



Happy
New
Year

The President's Message

A Very Healthy and Happy New Year to All!

First, I would like to welcome everyone back after another particularly challenging year. Rather than dwell on the negatives, let's begin the new year with some positive thoughts. We are luckier than most to be part of such a continually active community which affords us the opportunity to share a mutual love of the arts in a variety of venues.

Our January meeting will be a VAA Members' Salon, where you may display up to two pieces of your work on your own table easel for all to enjoy. Bring a card with your name and title of your art. Please contact Judy Nahmias judynahmias@verizon.net for additional information. We hope that you will attend as well as participate.

We have a full schedule of Shows and Exhibits on our 2022 Calendar which can be viewed on our VAA website. Remember to pay your dues so that you can participate! Current information and interesting articles are printed in our monthly newsletter. You won't want to miss a single issue!

Keep your eye out for any new members. They will be wearing an **orange** name tag so please make it a point to introduce yourself and give them a warm welcome.

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill three openings and we would appreciate your consideration to take one of the following positions:

- VAA Publicity Chair
- VAA Meeting Program Chair
- VAA Galleria Exhibit Chair

If interested in any of the above positions, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I will be happy to go over any questions that you may have. Once again, the pay is lousy, but the rewards are great!!!

All the best,

Catherine Sullivan, VAA President

"We may not have it all together, but together, we have it all" ~ Anonymous



New Members

Meet Karyn Zais



Karyn Zais

Phone: 401-409-2817

Email: pretz613@verizon.com

I am Karyn, the one wearing a visor that helps prevent my migraines. We began as renters in 2008. Having had no formal art training, I jumped at the opportunities here to learn and grow. I am so grateful for the rec center teachers and fellow students who generously share their techniques and knowledge. Now, when I don't follow the "rules" I, at least, *know* that I didn't.



I began with acrylics on furniture, mailboxes, walls, etc. So, when I tried painting pictures, I used, and still like, acrylics. But, thanks to being here, I've now added watercolor, collage, mixed media or whatever moves me at the moment. My husband is glad I've moved on to painting pictures since I put large pink flowers all over our white washer and dryer in Maryland. Although our house in Fernandina has my paintings wall to wall, the laundry appliances are safe....so far.

I'm often "outside the box" and let the canvas and I figure out where we are going, as I paint. Though not always a successful end product, the joy of the process keeps me addicted and looking forward to my next effort. My favorite artwork is when it makes you linger and contemplate questions like *why* or *how* or *what*.



New Members

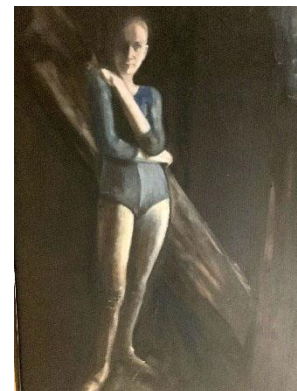
Meet June Bennett



June Bennett

Phone: 317-370-9795

Email: JUNE BENNETT75@GMAIL.COM



I was born and raised in New Orleans; a city rich in art. My mother was a self-taught artist. As a child, I compared my efforts to hers and was convinced I had no talent. I also looked up to accomplished artist Francis Pippin, my Great Aunt, who attended East Mississippi Female College 1901. I am lucky to own one of her paintings, as well as several of my mother's oil paintings. Years later, in Indiana, I put away my inhibitions, and decided to enroll in an oil class. It was here that I found love. I delighted in working with oils for the next 25 years. And then one day, after class, I saw a watercolor student's work posted and it called me.

Living in The Villages since 2005, I've taken many classes in watercolor. I find that "Life" is my inspiration- never at a loss for what to paint. I shall always be a student and a hobbyist. I thank all of my teachers over the years and my gene pool. Learning to see through the creation of art has enriched my life immeasurably.





Spotlight on You

Meet Peggy Lefebvre



I have always adored creating things. Even during my wee years, I spent my happiest hours crafting, sculpting, drawing and painting. Thanks to the encouragement of my father and several teachers who sensed my passion, my skills developed and I had the courage to major in fine arts at the University of Illinois. My career began with graphic design and evolved into advertising. Everything related to art, but there was no time for painting until I retired.



The retirement chapter of my life became the study of watercolor techniques. I honed my skills with books and DVDs and the occasional class which improved my skills steadily, but slowly. Then I found The Villages! And everything shifted into high gear. Opportunities to learn and exhibit abound here. There is nothing as energizing as painting amid a room full of other artists. It buoys my energy level for days. After my first 4-day intensive course with a nationally acclaimed watercolor artist, my skill level jumped forward. I made the statement that I achieved more success, saw more improvement from that one 4-day class that I had in an entire year at university.



I remain on a path of learning and communing with other artists. It has been immensely rewarding for me. I enter my work in competitions and exhibitions, sometimes my work is acknowledged with a prize, sometimes not. But the feedback and comradery is reward enough. This year, after 7-years of submitting entries to the Florida Watercolor Society, I was awarded



Signature status. There are approximately 500 watercolor societies in the U.S., so I will be busy painting and entering contests, chasing more signature awards during the future. What a wonderful retirement activity this has become. Thank you for this honor and your support.



Scholarship News



Happy New Yearand Thank You !

Your support for our December Art Scholarship Sale and Donation Stocking were truly appreciated. Member Holiday shoppers helped us add over \$500 to our current Funds for upcoming 2022 winners.

Now we are looking ahead to starting our Scholarship outreach to regional High Schools this January and planning fundraising for our VAA February Art show at Laurel Manor. This event offers us a great opportunity, during high season to alert Villagers and guests to VAA support for college-bound regional artists. With successful raffles, promotions, sales and the Scholarship Café, we are given the opportunity to raise awareness and needed funds for our awards.

Looking back over generous seasons, we hope members can help again. Your donations of large framed art and photography, major sculpture, larger pottery and glass works, unique jewelry, coffee table art books, and desirable gift cards are all popular. They bring people to our tables, to take chances on our creative offerings, and learn about our scholarship mission. **If you can donate something, please let us know.** Statements for tax purposes can be written for the gifts of higher end items. If you are not in the show, and would like to help us with guests & raffle/sales, scholarship would be delighted to have your help. The number is below, and you may also leave an email message at helenpoor@comcast.net.

The impact of these last two years has been so difficult for so many. Our college-bound artists and their families have had to rethink much about future education and financial pressures. Please let VAA continue to support and recognize them, as they plan for being an artist graduate of tomorrow.

Helen Poor and The VAA Scholarship Team
352-561-4474

Thank
You

Scholarship Partner Event

PRO-AM
Performing Arts
Corp.

In Association with
KC PRODUCTIONS
presents

A Musical Salute to
Andrew Lloyd Webber

 Alex Santoriello	 Dawn DiNome	 Mary Jo Vitale	 Clark Barrios	 Nina Polachek
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January 18 & 19, 2022 at 4 & 7pm
at The Savannah Center

Buy tickets to both shows and get 10% off!

**Simply
Sinatra**


**Alex
Santoriello**
and An All-Star Band

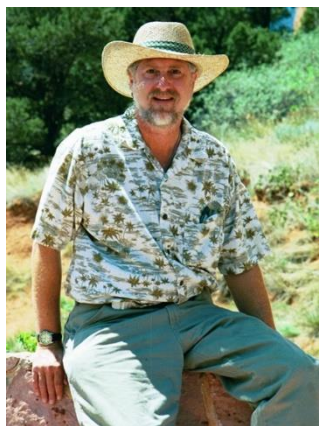
January 20, 2022 at 7pm
at The Savannah Center

Tickets are available at all Villages
box offices and online at
www.TheVillagesEntertainment.com

Photo Frame



Meet Steven Friedman



Steven Friedman began his artistic career as a traditional photographer. He studied at Cooper School of Art in the 1970's and received his degree in photography. In the mid 1990's he began experimenting with digital imagery; today he creates digital fine art as well as traditional painting with oils and watercolors.

Steven says, "The guiding philosophy behind my own work is about realizing a vision. For me part of that vision takes place behind the camera and another part of the vision takes shape as I work with and alter an image in the computer to get just the effect I want. I use the term 'Digital Artistry' to describe the processes I use. It is a union of camera, computer, digital 'paint brush,' paper, and printer. But more importantly it is a union of realistic imagery (photography) and artistic interpretation. Digitally, I can reinterpret a photo in a nearly infinite number of ways."



He has lived in the Village of Ashland for the past five years. He was born in Cleveland but spent most of his adulthood in Minneapolis, Sacramento and Denver. Here in The Villages, he heads The Villages Digital Artistry Group which meets at Pimlico on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Check the group's website for information.



Steven chose the images below to represent both his subject matters and his technique. The "Leap of Faith" piece is from his Light, Mood, and Seasons project. "Rialto" and "Tourists" are from his Life on the Go project. The abstract face is from his latest project, Emotions.





Conversations



Send your topic suggestions for Conversations to Martha Ayotte at mayotte22@gmail.com

IS IT AN ART, OR IS IT A CRAFT?

There are so many hobbies and crafts out there today! Some familiar crafts are weaving, carving, pottery, embroidery, macrame, beading, sewing, quilting, glassmaking, ceramics, flowers, leather, and paper. But, can these crafts ever be considered art?

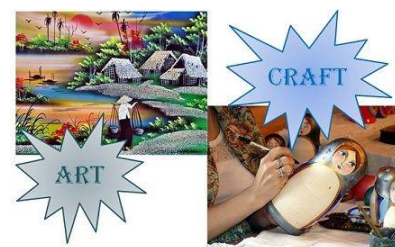
On the other hand, can some art be considered just a craft, like watercolor or collage? If we paint by number or copy another's painting, is that considered art? Can glass firing be considered art? Is designing a quilt just a craft, or is it art?

I found a great article on this I'd like to share with you. At the end of the article is a comparison table. You be the judge.

Martha Ayotte

Difference Between Art and Craft *Last updated on June 8, 2020 by Surbhi S*

Weaving, painting, sculpture, pottery, photography, embroidery, macrame, etc. is it art or craft? These are two forms of creativity that are commonly juxtaposed by the people, as they don't see any difference in them. But the fact is that art is different from the craft in a sense that **art** is a creative merit that comes from within.



On the contrary, the **craft** is skilled work, wherein there is an application of technique, that people learn through much practice.

Next, art emerges from the heart, whereas craft comes from the mind. Here, in the given article, you may find all the important differences between art and craft, so have a glance.

Definition of Art

We define the term 'art' is an expression and application of imagination, feelings, thoughts, ideas or any other human creativity, in a visual form, having aesthetic and emotional value. It includes painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, architecture, etc. It is an open-ended, unstructured form



of work; that cannot be reproducible. 'Mona Lisa,' the famous painting, made by Leonardo DA Vinci is a great example of it.

A piece of art has an intended meaning that provokes a person's feelings. It has a limitless expression and endless interpretation, which depends on the person.

Definition of Craft

The term 'craft' implies an activity involving skill and experience in the creation handmade tangible objects that fulfil a particular purpose. It is defined as the production of those objects that has utility for people. The purpose can be decorative or functional or both, depending on the use.

Craft is a product of the mind; that attracts people. It is a learned ability, which is acquired by a person through regular practice. It includes things made of hands like bird houses, mats, woven basket, embroidery, blankets, handbags, candles, jewelry, pottery, glass work and so on.

Key Differences Between Art and Craft

The difference between art and craft can be drawn clearly on the following grounds:

1. Art is described as an unstructured and open-ended form of work; that expresses emotions, feelings, and vision. Craft denotes a form of work, involving the creation of physical objects, by the use of hands and brain.
2. Art relies on artistic merit whereas craft is based on learned skills and technique.
3. Art is well known for serving an aesthetic purpose. On the other hand, craft serves human objectives.
4. Art gives particular attention to ideas, feelings and visual qualities. Conversely, craft gives stress on the right use of tools and materials, and the application of technique.
5. There is a flow of emotion in art, which emerges from heart and soul. In contrast, the craft is the product of the mind.
6. Craft can be quantified easily which is not in the case of art.
7. The duplicability of art forms is not possible while craft forms can easily be copied.
8. Art is the consequence of an individual's innate ability. On the contrary, craft is the result of learned ability and experience.



Conclusion

To sum up this article, we can say that art is something that expresses emotions or imagination. The craft has a tangible form (like molding, carving, etc.). It is the creation of goods of a utilitarian nature, to serve a human purpose. Art appeals to the mind and makes the connection emotionally, whereas craft only attracts people.

Comparison Chart

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	ART	CRAFT
Meaning	An unstructured and boundless form of work, that expresses emotions, feelings and vision is called art.	Craft refers to an activity, which involves creation of tangible objects with the use of hands and brain.
Based on	Creative merit	Learned skills and technique
Serves	Aesthetic purpose	Decorative or functional purpose
Emphasizes	Ideas, feelings and visual qualities.	Right use of tools and materials.
Quantification	Difficult	Easy
Reproducible	No	Yes
Emergence	Heart and soul	Mind
Result of	Innate talent	Skill and experience

LaGalleria Show Winners

Winter 2022 La Galleria Fine Arts Show & Sale is now open

The Visual Arts Association has opened its Winter La Galleria Fine Arts Show & Sale, located in the La Hacienda Regional Rec Center. 1200 Avenida Central. The exhibit will hang until March 12, 2022 and features 29 original works by The Villages artists. The works are available for sale by contacting the artist directly.

Our Judge is Artist and Educator, Frank Zampardi, is a retired secondary school art educator, having taught in public schools for thirty-two years. Frank's work has been exhibited in numerous art venues in his home state of New York and in Florida. Since moving to The Villages, Frank has continued to garner awards at events in and around The Villages. Come out and judge for yourself. Everyone is invited to visit the Winter La Galleria Fine Arts Show 2022 which is open to the public and free of charge during regular rec center hours.

Billie Edwards – Show Chair

FINE ART AWARDS

		
<p>First Place – Vivian Haberfeld, <i>Morning Light</i>, Oils</p>	<p>Second Place – Victoria Peterson, <i>Favorite Scarf</i>, Colored Pencil</p>	<p>Third Place – Susie Schreiber, <i>Nesting</i>, Watercolors</p>

Award of Merit – Peggy Lefebvre, “*New Red Sneakers*,” Watercolors

Award of Merit – Jeanne Willette, “*Bumble Bees & Sunflowers*,” Mixed Media

Honorable Mention – Iris Kaplin, *Look, Seek & Find*, Acrylic

Honorable Mention – Maureen Terrien, *Live Oak at Fenney*, Photography



ARTS (Artists 'Round The Square)

Let's start the New Year with ART fireworks at Spanish Springs Square

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on January 9, 2022!

Display your explosions of color and composition within the 12' assigned sidewalk space. Remember to anchor your display against any challenging weather. Please read the guidelines that are a preface to the registration form so we present a professional art show to our neighbors (keep the guidelines as I do not need them with the registration form).



Parking will be arranged for artists along the side of the street near your sidewalk spaces but parking is not assigned. Depending on how long you think it will take to set up, you may start as early as noon. A map showing your space will be emailed to you a day or two before Sunday, January 9, 2022.

If you have questions, the best way to reach me is by email. Registration forms are on the VAA website, www.visualartsassociation.com. Click on Forms, click on ARTS Registration, print out the form then **send to me by January 3rd**.

Nan Kohr, Chair
kohr240@gmail.com
(352) 350-2217

ART CHALLENGE – DEADLINE CHANGE

Please note that, due to many people traveling this holiday season, the Nov-Dec Challenge will now cover 4 months: Nov-Dec-Jan-Feb. Theme remains the same: “What I’m Thankful For.” Send your entry to mayotte22@gmail.com by February 28. Rules are on the VAA Website.



Events & Opportunities



JANUARY CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

- *David R. Becker's "The Most Important WATERCOLOR Workshop Ever!", January 10 and 11
- *David R. Becker's "The Most Important WATERMEDIA Workshop Ever!", January 12 and 13
- *March Beth Downs' "Learning to Play" Watercolor Workshop, January 17, 18 and 19
- *Mark Menendez' "Create Your Own Portrait" Color Pencil Workshop, January 24 and 25
- *Mark Menendez' "Great Blue Heron" Color Pencil Workshop, January 26
- *Linda Wokoun's "Exploring Positive and Negative Painting" Watercolor Workshop, January 31 and February 1 and 2.
- *Wanda Boyd's "Ultimate Beginner Watercolor" Eight Week Class Starting January 7.
- *Frank Zampardi's "Intermediate and Advanced Portrait" Six Week Class Starting January 21.

For more information or to register for a class or workshop, visit
www.villageartworkshops.com



Bulletin Board



PO Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655
visualartsassociation.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Friday, Jan 7, 1:00pm
Membership Mtg
Sea Breeze

ARTS (Artists 'Round the Square) *
Sunday, Jan 9, 1-4 pm
Spanish Springs

Friday, Feb. 4, 1:00pm
Membership Mtg
Sea Breeze

Annex Exhibit *
Saturday, Feb. 5

Winter Fine Arts Show *
Saturday, Feb. 12

Art Challenge *
New Deadline: February 28
Theme: "What I'm Thankful For"

* indicates show or exhibit activity

VAA Executive Board

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Cheri Ptacek, Editor
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:
Sept 1 – Aug 31

Download form on our website
To mail in with \$15 dues
(Or bring to membership meeting)

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