



The President's Message

June – popular for weddings, was named after Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage, home, and family. What a busy month: D Day -June 6th; Flag Day, - June 14th; Fathers' Day - June 19; Summer Solstice – June 21st and National Kissing Day - June 22nd (Hugs and Winks welcome!).

It was my honor to Chair VAA's May 6th Annex Exhibit, which was a great success. There were 22 judged entries and 16 BOGOs for a total of 38 pieces. Our Judge, Pat Ford, was impressed by the talent displayed and her critiques will be available at our June Meeting where I would like to introduce our winning artists. Special thanks to Darlene Hayes, Ralph Bischoff, Diana Crow, Lee Asta, Terri Behar, Ed Basso, and Maureen Terrien who formed the May Exhibit Committee. Please support your fellow artists and visit this Exhibit which will be on display until October 7, 2023.

As always, there is so much going on with the VAA, so come to our meetings, check out our Monthly Newsletter and Website for other 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 to your contact info. Don't forget to visit our Free Lending Library at the entrance and see our VAA Library Chair, Julie McGlone, where you can sign out any books you choose to borrow or return. We also accept gently used books to lend to members.

Hope to see you at our next Membership Meeting at Seabreeze Regional Recreation Center on Friday, June 2nd, 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 Chair, Sally LaBaugh.

It's been my honor and privilege serving as your President and I sincerely thank you for the trust and loyalty you've shown as members of the VAA. I look forward to enjoying visits with family and friends during the Summer and seeing all your smiling faces again in September.

All the Best,
Catherine Sullivan, VAA President

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory"
~Dr. Seuss



Program at Friday, June 2nd Membership Meeting

Member Salon

You are invited to bring two or three samples of your art to the June 2nd Membership Meeting for display with your own table easel if needed.

Prepare a table card with your name, medium(s) and have a card with an artist's statement about your display handy as an introduction.

We hope you will share your work with us at that time. *This is for paid current members only.* No sales, just great art, good conversation and light refreshments.

Contact our President, Catherine Sullivan (cnjsullivan@aol.com), if you have any questions.



Spotlight on You



Darlene Hayes, Chair

Meet Marcella Martin

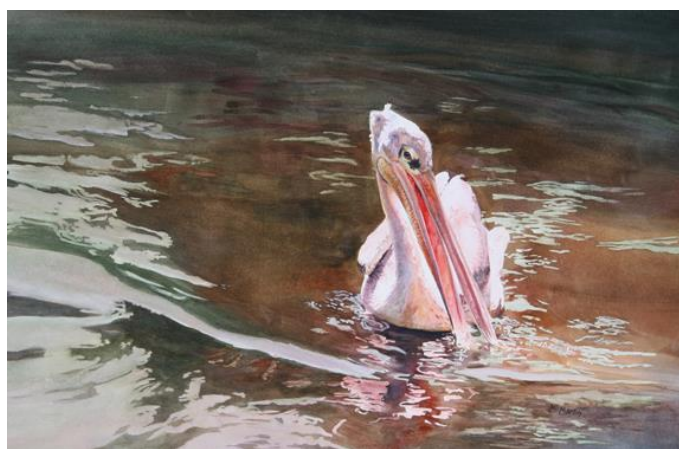


My mom encouraged me to draw and paint from my fingerpainting days. I feel blessed to have had her enthusiasm. I miss her. She planted the seed that I would be an artist and that stuck! I remember my high school physics teacher asking, "Have you considered a career in science?" I said, "No, I'm going to major in art." Needing time to figure out what I was going to do with a sculpture degree and in the spirit of adventure and service, I became a Peace Corps Volunteer to Lesotho, Africa. (One of the best adventures in my life!)



Back in the USA, I spent a few years being a cash strapped artist - living with my parents!! So... because I was an unusual art student, who took Calculus as an elective, it was time to go back to college, get an engineering degree, and design communication systems for rockets. That led to my first trips to Florida... in July... working launches... not allowed deodorant, bug spray, hairspray, sunscreen... going up a 17-story open elevator, getting eaten by mosquitos, sweating, burning, glasses fogging every time I left a building and I was never coming back to Florida!

When my husband, Stan, accepted a job in Stockholm, Sweden, I quit my job and became a full time artist again. I switched to watercolor painting, because it was more portable than bronze. With encouragement from friends, I started exhibiting in Stockholm, then continued to exhibit in San Diego. When California became too pricey for retirement, we spent 3 years looking for a new state to call "home." Florida was the last one (and you know why).





Scholarship Program



Helen Poor, Chair



High School Graduations are taking place all across Central Florida, and our VAA Scholarship winner Lauren Deahl received her diploma (with honors) from the Arts Magnet Program at West Port High School Sunday May 21st. She also completed her AP Art Portfolio and requirements with an exceptional rating and was the only senior art student from her school to be featured for her work and awards at Westport Honors Night. We shall keep you updated on her progress, and hopefully other Scholarships, as she moves on to Ringling College of Art (Sarasota FL) in late August.

At this writing, VAA Scholarship is already looking ahead to some new directions and early advertising for the 2023-2024 Scholarship Season. WHY??? Regional School Art Curriculums, faculty and art students continue to undergo major challenges as a result of the Pandemic and lost teaching time. Seasoned art teachers left and continue to retire. They are hard to replace. Elementary art teachers who moved up to High Schools found it a challenging change. Cutting of offerings and classes happened frequently. Family pressures are also causing art students to switch out of art majors and into what parents consider “practical / employable” classes for college and jobs. We know from experience that Art Scholarships are a way to bring attention to college Art Majors and Degrees --and the excellent careers available to the students who pursue them, especially in Florida!!

Because of added pressures and new approaches, the work and structure of the Scholarship Committee is changing.

Making Scholarship Fundraising its own Division and Team sounds like a very possible and practical solution. **SO...we are looking for some energetic and creative members.** If you have some experience in this area--GREAT ! Or perhaps you would like to just get “out there “ and dive into a fun and rewarding segment of the Scholarship effort of the VAA. It is such a special part of who we are as artists in our regional and community.

As always, a huge **thank you** to all our members for their support, donations and time. And a special thanks to our working Scholarship team members and those that have helped throughout another challenging year. **Call if you can help or have an interest in what we do.**

Have a wonderful summer, and do some great ART!

Helen Poor, VAA Scholarship Chair
352-561- 4474



Conversations



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



Are My Paints Safe to Use? By Martha Ayotte

An artist's paints are a very important part of the creative process, but some artists are concerned with the safety of their paints. In this article, I will explain paint safety and some of their potential risks.

When discussing the safety of your paints, it is important to consider the different types of paint, the potential risks posed by their ingredients, and the effects of using them over a long period of time. First, it is good to understand various paint types available: oil, acrylics, watercolors, and gouache. They all have different properties and ingredients, so it's important to research the specific paints you plan to use. Also, each of these paints contains different binders, pigments, and solvents, so each may carry different risks.

Oil paints, for example, generally use linseed oil as a binder and may contain lead or cadmium pigments. Although these substances are not inherently toxic, they can be dangerous if inhaled or ingested. In addition, solvents such as turpentine and mineral spirits can also be a health hazard if not properly used or disposed of. These solvents can also cause skin and respiratory irritation and should be used in well-ventilated areas. However, some oil paints are deemed safe to use; they include acrylic-oil hybrids, water-mixable oils and natural, non-toxic alternatives.

Acrylic paints use plastic compounds as binders, and these compounds can release toxic fumes when heated. Therefore, it is essential to use acrylic paints in a well-ventilated area and to avoid heating them for more than a few minutes.

Watercolors use a gum arabic binder and generally pose less of a risk than other paints; however, they can give off fumes and should only be heated in a well-ventilated area. Gouache is the least toxic type of paint, as it is water-based and does not require solvents or heating.

Many paints contain heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, mercury, and arsenic, which can be toxic if inhaled or ingested in large amounts. In general, it is prudent to avoid using paints containing such heavy metals because it is difficult to ascertain the exact amount of heavy metals in any particular paint brand.

It is also essential to consider the effects of using paints over a long period of time. Most paints are safe if done in a well-ventilated area and stored and disposed of correctly. However, after prolonged use, the user may be exposed to vapor from the paints' solvents and other potentially hazardous chemicals. Therefore, taking regular breaks during painting sessions and using the paint in moderation is a good idea.

To be safe, paint in well-ventilated areas, use care heating any paints, and try to determine what ingredients are contained in your paint.



La Galleria Exhibit

Meg Hay, Chair

** A Call to Artists **

Ribbons and Monetary Awards

Our Summer 2023 La Galleria Show will hang Saturday, June 10, 2023 at La Hacienda Recreation Center. **The registration forms and instructions are now on the VAA website under FORMS.** The show ends September 9. (Please note the Sept-Dec show will be organized by the VAL.)

The following awards will be given: 1st Place \$100.00, 2nd Place \$75.00 and 3rd Place \$50.00. The judge for this show is noted artist, instructor, and curator David Fithian.



The postmarked deadline for registration forms is June 3, 2023.

**Don't delay, get your registration forms in the mail
and let's make this another wonderful exhibit for the VAA!**





Events & Opportunities



Village Art Workshops

Art in the Heart of Florida

WHAT'S HAPPENING JUNE OF 2023

TEACHING TUESDAYS



Kathy Mantel
"Bird of ParadisE" Watercolor Batik
5/9

Ann Dotzhauer
"Stand Up Picture Frames"
Three Fused Glass Frames
6/13



Cindy Vener
"Floral Still Life" Acrylic
5/30



Village Art Workshops

Art in the Heart of Florida

OTHER EVENTS & CLASSES MAY OF 2023



Lionel Sanchez
Classes in Landscapes,
Some with Yupo or Pen & Wash
Fridays in June, 9:30 – 12:30


OPEN STUDIO DATES:
JUNE 7 AND 21



For more information, to register & for payment, visit
villageartworkshops.com



Bulletin Board

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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg
Friday, June 2, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

La Galleria Exhibit *
June 10
Deadline: June 3 postmarked

NO MEETINGS JULY OR AUGUST

Membership Mtg
Friday, Sept 1, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

ARTS (Art 'Round the Square) *
October 15. 1:00pm
Brownwood

* indicates show or exhibit activity

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

VAA Executive Board

President	Catherine Sullivan	cnjsullivan@aol.com
Vice Pres	Judy Nahmias	judynahmias@verizon.net
Secretary	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carol Reynolds	caroljr46@gmail.com

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Marge McQuestion
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr
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Sally LaBaugh
Cheri Ptacek
Lisa Melcher

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