

October 2025

Nan's Notes

Nan Kohr, President

Beautiful young people are acts of nature so lovingly painted.
But beautiful old people are works of ART.... both cherished visions.

I asked Jane, "why did I agree to become an adult?"
She said, "growing old is not for sissies!"

Well, I'm enjoying these times of my life by playing with my ART
more than any other time.

I hope you too will enjoy October 11th at the Fall Festival of Art.
It is not too early to find a unique gift for a loved one as shopping begins
this Fall. It is time to celebrate by taking home a treasure from the
Pumpkin Patch. Happy Halloween!



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



Spotlight on You

Carol O'Brien



Sue Rogers

I was born in Taunton, Massachusetts.

When I was young, my Mom would love to decorate and she showed me the way to do it with style, color and placement of items. That was the beginning of my future...

We went to one art class together and loved it. I got a scholarship for an Art and Design school in high school but my parents didn't want me far away...So in time I did staging for a realtor and then changed to furniture sales when I was told a customer was not going to sell their house because I turned their house into the most beautiful home...

I was lucky to go from furniture sales for a year to 20 years of being a Visual Design Manager and Accessory Buyer for very large furniture stores (150,000 square feet) and travelled to the Furniture and Accessory shows both in the U.S.A. and overseas...I designed 9 bed ensembles that were on the internet for approximately 2 years...

Now retired I enjoy creating artwork...

My inspirations are Nature...Beach...Serenity and colors





Conversations

Jane Furr Davis

“Gentleness in the Moment of Looking”

by Jane Furr Davis

Exhibitions have a way of stirring up all kinds of emotions. Pride, certainly—we’ve each poured hours of thought and effort into our work. Excitement too—the chance to share what we’ve made with others. But alongside those bright feelings, there can also be worry: Will it measure up? Will it be understood? And perhaps the quietest but most persistent question of all: How will it be judged?

Those feelings are natural. In fact, they’re a reminder of how much our work matters to us. Still, I wonder if sometimes our rush to place a label on art—good or bad, successful or not, realistic or abstract—keeps us from fully experiencing what’s in front of us. When we approach a work with fewer labels, something gentle happens. The pressure eases. We’re no longer measuring; we’re simply seeing.

I was once told that looking at art is a little like listening to music. You don’t have to decide right away what a song “means.” You let the notes wash over you, noticing how they make you feel. Art, too, can be met this way. A piece doesn’t have to be categorized as “traditional,” “modern,” “strong,” or “weak” to stir a memory, calm a restless mind, or open a door to imagination.

Here in The Villages, our exhibitions bring together many approaches to works of art. Some will feature precise brushstrokes or crisp lines, others bold gestures, some lean to organic forms; some will be rooted in realism, others in abstraction. That variety is what makes the shows so alive. This is particularly true of our Association which welcomes a variety of mediums in both 2- and 3-dimensional works. If we can set aside labels for a moment, we might discover something new—not only about the art, but about ourselves as viewers.

For me, beginning to paint after retirement meant stepping away from expectations. There was no gallery to please, no market to court. Just the joy of finding what paint could do on canvas. That freedom from labels allowed me to experiment, to fail, to start again—and sometimes, to surprise myself. I think many of us who come to art later in life share that same gift: the ability to explore without the weight of categories.

So as we walk through these upcoming exhibitions, perhaps we can offer ourselves a little grace. To pause in front of a work of art and notice its rhythm, its mood, or even the quiet it creates. To see without labels. We may still have our preferences, of course—we’re human! But we might also leave space for delight, curiosity, and the unexpected. In the end, isn’t that what keeps us coming back to art? Not because it fits neatly into a box, but because it keeps opening new doors.



VILAGE ART WORKSHOPS 2025-2026 SEASON NATIONALLY KNOWN ARTISTS

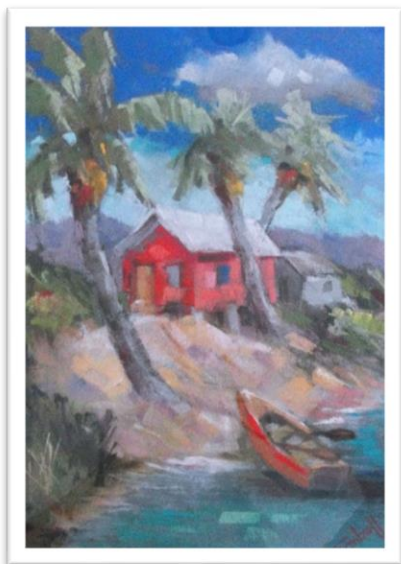


October 20 & 21, Anne Abgott, Watercolor
October 27 & 28, Jane Slivka, Acrylic
November 10 & 11, Lynn Ferris, Watercolor
November 17 & 18, Linda Wokoun, Watercolor
January 19 - 21, Cole Wolford, Watercolor
January 26 - 28, James Turner, Watercolor
February 2 - 4, Dan Weimer, Acrylic & Watercolor
February 9 - 11, Susan Stuller, Watercolor & Gesso
February 12 & 13, Laurie Goldstein-Warren, Watercolor
February 23 - 25, Jennifer Stone, Collage and Watercolor
February 16 & 17, Jodi Ohl, Mixed Media
March 2 - 4, Christopher Leeper, Watercolor
March 9 & 10, Tom Jones, Watercolor
March 16 & 17, Mark Menendez, Color Pencil
March 26 - 28, Janet Rogers, Watercolor
April 13 & 14, Karen Schaaf, Watercolor

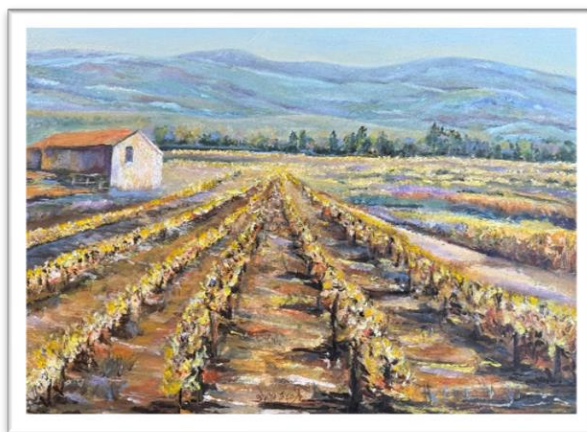


Member's Gallery

****Please send critiques to those with email***



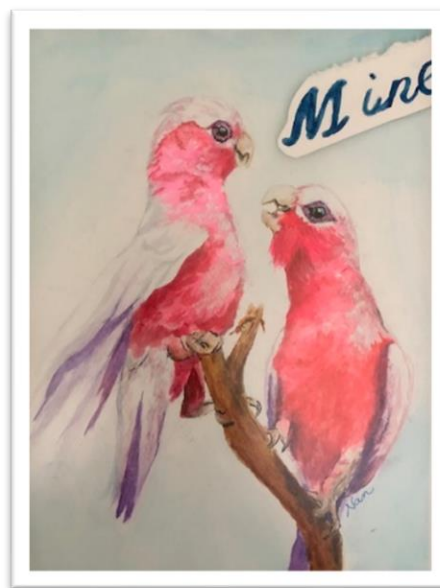
Alexander Turnbull
"Caribbean Cottages"
Pastels on Sanded Paper
Sturnbull007@yahoo.com



Raymonde Winans
"Fields of France"
Acrylic



Lisa Melcher
"Flower Girl #1"
Mixed Media



Nan Kohr
"Mine"
Watercolor
Kohr240@gmail.com



Peter Kushner
"Sunset Over Lake Sumter Landing"
Colored Pencil



Ralph Bischoff
"Milkweed Feast"
Photography



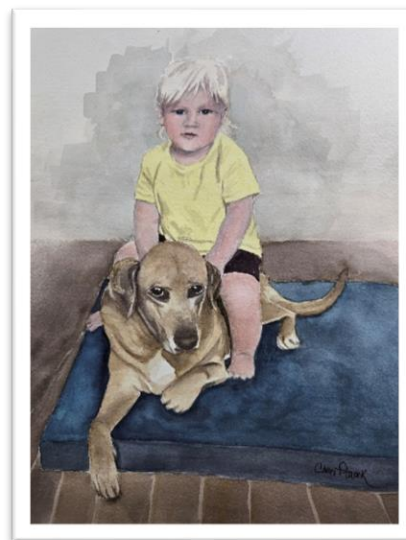
Carol O'Brien
"Teacup Pansies Blue"
Paper
Carolobrien0101@gmail.com



Carol O'Brien
"Teacup Pansies Pink"
Paper
Carolobrien0101@gmail.com



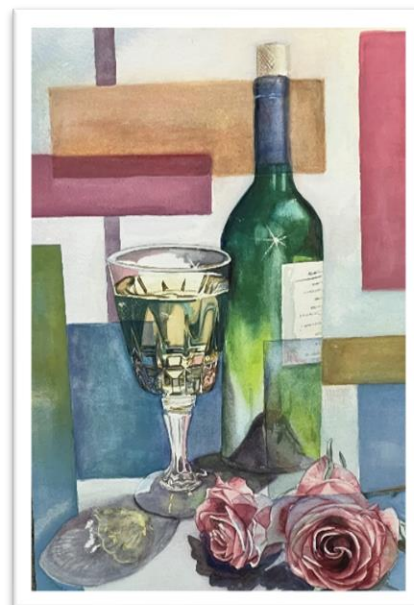
Nan Kohr
"Trip Around Piccadilly"
Watercolor
Kohr240@gmail.com



Cheri Ptacek
"Boy and his Dog"
Watercolor
Cheriptacek50@gmail.com



Jo Magram
"Hummer in Formal Attire"
Acrylic



Martha Ayotte
"She Stayed"
Watercolor



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 October 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

This is a chance to show us the art you've been working on!

****No judging – just Show Off****



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
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Secretary	Raymonde Winans	rpwinans@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Schutte	rschutte100@gmail.com

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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

Friday, October 3rd, 1:00 pm

November 7th, 1:00 pm

December 5th, 1:00 pm

Seabreeze Rec Center

★ Fall Festival of Art October 11, 9-3 at Rohan

★ ARTS Artists Round the Square
November 9th 1-4 Brownwood

★ indicates show or exhibit activity

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Jane Davis, Conversations

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Sunshine Committee Ellen Cora