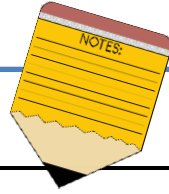




Nan's Notes



Nan Kohr, President

We are planning a super-duper change. On a trial basis, the Annex Exhibit will become the **Annex Art Showcase** where we will continue to display art; however, there will be no entry fee. The plan is to showcase your art without judging or awarding ribbons. The hope is to encourage more of our members to participate in this community venue that is open to the public. The hallway walls at the Sheriff's Annex are conducive to hanging artwork. Please plan your next entry scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 2025. Catherine Sullivan is the show chair. cnjsullivan@aol.com

With 2025 ahead, we will hold **Artists 'Round the Square (ARTS)** at Spanish Springs around the center pavilion on Sunday, January 26th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Joyous wishes from us to you!

Nan Kohr, president
Lee Asta, past president serving as v.p.
Betty Eich, secretary
Connie Giebels, treasurer



Side note: *A Nominating Committee is forming to research a slate for the Executive Board officers to be presented in April for a membership vote in May, 2025. Contact Nan Kohr if you wish to serve on the nominating committee or other volunteer position.*



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

Join us for a festive Holiday Celebration
At our December 6th Membership Meeting



*Bring a \$10-20 wrapped gift
(artsy or home décor)
to play the "stealing" game*



Music by our own DJ, Bill Skieczius



Food provided by VAA

Friday, December 6 at 1:00 pm

SeaBreeze Rec Center





December Membership Meeting/Party – *ELF EXCHANGE*

We are continuing the art book sale into our December 6th membership party! Bring your art books you no longer need to the December membership meeting to donate to this book sale - AND your CASH or CHECKBOOK to buy new ones!

Also, this will be our annual Elf Exchange! So look for any art supplies you no longer need and want to donate and exchange with others. The “stocking” will be available to stuff with your contributions.

Both book and art supply donations will go to support our SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.



New Members

Darlene Hayes, Chair

Anna Kaluzynski

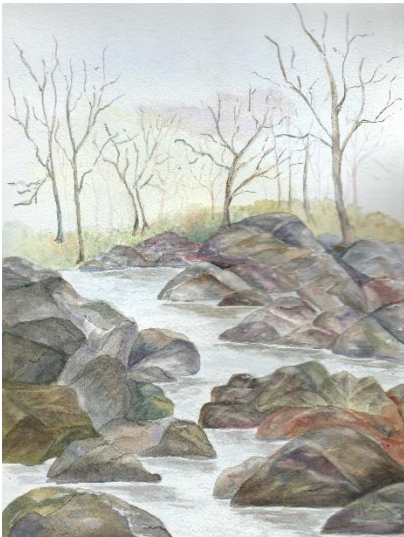


azynski@yahoo.com
352 566 0375
Village of Hillsborough

I enjoyed painting for a short amount of time as a child and though I was complimented on my ability I was discouraged by my father to pursue it.

In my adult years I have always loved the beauty of a watercolor. I took a class or two but got busy with life and of course did not keep it up. However, I never got rid of my paint or the block of watercolor paper. Just as I never got rid of my student flute that also sat unused. After many years of collecting dust I moved it all to Florida without a plan.

I am grateful now that I have the time and ability to pursue both painting and playing the flute. Enjoying the journey.



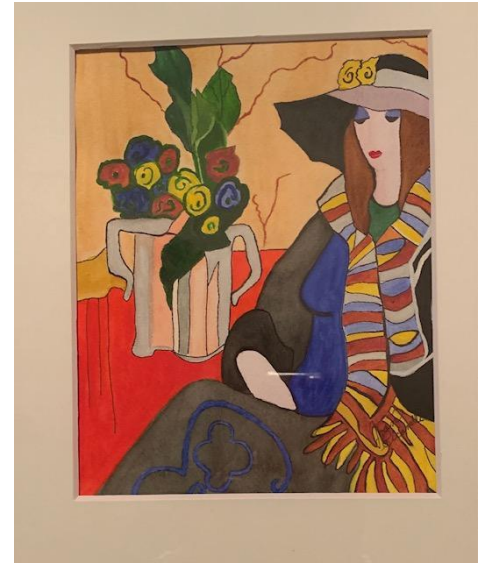
Spotlight on You

Carol O'Brien

Joan Picarelli



I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts with no art classes available. I always did sketches but my mother never allowed me to me to take art classes. She said there was no money in it. My husband and I moved to the villages 12 years ago and the first day here I signed up for art classes. The rest is history.



Scholarship Program



Helen Poor, Chair

As the Holiday song goes, “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” and surely one of the busiest. VAA has a great Holiday party planned for our December meeting and we hope to see many of you there. December will also be our final opportunity in 2024 for funding opportunities and donation gifts to help support our scholarship cause. If any of you are looking for charitable gift opportunities and tax deductions, perhaps we can help! VAA alumni and current members have been kind and generous in Decembers past, and we are grateful!!

NOTE: Our holiday scholarship stocking will again be available for stuffing, and the popular **ELF EXCHANGE** will be back and open for art supply donations and purchases. **Please take a look see as to what materials, tools and media you have that might be just what someone else is looking for.** Bring them to our tables on Friday, December 6th for sharing. The elves will be happy to display it and accept donations from members who might be interested in taking new supplies and treasures home.

As we plan and navigate upcoming fundraising, please know you can make a difference. The next class of regional art seniors is well on its way. **This is the 19th year of the VAA Scholarship Program. We have now given out \$167,000 to support college-bound artists in Central Florida.** To continue this work, we need fresh faces, ideas and event helpers. Think about joining our team with your creativity and experience. **WE NEED YOU!!**

Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season!

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





Conversations

*Martha Ayotte*

Beyond the Brushstrokes: Exploring the Art of Synesthesia

By Martha Ayotte and Google Gemini

We, as artists, are constantly seeking new ways to perceive and interpret the world around us. We strive to capture emotions, sensations, and experiences through our chosen mediums. But what if our senses themselves were intertwined in a way that most people never experience? This is the reality for synesthetes, individuals who experience a blending of their senses. Imagine hearing colors, tasting shapes, or seeing music manifest as vibrant forms.

Synesthesia, a neurological phenomenon, offers a fascinating lens through which to explore the very nature of creativity and perception. While it might seem like an abstract concept, understanding synesthesia can provide us with valuable insights into our own artistic processes.

Different Types of Synesthesia

There are numerous forms of synesthesia, each with unique sensory connections. Some common types include:

- **Grapheme-color synesthesia:** Letters or numbers trigger the perception of specific colors. Imagine the letter "A" always appearing red, or the number "5" evoking a sense of green.
- **Chromesthesia:** Sounds trigger the visualization of colors. A melody might evoke a swirling pattern of blues and yellows, while a car horn might flash a jarring red.
- **Auditory-tactile synesthesia:** Sounds produce physical sensations on the skin. A violin's melody might feel like a soft caress, while a drumbeat could create a tingling sensation.

Synesthesia and Art

For artists with synesthesia, their sensory experiences become an integral part of their creative process. They might translate the colors they "hear" in music into a visual artwork, or sculpt the "shapes" they "taste" in different foods.

- **Wassily Kandinsky:** This renowned abstract artist is often cited as a potential synesthete. His paintings, with their vibrant colors and swirling forms, seem to suggest a connection between music and visual art.
- **David Hockney:** This contemporary artist has spoken about his experience with chromesthesia, describing how music influences his perception of colors in his paintings.

Exploring Synesthesia in Your Own Art

Even if you don't have synesthesia, you can still explore its concepts in your artistic practice:

- **Sensory exercises:** Experiment with activating multiple senses while you create. Listen to music, explore different textures, or introduce scents into your workspace. Observe how these sensory inputs influence your artistic choices.



- **Synesthetic interpretations:** Choose a piece of music, a poem, or even a recipe, and try to translate it into a visual artwork. Imagine the colors, shapes, and textures that these non-visual experiences evoke for you
- **Research synesthetic artists:** Study the works of artists known or suspected to have synesthesia. Analyze how their unique sensory experiences might have influenced their artistic styles and subject matter.

By delving into the world of synesthesia, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse ways in which humans perceive and interact with the world. It challenges us to question our own creative processes and explore new avenues for artistic expression. Who knows, you might even unlock hidden depths of creativity within yourself!



Wassily Kandinsky, 1923 Painting
"On White II"



David Hockney's 1972 Painting,
"Portrait of an Pool with Two Figures"



Artists 'Round The Square (ARTS)

Nan Kehr, Chair

CONGRATULATIONS "ARTS" WINNERS!
November 10, 2024 Lake Sumter Landing

First Place: Leda Rabenold
"Siesta Key Beach Path"
Acrylic

Second Place: Maureen Terrien
"Live Oak at Fenney"
Photography

Third Place: Phil Myers
"Red Octopus"
Acrylic



Leda Rabenold - First Place

Members Gallery

Please send critiques to those with email



Robert Rivkin
"The Bay Window"
Oil and Acrylic



Merilee Tutcik
"Pareidolia"
Acrylic on canvas
24" x 30"



Peter Kushner
"I think you're too young to enter Cambridge University"
Colored pencils



Ellen Cora
'Seascape through Rose Colored Glasses'
Watercolor
artel1805@gail.com

Members Gallery



Ellen Cora
'Seaside memory'
Watercolor
artel1805@gmail.com



Doris Glapion
"Fire and ice"
Acrylic
22x28



Nan Kohr
Watercolor
"Get It"



Bob Schutte
Oil on panel
"Manatee"
rschutte100@gmail.com



Darlene Hayes
"Darla"
Watercolor
Dgh@comcast.net



Aixa Renta-DeLuca
"Wild Stripes"
12"x24"
Oils on gallery canvas



Joan Picarelli
"Kaleidoscope Kiss"
Watercolor.



Betty Eich
In a Balloon at Sunrise (The Sahara, Morocco)
Photography



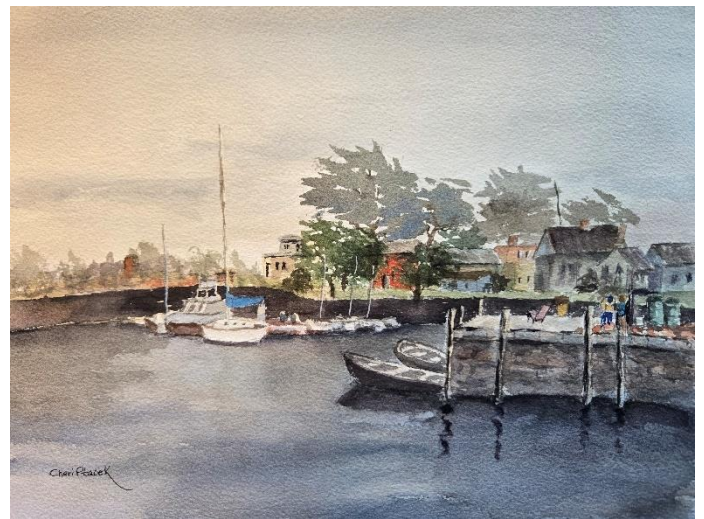
Halina Wilczanski
"Hope"
Acrylic



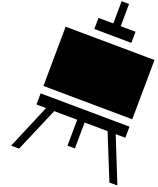
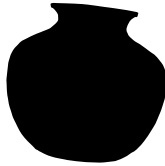
Halina Wilczanski
"In my dreams"
Acrylic



Rhonda Waters
"Wheels of Friendship"
Metal and glass wall hanging, 5' x 18"
Rhondawaters@comcast.net



Cheri Ptacek
"Boats in Rockport"
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 **January 20** to
vaanews@yahoo.com

and include your **name, title of art, media**
(*and your email if you would like feedback/critique*)

Contact Cheri Ptacek at 612-237-5212
with questions

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

****No judging – just Show Off****





Events and Opportunities

VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS UPCOMING EVENTS

VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS SHEDULE FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON



Village Art Workshops
Art in the Heart of Florida

October 7, Gene Rizzo, Watercolor
October 8, Gene Rizzo, Watercolor
October 21 and 23, Janelle Johnson, Color Pencil
October 28 and 29, Jane Slivka, Acrylic
November 11 and 12, Lynn Ferris, Watercolor
November 13, Lynn Ferris, Watercolor
November 18 - 19, Linda Wokoun, Watercolor
January 13 - 15, Cole Wolford, Watercolor
January 19, David R. Becker, Acrylic Paint Party
January 20 and 21, David R. Becker, Watercolor
January 22 and 23, David R. Becker, Watermedia
January 27 - 29, Carol Carter, Watercolor
February 3 - 5, Dan Wiemer, Watercolor and Acrylic
February 7 - 9, Kathie George, Watercolor Batik
February 17 - 19, Michael Holter, Watercolor
February 24 - 26, Jennifer Stone, Mixed Media
March 3 - 5, Jean Pederson, Mixed Media
March 14 and 15, Teresa Kirk, Mixed Media
March 17 and 18, Mark Menendez, Color Pencil
March 24 - 26, Karen Noll Schaaf, Watercolor
March 31 and April 1, Tom Jones, Watercolor
April 10 - 12, Janet Rogers, Watercolor



VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.villageartworkshops.com and click on "Holiday Festival" for details



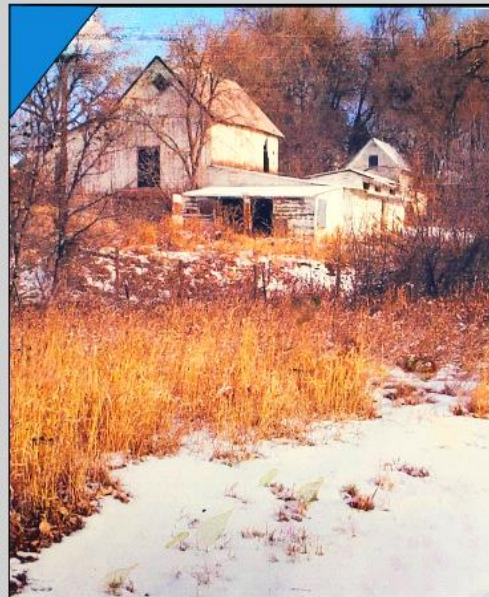


VILLAGE ART WORKSHOPS

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

Visit www.villageartworkshops.com for more information

Traditional
WATERCOLOR
WITH LIONEL SANCHEZ
DEC 3 - LANDSCAPE ~ DEC 19 - PEN & WASH
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM



Bulletin Board



PO Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

visualartsassociation.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg - Holiday Party

Friday, December 6, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

La Galleria Exhibit *

Saturday, December 14, 8-9 am
La Hacienda Rec Center

Membership Mtg

Friday, January 3, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

ARTS (Art 'Round the Square) *

Sunday, January 26, 1-4 pm
Spanish Springs

Annex Exhibit *

Saturday, February 1, 8-9:20 am

Membership Mtg

Friday, February 7, 1:00 pm
Sea Breeze

Winter Fine Art Festival *

Saturday, February 8, 9-3 pm
Laurel Manor

* indicates show or exhibit activity

VAA Board Members

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Vice Pres	(open)	
Secretary	Betty Eich	bettybrock@comcast.net
Treasurer	Connie Giebels	cgiebels43@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Lee Asta
Marge McQuestion
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr
Catherine Sullivan

Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor, Scholarship
Cheri Ptacek, Newsletter
Lisa Melcher, VAL Liaison
Karyn Zais, Membership
Eileen Sklon, Parliamentarian
Darlene Hayes, New Members
Jo Magram, Publicity Consultant

Newsletter Staff

Cheri Ptacek, Editor

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Helen Poor, Scholarship

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Martha Ayotte, Conversations

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Betty Eich, Photo Frame

bettybrock@comcast.net

Carol O'Brien, Spotlight Artist

carolobrien0101@gmail.com

Darlene Hayes, New Members

dgh@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VAA Fiscal Year:

Sept 1 – Aug 31

Must complete form on our website

To mail in with \$15 dues
(Or bring to a membership meeting)

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