

New Member Corner

Border artist revealed inside

Welcome all new members!



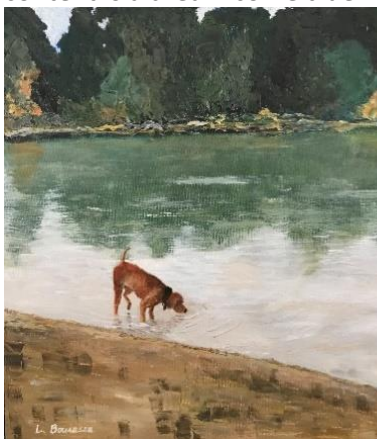
Linda Bourassa
Phone: 901-335-0197

email: linda@bmooninc.com
Website: www.bourassa-art.com

My husband (Paul) and I purchased a home in Bridgeport at Lake Sumter this past August. We moved here from the Memphis, TN area (Germantown) upon our retirement. We love The Villages and are so happy to be here. I always wanted to paint and be a full-time artist, but reality set in early on so I went into marketing. I worked for several major companies during my career: Union Planters Bank (VP of

Advertising. UP is now Regions Bank.), ServiceMaster (VP of Marketing), Powertel Wireless (VP of Marketing.) After Powertel, I started my own PR/Marketing firm and worked for several high-profile regional clients for fifteen years. Work was nice, but retirement is FUN!

In my artwork, I work primarily in acrylics in a range of sizes from 3'x4' to smaller 12"x16". I prefer a LARGE format. My work has been shown and sold in galleries/shops in the Memphis area. Living in The Villages and painting to my heart's content is a dream come true.





Dee Connolly

[Email:conndd2@gmail.com](mailto:conndd2@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: 352-857-5922

I've called The Villages home for 13 years moving from northwestern Ohio to the Village of Tall Trees. As a young person, I had two talented artists who taught me watercolors, acrylics, and woodcuts. I rounded out my art skills with college classes and community art guilds that introduced me to a variety of mediums—sculpting, carving, pen and ink, collage, charcoal and chalk. My career in manufacturing communications included graphic arts, importing CAD drawings and photography for printed materials. It was an intense career that included creativity, but my heart was always in fine arts.

Since moving to Florida, each year I promised myself that I would take art classes. Then, three years ago, a friend introduced me to a great watercolor class lead by Julie McGlone. I found that missing piece of my life—the creative side of me—just waiting to be tapped. Now, I'm having more fun, painting in The Villages, Florida—it's all good.



Dore Via Dumas

viadumas@yahoo.com

Phone: 865-643-3673

Dore Via Dumas was born in Richmond, Virginia and has moved over 48 times. She is number two of four girls, the daughter of an Air Force Lt. Colonel and a mother who studied at the Memphis Art Academy. Throughout her travels, she learned to appreciate many kinds of art. In high school, she failed art because she didn't want to make her pictures "exactly" like the teacher's. With much help from her mother, she found her own voice. After trying a variety of media, she took a pottery class and discovered her true calling. She could be dirty and not get in trouble and she could make all the things she had been making out of mud as a child.

As a single mother of two children, Dore traveled around Florida and Alabama selling in art shows and selling to shops and galleries and wholesale in the Merchandise Mart in Dallas, winning numerous awards for her work. She also taught pottery to children. Years later, she attended the University of South Alabama and received her B.S. in Special Education and a Master of Information and Library Science at the University of Southern Mississippi. Throughout her teaching career, she continued to make her pottery and was a Master Potter at Dollywood. Inspired by colored glass and the beauty of mosaics, she went on to study on her own and is a self-taught mosaic artist as well.





Anita Paul

Email: anitapaul1428@gmail.com

Phone: 540-905-3971

I am a permanent resident of the village of Mallory Square. My husband Roger and I moved here from Warrenton, VA in 2012. We have 2 sons, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter. My favorite media to work with are colored pencil, graphite, and fabric and thread for quilting. I started creating with all of these about a year and a half ago.

My father passed his love of art on to me. Now photos that my family members take inspire me.



The drawing of my brother (below) won an Award of Merit entered in the Colored Pencil Painters' Guild show in September.



How to be introduced in this column...

Welcome to all new members! So pleased you've joined us. We'd love to get to know you and your work. To better facilitate this, new members are encouraged to send us a few sentences about yourself: including your Village now, if you are a full or part-time Villager, what city/state/country you are from, your preferred art media, and a sentence or two about what or who inspires you to create. Please add a photo of your work and a head shot of yourself that we could include in an upcoming Newsletter. **Please email** information to **Sally LaBaugh** at sallylabaugh@gmail.com **within 2 weeks of joining**. If you have questions, please call Sally at 502-500-0160.

This Month's Program

This month we have awards to present! The La Galleria winners will be recognized for their beautiful work, and the Scholarship Winners will be at the meeting with family to show us their work and to be awarded VAA scholarships. This meeting will also feature a catered lunch in honor of these young people seeking a career in the arts.



Spotlight on You



The spotlight shines on Betty Eich, whose photography has depths yet unexplored in this publication.

My husband Ed and I grew up near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After we married, we lived in suburban Chicago. We had no thought of retiring to Florida. I had always assumed that retirement life in Florida would consist of sitting in a rocking chair and watching oranges ripen! We were mistaken: We found The Villages.

I came to photography after a lifelong career in education, one that I had found rewarding and fulfilling. In many ways, retirement for me was a 180 degree turnaround. In the past, I had expressed myself through words, spoken and written. In retirement, I turned to images to express my thoughts and feelings. It's been a time of discovery, one for which I will always be grateful.



Photography was also an easy combination with another passion my husband and I share — travel. In 2017, we spent a month in Germany, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, and Slovenia. We enjoyed not only the sights but also the cultures and the people we met. The photos on this page are from that trip.

When I travel with a camera on a strap around my neck, I find that I look at all I see with eyes that are more aware. The camera and its lens require me to ask myself, “What do I find interesting here? What moves me emotionally? How can I show that to others?”

My camera is not just a device for recording events. Instead, it helps me interpret what I see and convey the feelings in my heart. That is the power of art. That is what we, in this club, celebrate together.



Scholarship News

WELCOME OUR 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

On April 5th, the VAA will welcome its 2019 class of Art Scholarship Winners. Our search and competition has been both challenging and inspiring. Fourteen graduating seniors from our three county area submitted applications and CD art portfolios. On March 23rd, the finalists joined us in The Villages for in-person interviews and presentations of their work. You will soon meet the young artists that were the most outstanding and qualified at the end of that day.

The student's families and teachers will join us for this celebration, and we hope all of you can come and be a part of this special meeting as well. Our winners will display their work, answer questions, and share their plans and dreams.

So many of you have so much talent and experience; they will also love to hear of your art adventures, careers, and how much art is still a part of your life. A special catered lunch will be served before our program, and art gift bags will be presented to our students.

DON'T MISS THE FUN ...Come be inspired by the next generation of Florida Artists!

Helen Poor and the Scholarship Team
352 561 4474

THE ADULT ART SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The VAA and its Scholarship Comm. will again sponsor the ADULT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.

Any attendee on April 5th who is an active VAA member may submit their name for the drawing to win this award. The Winner will be picked at the end of the Scholarship Program; you must be present to win.

The Scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 must be used for art classes or sessions at the Enrichment Academy or local Art Work Shops.

Banner Artist Reveal



Interesting and unique, this month's banner art is the creation of **Lois Kamp**.

I grew up in West Virginia and was not exposed to art as a child. After high school, I chose nursing as a career path. I became one of the first nurse practitioners from UCLA, and consider myself a pioneer in the field, with over 30 years of experience working as an OB-GYN nurse practitioner all over the country. After retiring in 2013 and moving to the Villages, I joined several art groups including the VAA, VAL, and Art Buddies and took classes from many of the art teachers here in the Villages. Every year I take The Artist Way 12 week course in Leesburg and I credit that class for increasing my creativity and showing no boundaries in my art.

My artist statement is simple: I am a curious person who likes to play. I love color and happy accidents. I like drips over the side of the canvas because the drips remind me that life is sometimes messy. I usually don't plan my art. I start with a medium and various colors and am happy with what the universe gives me. I describe myself as intuitive-experimental artist. Jumping from one medium to another, I find I like the unusual, something different, not what everyone else is doing. I paint with encaustic wax, tattoo ink, alcohol ink, acrylic, rust, paper, and pastel. I carve linoleum blocks and do my own block prints. While in Scotland 2 years ago, I saw a woman needle felting, which inspired me to paint with wool and make wool sculptures. I find needle felting very relaxing and am concentrating on this medium at the present. I just joined STARS, which is a fiber arts group in the Villages.



My poetry can be found on my website:

www.loiskamp.com

I also have a blog on the Caring Bridge

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/loiskamp> that describes my current journey with inoperable lung cancer.

Catch me if you can on Facebook

www.facebook.com/kampart or Instagram under kamplouis



Events & Opportunities




This Special event for the VAA, VAL, and Villages Artists (sponsored by VAA Scholarship) will be **at 4:00 PM on April 3rd**. It will be a fundraiser for Scholarship, and will be followed by an in person conversation and Q & A with the film's producer, Phil Grabsky. Tickets are on sale now at the Rialto for \$15.00...including interview.

CÉZANNE

PORTRAITS OF A LIFE

Narrated by Brian Cox

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN. SEVENTH ART PRODUCTIONS. EVENT SERIES.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 - 4:00pm
appearance and Q&A WITH **PHIL GRABSKY**



Phil Grabsky is an award-winning documentary film-maker. With a film career spanning 25 years, Phil and his company Seventh Art Productions make films for cinema, TV and DVD.

Described by Picasso and Matisse as "the father of us all" Paul Cezanne is considered one of the greatest artists of all time. During his life Cezanne painted almost a thousand works, two hundred of which were portraits. Despite this proliferation he remains the least known of the impressionists and perhaps the most misunderstood.

Cezanne - Portraits of a Life is based on a "never-to-be-repeated" exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery, London; Musée d'Orsay, Paris; and Washington's National Gallery of Art. These portraits provide the substance of this illuminating film which casts entirely new light on Cezanne's life and work.

Shot in 4k, featuring interviews with art experts and conversations with his great-grandson Philippe Cezanne, viewers travel to the artist's home and studio in Provence. Through Cezanne's correspondence you'll see a rare understanding of the significance and genius of Cezanne and the key to a true appreciation of 20th century art.

Directed by Phil Grabsky





VAA Spring Exhibition at La Galleria continues to bring us beautiful art by our own wonderful artists. Winning entries are shown below. Stop by to experience the full array of great paintings and photos.



1st Place Jeanne Willette
Three Birds



2nd Place, Barb Justice
The Hard Part's Over



3rd Place, Alexander Turnbull
Happy Tulips



Award of Merit, Bill Rentz
All That Jazz



Award of Merit, Cindy Vener
Cottage Blues



Honorable Mention,
Wanda Boyd
A Pair of Pears



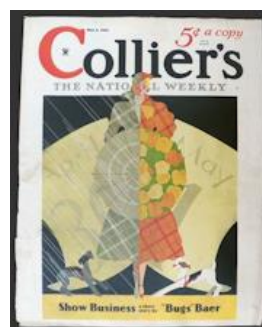
Honorable Mention,
Sally LaBaugh
Buffalo Roam



1st Place Photo, Eileen Sklon
Beach Fences



2nd Place Photo,
Maureen Therrien
Graceful Herons





Classes listed below are sponsored by Village Art Workshops, and are held in the Spruce Creek Professional Center, 10935 SE 177th Place (off Hwy 27/441 across from the Walmart). For information, or to register for classes,

Visit www.villageartworkshops.com

Or email bbaug97@aol.com

Or Call Bev Hennessy at 352 572-5317

Make checks payable to

Beverly Hennessy

Mail: 9256 SE 170th Humphreys Loop
The Villages, Florida 32162

April 11-May 13 (6 weeks class)
Frank Zampardi "Pen and Ink and
Watercolor"
Fee \$69.00 9:00 am to 11:15 am

April 17 "Watercolor on Canvas"
Betty Waisanen
Fee \$55.00
Supply Fee \$5
9 am to 3 pm 1/2 hour lunch

April 10, 11, 18, 25,
Studio Day ... Come and paint all day with
like minded artists - Bring a friend
9 am to 3 pm
Coffee provided Bring a bag lunch
\$10

April 30
Kim Shields
"Working with Photographs"
Fee \$55
9 am to 3 pm - 1/2 hour lunch

To draw you must close your eyes
and sing.
Pablo Picasso



I had so much fire in me
and so many plans.
Claude Monet

It is better to be hi-spirited even
though one makes more mistakes,
than to be narrow-minded and all too
prudent.
Vincent van Gogh

Painting is self-discovery. Every good
artist paints what he is.
Jackson Pollock



The greater the artist,
the greater the doubt.
Perfect confidence is granted to the
less talented as a consolation prize.
Robert Hughes

In the mind of every artist
there is a masterpiece.
Kai Greene

I have already settled it for myself so
flattery and criticism go down the
same drain and I am quite free.
Georgia O'Keefe



Art is standing with one hand
extended into the universe and one
hand extended into the world, and
letting ourselves be a conduit for
passing energy
Albert Einstein

We must never forget that art
is not a form of propaganda;
it is a form of truth.
John F. Kennedy

Have no fear of perfection –
you'll never reach it.
Salvador Dali

Art speaks where words are
unable to explain.
Anonymous

Featured



Artist



This month we cast a bright glow of appreciation on the work of **Phillis Speicher**, porcelain artist.

I have been painting porcelain for over 20 years. Of all the art mediums, I prefer porcelain art. I enjoyed taking lessons from several local teachers when living in Indiana and furthered my studies at the Indiana, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Florida Porcelain Art Schools. I have studied under National teachers such as Brenda Morgan Moore, Barbara Bougher, Nancy Fisher, Margaret Fowler, Paula White, and Andrew Orr as well as International teachers such as Rosa (Venezuela), Felipe' from (Portugal) and Harem Ashcrafti (Switzerland). I am a member of Florida World Organization of China Painters, VAL, VAA, and Leesburg Art Association.



Porcelain art is an ancient art developed in China. The paint is in powder form then mixed in mineral oil, after painting the piece then the piece is fired. When painting, it has the feel of oil paints, must be smoothed like watercolor, and after firing has the look of watercolor. The piece is fired 3-5 times between 1300 – 1450 degrees. The first firing is the hottest then the coolest for the last firing. This allows the paint to be layered in the glaze.





PROUD of it now
PREPARED for the future



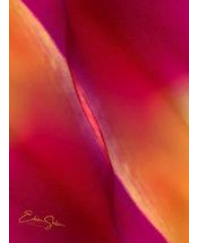
Photo Frame



Eileen Sklon is kind enough to grace our pages with her photographic creations.

I was born & raised on Long Island, New York, and have lived in the Village of Winifred for 14 & 1/2 years.

I have been making photographs for over 50 years. My first camera was a Polaroid when 16 years old and then a totally Manual Vivitar SLR at the age of 21. After mastering the "how to's" to a perfect photo, I found myself always searching to do more with an image, especially making Impressionistic images of flowers, trees and abstracts. I try to get most of the effect in camera, as I do not love sitting in front of a computer for hours.



Do Not Forget! VAA Spring Fine Arts Show at the Rohan Recreation Center April 27th

If you would like to volunteer, contact Dianne Knight, Show Chair

or sewcraze1225@gmail.com
or [352 630-253](tel:352-630-253)



Let your friends and neighbors know about the show.

Show up and have a great time!



Tips 'n Hacks

Meet Mary Pettis

In her work, Mary Pettis, Expressive Realist, draws heavily upon her classical training and Russian influence. She has been juried into and won awards in national and international painting events and exhibitions from New York City to Scottsdale and Maui to Barcelona.

Designated in 2017 as an ARC Living Master™ (ARCLM™) by the Art Renewal Center, Mary is also a Signature Member of the American Impressionist Society (AIS), the Oil Painters of America (OPA), and the American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA).

Mary is recognized as an eloquent and respected speaker, teacher and mentor, teaching in the Upper Midwest, Tuscany, Venice, France, and Hawaii. In the 1990's she was introduced to the "wet-in-wet" plein air approach and she moved her studio outdoors. Now she divides her time equally between the studio and outdoors. Her decades of training and the experiences from hundreds of plein air paintings are a catalyst for a symbolic visual language of expression that celebrates the beauty, dignity and worth of this world and its inhabitants. Her work, along with information on galleries, exhibitions, and workshops can be found on her website at www.marypettis.com.

The following is an excerpt of an article written by Mary Pettis for the June 2005 issue of Plein Air Magazine:

"PLEIN AIR PAINTING

I began my career as a student of Classical Realism. Although I still do studio work, the most fulfilling experience for me is painting alla prima (wet-in-wet and usually in one sitting) and en plein air. Plein air painting is such a wonderful vehicle for representation of emotion, impression, and thought. Time constraints and physical conditions demand the artist be deep in his or her knowledge and execution of the tools and be certain of the goal. I love the process. I love the challenge. Successful outdoor works have the appearance of being done fearlessly and at once, giving the impression that both the idea to be represented and the means to do it are perfectly known. It is a sublime balancing act. Mastery of the medium requires painting with knowledge, simplicity, mystery, decision, and velocity. Mastery of the message requires introspection and contemplation of our aims. What we discover when we go inward is our poetic response to life. Through contemplation, we come back outward with the ideas we will bring into our work. We connect with our viewers, admitting them into our inner life. It is critical to the creation of great art that we understand ourselves and our artistic aims if we want our souls to mix with the paint. I know that my growth travels upward along a spiral, always revisiting old concepts with new understandings. When each new light comes on, a grace beyond measure is felt. This is the nature of the journey, the richness of the experience. It is the reward of contemplation."

In much of the country, April showers do, in fact, bring May flowers. We, however, already have greening leaves and buds breaking out and balmy days in the 70 to 80 degree range. Perfect days for getting outside and creating fabulous pieces of art, or sketching a bit for later use, or even just gathering reference photos as the ground yields new life for us to enjoy. You don't have to be alone – creating with other artists is fun and therapeutic.

So send out an email, pick up the phone, send out an invitation...get outside, and create. Like they say in the sneaker commercials, **JUST DO IT!**



Great Vermont Plein Air Festival – Mad River



Bulletin Board



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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 5
1:00pm
[VAA General Meeting](#)

Saturday, April 7
8:30am
ARTS, Lake Sumter

Saturday, April 27
9:00am to 3:00pm
[Spring Fine Arts Show, Rohan Rec Ctr](#)

Friday, May 3
1:00pm
[VAA General Meeting](#)

Saturday, May 4
8:30am
[Annex Show](#)

Friday, June 7
1:00pm
[VAA General Meeting](#)

Saturday, June 1
8:30am
[La Galleria Exhibit Hanging](#)

NO MEETING July and August

Friday, September 6
1:00pm
[VAA General Meeting](#)

Friday, October 4
1:00pm
[VAA General Meeting](#)

VAA Executive Board

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@hotmail.com
Vice President	Jack Ottilige	jackott@thevillages.net
Secretary	Marilyn Wright	marilynwr555@comcast.net
Treasurer	Maria Downton	riadownt@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Lee Asta
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Appointed Members

Connie Giacobbe
Janeen Whetstone
Helen Poor
Bobbi Ruben
Sally LaBaugh

Next Meeting

May 3rd @ 1:00 PM
Daytona/New Smyrna Room
Seabreeze Recreation Center



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FOR SALE

Nothing right now, but if you wanted to, you might use this space to let VAA members know.

Email to the editor

