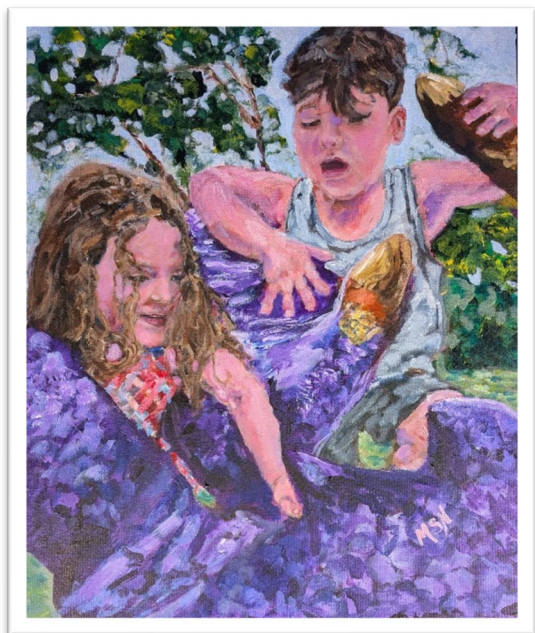
Mary Ann Delessio - 203-470-9881

mald2559@hotmail.com



Member's Gallery

**Please send critiques to those with email address*



Michele Nicotera
"Climbing Dragons"
Acrylic on Canvas



Michele Nicotera
"Blooming Joy"
Acrylic on Canvas



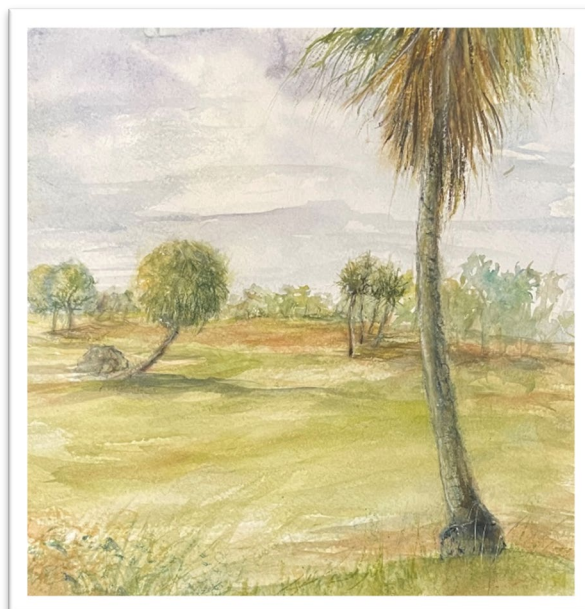
Alexander Turnbull
"Autumn Sunset"
Pastel
Sturnbull007@yahoo.com



Ralph Bischoff
"Photograph of Osprey"
Photography



Doris Glapion
"The Family"
Acrylic



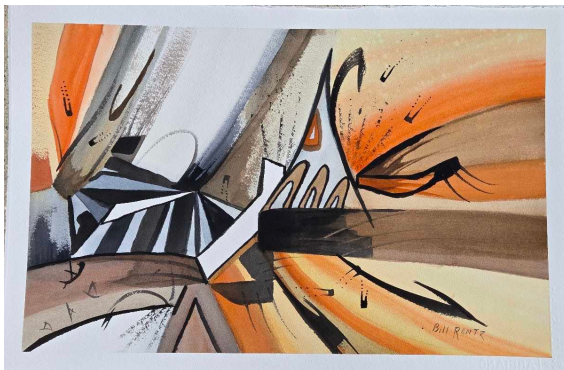
Joyce Trabantone
"From my Window"
Watercolor



Nan Kohr
"Come Home"
Watercolor
Kohr240@gmail.com



Lisa Melcher
"Engulfed by Nature"
Mixed Media



Bill Rentz
"Spherical"
Watercolor Abstract
papafritz@comcast.com

If you would like to include your art
In the next month's **Members Gallery**:

Send a good photo (jpeg) of your art (*one or two*)
Now or before December 23 to vaanewsletter@gmail.com

and include your **name, title of art, media**
(and your **email** if you would like feedback/critique)

Martha Ayotte at 508-215-6155
with questions



Bulletin Board



P. O. Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

visualartsassociation.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:

Sept 1 – Aug 31

Must complete form

on our website

Mail in with \$15 dues

(Or bring to a membership meeting)

***NOTE: Participation in VAA events
requires your dues are current**

VAA Board Members

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Eileen Sklon	eyesklon@icloud.com
Secretary	Raymonde Winans	rpwinans@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Schutte	rschutte100@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Lee Asta
Marge McQueston
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr
Catherine Sullivan

Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor, Scholarship
Martha Ayotte, Newsletter
Christine Roberts, Membership
Jo Magram, New Member Liaison
Carol O'Brien, Programs
Cheri Ptacek, Communications

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg

December 5th 1:00 pm

January 2nd , 1:00 pm

February 6th 1:00 pm

Seabreeze Rec Center

★ December 6th 8-9:30 Annex
Showcase

★ December 13th 8-9:30 La Galleria
Exhibit

★ February 14th 9am-3pm VAA Winter
Fine Arts Show Laurel Manor

★ indicates show or exhibit activity

Newsletter Staff

Martha Ayotte, Editor

VAAnewsletter@gmail.com

Helen Poor, Scholarship

helenpoor@comcast.net

Betty Eich, Photo Frame

bettybrock@comcast.net

Carol O'Brien, Spotlight Artist

Carolobrien0101@gmail.com

Jane Davis, Conversations

figdavis@yahoo.com

Joe Magram, New Member Liaison

jomagram8955@gmail.com

Sunshine Committee Ellen Cora