



The President's Message

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, the third Thursday of this month, let us not forget to honor those who have served in the US Armed Forces on Veterans' Day, Friday, November 11th.

Hope you all enjoy(ed) a "Spooktacular Halloween" – Remember, all witches don't live in Salem!

Some of you have asked about Abstract Art and its finite points. This method of painting has always been somewhat of a mystery to me personally. After much coaxing and cajoling, I am happy to announce that Abstract Artist **Merilee Tutcik** has agreed to share her unique talent with us and will be the guest demo artist at our upcoming November Meeting.

Hope you had a chance to visit our Fall Festival of Art which was held at Eisenhower Rec Center this month. There was so much to see in every room and our artists presented a fantastic array of beautiful art for the public. Thank you to our participating artists and to all the volunteers, especially our Show Chairs who made this event possible.

The VAA Online Art Challenge featured in our VAA Newsletter and judged by our members is always free to enter so why not give it a go! There is a full schedule of Shows and Exhibits on our 2022-2023 Calendar which can be viewed on our VAA website www.visualartsassociation.com.

As always, there is so much going on with the VAA, so come to our meetings, check out our Monthly Newsletter and Website for additional details and venues and read our intermittent Notices sent directly to you. Please keep your contact information up to date by notifying our Membership Chair, Lisa Melcher of any changes. Please don't forget to visit our **Free Lending Library** located at the back of the room where you can sign out any books you choose to borrow or return.

Come to our Membership Meeting at SeaBreeze Regional Recreation Center on Friday, November 4th which **begins promptly at 1pm**. Come early at 12:30pm for our Meet and Greet with light refreshments thanks to Lois Bixby and her Refreshment Committee, and say a friendly hello to our new members who will be introduced by our New Member Liaison, Sally LaBaugh.

All the Best,
Catherine Sullivan, VAA President



"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see"

– Edgar Degas

Membership Meeting Program

Merilee Tutcik



Merilee will be showing us her art and process thoughts as she works on an abstract painting. She primarily works with acrylics. **Please join us at the November membership meeting to hear her story.**

From her website:

"I am an intuitive painter. I enjoy the journey and surprise of not knowing what will emerge onto my canvas. Books, concepts, Music, Philosophies and the places these intersect greatly inspire me in my journey into the unknown and the heretofore unseen. Sometimes I view a painting with 3-D glasses and see the space between the layers and know they are there."

Backdrops as diverse as Southeast Asia, New York, Russia and Houston have all contributed to the diversity and complexity of her work. Her participation in a broad spectrum of artistic endeavors such as ballet, stage set design, graphic arts, and the paintings and mosaics she has become famous for, define her as a unique and original contributor to the international art world.

www.ArtPal.com/Tuzek





New Member

Meet Beverley Couls

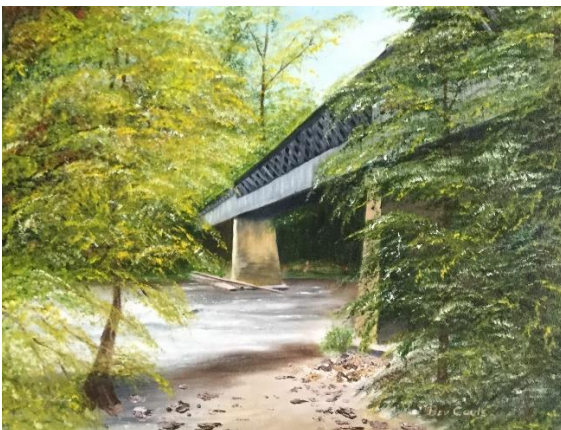


Beverley Couls
352-430-1868
coulsfit@aol.com



Beverley Couls was born and raised in Canada. She lived 8 years in California and 35 years in Michigan. She moved to The Village of Tall Trees in 2005 (17 years ago).

Beverley's favorite medium is oils, but she has worked in relief wood carving and burning, watercolor, and acrylics. She is currently enjoying colored pencil painting. Nature and animals are her inspiration.



Spotlight on You

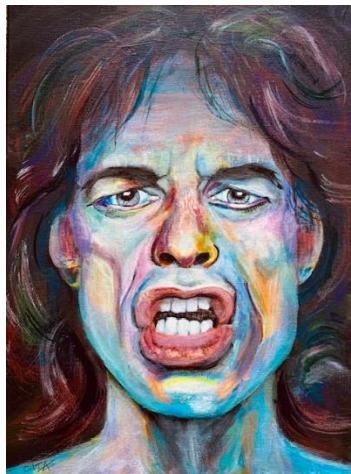
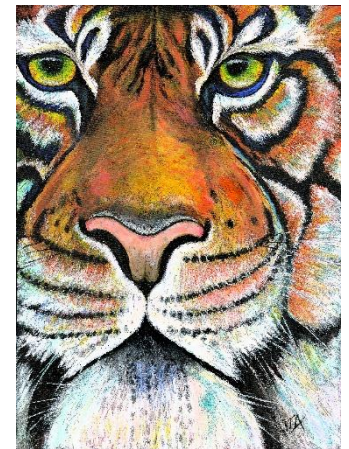
Diane Cita Timperley-Coscia



I am a Canadian married to a wonderful American man I met here in The Villages. I personally have resided in the Villages since 2016 on a seasonal basis. My husband and I have a home in Del Mar. During the 70's, I went to Art College but, as a single parent, had to put art on the back burner. My career developed in the field of college education and corporate consulting. Through those years I also designed jean jackets, jewelry, and loved rug hooking. I ventured back into painting 13 years ago when I retired and spent a winter in Matlacha (Pine Island).

I am primarily an experimental, mixed-media artist known for my interesting textures and unpredictable colours. My work has progressed since 2009 through three stages – large Abstract

Florals in watercolour influenced by Georgia O'Keefe; artsy portraits motivated by the works of Myrna Wacknov ; African Animals based on the admiration of art by Annabelle Marquis. My goal in creating art is to capture in a unique manner, features and emotions of the subjects. Along with many partnered shows, and on-line juried acceptances (and awards), I have had solo gallery shows entitled "Honoring the Elderly" and "Personas". For three years in Canada, I hosted a television show called "Arts Alive" where I had the privilege of interviewing local artists and artisans. I enjoy being a VAA member and participate in the VAA show in Laurel Manor and Artists Round the Square.



Online Art Challenge

Nov/Dec Challenge Theme: “Beautiful Landscapes”

Read the Rules on our website www.visualartsassociation.com , make sure your dues are current (Sept 2022 through August 2023) in order to enter, submit a good photo (no signature) to Martha Ayotte at mayotte22@gmail.com by December 31.



Be sure to submit your votes for the Sept/Oct Art Challenge Entries as soon as you receive email notice the entries are available to view!

ARTS (Artists ‘Round the Square)

Santa is Coming to Town!

Bring your naughty or nice artwork
To “Artists ‘Round the Square” on
Sunday, November 13th.

Sign up closes on November 6 for a space at Brownwood.

ARTS registration form is on the VAA website
and needs to be mailed to Nan Kohr.

Time to pay your annual dues!

Download the form from our website and mail along
with your \$15 so that you can participate in our
upcoming shows, contests and exhibits!

Photo Frame



Betty Eich



After a lifetime in education as a teacher and administrator, in retirement I found photography in 2007. And with this new interest came an entirely new way of looking at the world. My camera became my “third eye.”

I grew up on a farm north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We had cows (Holsteins), an apple orchard, fields of corn and hay, and woodland at the back of the farm. I learned at an early age that our life was all about the land, and that knowledge was neither abstract nor theoretical. It was practical: the land provided our livelihood.

It should come as no surprise, then, that as a photographer, I love landscapes. Yes, landscape photography is about nature’s beauty, but it goes beyond that. Landscape photos are art: their goal is to show the “soul” of the land. That is, the photographer responds emotionally to the landscape and creates a photo that communicates that emotion to the viewer.

In May of 2022 my husband Ed and I spent a month in Italy, Portugal, and Spain. We immersed ourselves in the culture of the people, the architecture of each city, and the landscapes of each region, enjoying every moment. We discovered the partner of landscapes: architecture, the creations of man. Those two factors, architecture and landscape, define a region. Both reveal its “soul.”

For the purposes of this article, I have chosen to focus only on one small city in Italy, Castro dei Volsci. It is a village of about 4,000 inhabitants and is situated at the top of a hill. Its “streets” are no more than alleys; only 2 or 3 of these cobblestone passageways are wide enough for cars. We spent one week there at Casa Gregorio, an Italian cooking school. But instead of showing you food photography, I wish to show you the landscapes and the architecture of this village. In these photos, can you see its “soul”?



Scholarship

As we await Thanksgiving and think of many our blessings, the Scholarship Program has many members and friends to recognize and thank. This fall, hours of creativity and effort have been donated on its behalf. At our October Art Show, “The Creative Pumpkin Patch” was a great success. Pumpkin makers and sales staff were just terrific with their ideas and creations. BRAVO, and yes.... we will do it again. Thank you members and guests for your purchases and feedback. Every Pumpkin sold well before show close!

Our brand new event THE VAA FALL ART AUCTION was also very special ! It was a great showcase of works by some of the finest artists and photographers in the Villages. Their donations were impressive and admired by guests and bidders. The beautiful painted piano of Villages scenes and wild life (long at Seabreeze Rec. Center) was also a featured unique auction item. Everything was professionally displayed and filled our room at Sea Breeze Center.

All the members of the auction team had such great ideas. They reached out, collected and organized Art for weeks. Many hours were spent on additional gift baskets, room arrangements, publicity and set up to make this a memorable event for the Scholarship cause. Nan Kohr originated the idea and worked as coordinator. Ed Kytte supported by family stepped up as auctioneerand a team of dedicated members worked for weeks on collecting donations and putting together an authentic auction setting. Nine hundred dollars was raised for the Art Scholarship Class of 2023. Items that did not go for bid will be re-featured at our February Show.

A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT to our following members for their creative ideas, hours of time & continued support:

Nan Kohr, Eileen Sklon, Maureen Terrien, Jo Magram, Carol Reynolds, Wendy Lahey, Lisa Melcher, Cindy Verdick, and Catherine Sullivan.

We are grateful to all of you and our membership for making our Scholarship program possible and on-going!

--Helen Poor and the Scholarship Team





Conversations



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

How to Identify a Painting

by Eric McClure

Learning more about a piece of famous art is easy, but identifying an unknown or obscure painting can be kind of tricky. There are so many paintings in existence that the odds of finding information about a specific image can feel insurmountable. Luckily, you can dramatically narrow down your search by assessing the composition, subject matter, and style. Start by using an image recognition app and a reverse image search. Museums and art historians are in a perpetual effort to upload and catalogue paintings and artists online, so it may be easier than you think to find the information you're looking for!

Things you should know:

- Use an image recognition app or run a reverse image search. You can also use the signature on an image to find it online.
- Ask an expert to identify the painting for you, or do it yourself using clues to narrow down the date and the artistic movement the painting belongs to.
- Check the back of the painting for notes from previous owners and the frame for a manufacturer. Bring a larger collection to an art dealer.

Finding the Artwork Quickly

Method 1

Use an image recognition app to identify the painting immediately. If you're struggling to remember an artist's name or you want additional information on a particular painting, download an image recognition app designed specifically for art. There are several apps for both Android and iPhone that allow you to snap a photo of a painting to search through museum catalogues, university databases, and art history texts. This is the easiest way to find a specific painting.

- The two most popular apps for recognizing artwork are Smartify and Magnus. Both of these apps will pull up information about the work's artist, as well as interesting facts and background information about the composition.
- These apps only have access to paintings that have been well-documented and catalogued by curators, professors, historians, and other artists. If the painting is made by a more obscure artist, these apps may not work.

Run a reverse image search if you have a digital copy of the painting. If you're looking at a painting on your computer or phone, run a reverse image search. Copy and paste the **image's URL** into the search engine. Run the search to pull up other websites displaying the painting. This will give you access to a variety of websites that will tell you everything you need to know about the painting.



- If you're using Google Chrome, you can right click an image and select "Search Google for this image" to search the web.
- You can **download an image** and upload it to the engine instead of copying and pasting the URL if you prefer.
- The most popular reverse image search is TinEye, but there are several options available online.
- You can try taking a photo of a painting and uploading the image to the search engine, but you're less likely to find accurate results. These search engines aren't great at taking photos and finding digital versions of the image, but it may work!

Use the signature or monogram to dig online and find the image. Look in the corners of the painting to see if there is a signature or monogram. If the name is easy to read, simply **search** the artist's name up online to find the painting. If it's harder to read, look carefully to see if you can break down the letters and read them. This will let you narrow down the search and figure out who the artist is, which can make it easier to find your specific painting.

- A monogram refers to a 2- to 3-letter design containing the artist's initials. Monograms tend to be more popular among painters working after the 1800s.
- Signatures were almost never used before the Renaissance, which began around 1300. Even if you can't identify a signature, at least you have a baseline for your search!
- You have to sign up for a free account to use it, but you can use <https://artistssignatures.com/> to reverse search for an artist's signature. This is useful if you think you can read the signature but want to double-check to make sure you aren't misreading it.

Assessing the Composition **Method 2**

Ask an expert to identify the era, style, or painter of an image. Email or visit a museum curator, art history professor, or gallery owner to ask if they can take a look at the image. An expert in the field of art will be able to offer insights about the period, style, and give you a better sense for where to look. They may even know who the artist is as soon as they take a look at it!

- If you're contacting a gallery owner, try to find a gallery that specializes in the type of art you're trying to identify. For example, a contemporary abstract piece is going to be easier to identify if the gallery owner mainly focuses on newer artists.

Use obvious clues in the subject matter to narrow down the date. Contemporary painters may paint people or objects from the past, but they can't time travel! If there's a train, company logo, digital clock, or some other time-specific component of the painting, this is a great way to set a baseline for your search. You can get a good overall sense for when a painting may have been made simply by asking yourself when an artist would have painted their subject.

- For example, there aren't many painters alive today painting portraits of Spanish aristocrats from the 1600s, and absolutely nobody was painting images of Elvis Presley before 1954!



- For example, if there is a small airplane in the background of the painting, you know that the painting must have been made after 1903, since that's when Wilbur and Orville Wright first successfully flew a plane.

Identify the artistic movement by assessing the style of the painting.

There are various artistic movements throughout history that share similar qualities. Determining the movement associated with an image is a great way to quickly narrow down your search since historians group artists from the same movement together.

There are hundreds of movements; if you can't figure out the movement at first glance, look through museum catalogues and online collections to find similar paintings.

Common Movements:

- **Neoclassical** – It may be neoclassical if the light looks artificial and you're looking at a painting of a large group of aristocrats, a general, a raging battle, or a dramatic religious scene. The image was likely painted between 1750-1850.
- **Expressionism** and **Impressionism** – These paintings tend to have expressive brush strokes colors that aren't exactly accurate. The image may be "messy" but you should still be able to figure out what you're looking at. These styles were popular between 1860-1920.
- **Realism** – If the painting looks kind of like a photo (or exactly like a photo) and nobody in the image is dressed up or posing for the painting, it was probably made after 1840.
- **Abstract** and **Experimental** – For these movements, you'll probably have no idea what's going on in the painting. These paintings rarely depict anything you can immediately identify and are only found after 1930.

Determine if the artist used acrylic paint to see if it was made after 1940. Get as close as you possibly can to the image. If the color looks flat and the darker colors don't reflect light, it's probably oil paint. If the color is reflective, shiny, and looks kind of plastic, it is likely acrylic paint. Acrylic paint wasn't used in art until 1940, so you have a much smaller period to search through.

- If more than one medium was used to produce a work, it is highly-likely that the image was created after 1900. It was fairly rare before this period to combine multiple materials to produce a painting.
- This is a lot harder to do if you're looking at a digital image, but if the colors are almost supernaturally bright or neon, the painting was probably made with acrylic.

Assess the quality of the canvas or paper to determine the date. If the canvas is stapled into the frame uniformly, it is unlikely to have been made before 1900, which is when canvases were first mass produced. You can also assume the painting is relatively newer if it's is on paper and there's no tearing, damage, or general wear and tear. Paper is relatively fragile, and it's unlikely that a fresh piece of paper is particularly old.

- If the canvas is hanging loosely on the frame, the painting may have been made prior to 1600. Before 1600, most artists weren't particularly good at stretching the fabric tight against the frame.



Search through websites and catalogues after narrowing the search. If you know you're looking for art from a specific time period or movement, go online and search through galleries and websites related to this type of art. Look for paintings that are similar in style, color, and composition. You can also go through museum databases and encyclopedias to find your image to do this as well. With enough luck, you'll find the artist!

- Almost every major museum has an online dataset that you can search. Search through these catalogues to find similar pieces that may belong to your artist.
- Once you have the artist, finding the specific painting is fairly easy. Museums and universities often catalogue and document the entire body of work for well-known painters, so you should be able to find the specific painting just by poking around online.

Using Less Obvious Details

Method 3

Inspect the back of the painting to find notes from previous owners. If you really can't find anything about an image in your possession using traditional search methods, flip the canvas over and look at the back. If the image is a print or reproduction, it may be listed on the back. If the painting is a family heirloom or was bought at a thrift shop, there may be a handwritten note describing where the painting is from.

- Use the other steps in this method first before looking for lesser known details. It's possible that the painting is a reproduction, print, or mass-produced version of a popular painting.
- If you see 2-3 numbers listed in a corner, the painting was probably purchased at a thrift shop or resale store. The employees of these stores often write the price on a back of a work. You're unlikely to be able to identify the artist or image in this case.

Check the frame to see if you can find a manufacturer. Inspect the frame on the back and look for an imprint, or label. Frame manufacturers often print a company name on the back. If there is a name, contact the manufacturer to learn more about the frame itself. This can drastically narrow down the region and time period where a painting was produced.

- If you only have the canvas and there is no frame, check the wood portion of the canvas on the back. Prior to 1900, most artists stretched their own canvases. If there is a signature on the wood frame, it's probably the artist's.
- This isn't really a helpful option if the painting is well known or really old, since it was likely re-framed at some point.

Take a large collection from an unknown painter to an art dealer. If you stumble on a large number of paintings and you can't find a single thing about the artist online or through close inspection, contact an art dealer. Many lifelong artists paint simply because they enjoy it, and it's possible that you may have stumbled on to a unique collection from a totally unknown artist!

Variation: If the paintings appear particularly old, contact a museum curator or art historian instead. Older paintings tend to be more valuable from a historical perspective.

Events & Opportunities



Village Art Workshops

Art in the Heart of Florida

November 2022 Classes & Workshops



Linda Wokoun
“Exploring Texture in
Watercolor”
November 7 and 8

Oil and acrylic painters!
You asked for it, we got
it! We brought in Sally
just for you!



Sally Evans
“Exploring Color”
Acrylic and/or Oil
November 14 and 15

Open Studio, 10 am – 3 pm
November 9 and 23
Come create with like-minded artists!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Registrations Now Open
Sign Up NOW, Classes Fill FAST!

11/27 Cindy Vener Holiday Flamingo Paint Party
11/28 Kathy Mantel Watercolor Batik Cards
11/29 Korinne Carpino Alcohol Ink Ornaments
11/30 Annie Dotzauer Fused Glass Ornaments
12/1 Trish O’Leary Zentangle Cards

For info and to register,
visit villageartworkshops.com & click on “Holiday Festival”



**Watercolor Classes with
Lionel Sanchez**
November 4, 11, & 18
\$49 per class

For more information,
visit
www.villageartworkshops.com



Bulletin Board



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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Nov/Dec Online Art Challenge *

Deadline: December 31
Theme: "Beautiful Landscapes"

Membership Mtg
Friday, Nov 4, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

ARTS at Brownwood *

Sunday, Nov. 13, 1:00-4:00

Membership Mtg
Friday, Dec. 2, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

LaGalleria Exhibit *

Saturday, December 10
8:30-9:30

* indicates show or exhibit activity

VAA Executive Board

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Vice Pres	Judy Nahmias	judynahmias@verizon.net
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sallylabaugh@gmail.com

Helen Poor, Scholarship
helenpoor@comcast.net

Betty Eich, Photo Frame
bettybrock@comcast.net

Darlene Hayes, Spotlight Artist
dgh@comcast.net

Martha Ayotte, Conversations
mayotte22@gmail.com

Cheri Ptacek, Editor
vaanews@yahoo.com

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