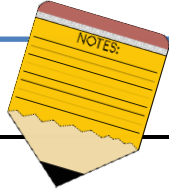




Nan's Notes



Nan Kohr, President

Our meeting on May 3rd is a good time to share the art we are working on and get some feedback from the members. One can be a finished piece and the other piece something you wish to have other ideas about. Or you can receive feedback on both-- your choice. **Remember to bring 1 – 2 pieces of your art to the meeting on May 3rd!**



The Deli-Dali bus trip was truly a Trip! Even the rock landscaping outside the museum was artistic. Dali's surrealist paintings were better than any of my worst nightmares! He must have been a very exciting person to spend time with. We are working on another bus adventure so your suggestions are welcome.



Opportunities for You..... Registration forms are on the VAA website www.visualartsassociation.com.

- June 8th is the La Galleria Exhibit
- June 15th exhibit at the Sheriff's Annex

Nan Kohr, president
Carol Reynolds, vice-president
Betty Eich, secretary
Connie Giebels, treasurer



Spotlight on You



Darlene Hayes

Meet our VAA Board

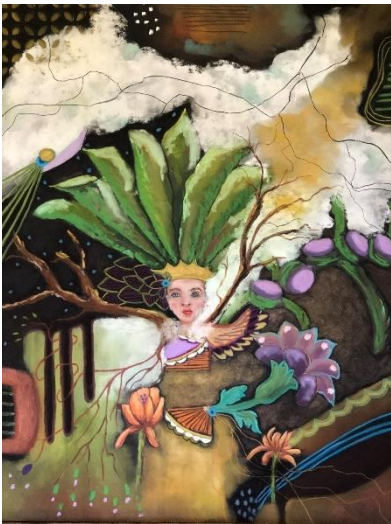
Lisa Melcher
VAL Liaison



Unlike many, I did not start drawing/painting when I was a child or teen. I also did not obtain an art degree in college. I actually have an Associate in Science, Bachelors in Electrical Engineering and Masters in Automotive Engineering. So now you are probably questioning the whole left brain versus right brain theory, right?

After working in Engineering for many years, I went back to school to obtain a degree in Interior Design. It was at this time that I took an elective class titled, "Intro to Design." This class was not at all what I was expecting, it was more of an art class. Although I thoroughly enjoyed this class, it was still not the beginning of my creative art endeavor.

I started painting about 3 years after I moved to The Villages. I joined an acrylic painting group at El Santiago Recreation Center. Although I still enjoy painting in acrylics, I also use oils, mixed media, pastels, pen/pencil, acrylic inks, watercolor.... I tend to get bored easily and want to continue to learn, so I like to switch up my media and subject matter often. I love bold colors and shapes although I find that difficult and tend to get lost in the minute details many times.





Scholarship Program



Helen Poor, Chair

Our April **VAA SCHOLARSIP DAY** was again a very special event. More spring applications from our three-county area provided us with four very bright and talented young artists. Their portfolios were diversified and surely reflected the changing times in Florida high school art departments and curriculums. There were winners from schools in all three counties including our Villages Charter High School. Also, for the first time we have a winner who will major in computer art at a Florida University.

Members, parents and friends enjoyed displays of the students works, heard about their college plans and dreams of possible art careers. The Following are our winning student artists for 2024.



Mildred Moya	Mount Dora HS	\$3,000 winner
Milo Moore	West Port HS	\$1,000 winner
Lilly Liu	Villages Charter HS	\$3,000 winner
Hannah Funke	North Marion HS	\$5,000 winner

Also, a huge **Thank you** goes out to Co-Chair Marge McQueston, Brian Dickson, Joan Beeman, Fran Naughton, Judy Nahmias, and Frank Zampardi for your help with our selection interviews and program presentations.all so terrific with the kids! We also hope you enjoyed the great article and photo coverage of our winners in The Daily Sun, thanks to Michael Fortuna.

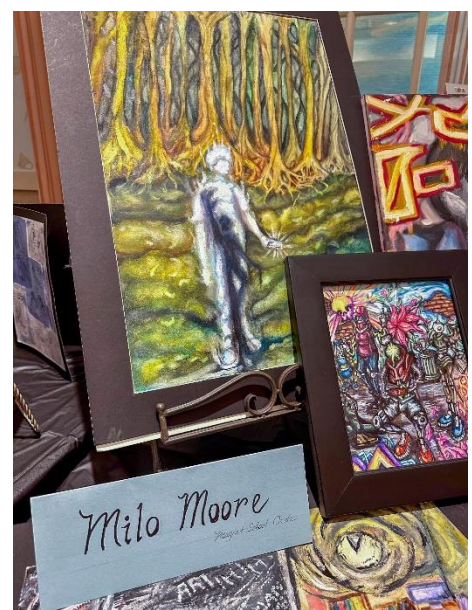
Next month we hope to have some visuals of the students and their work to share with all of you. They will be graduating from their respective high schools in May and will be the college class of 2028!

As alwaysThank you for your input and support!

- *Helen Poor for The VAA Scholarship Program*



Our Scholarship Winners!





La Galleria Exhibit

Meg Hay, Chair

A Call to Artists – The VAA La Galleria Summer Fine Arts Exhibit – Ribbons and Monetary Awards

Our Summer 2024 La Galleria Show **will hang Saturday, June 8, 2024** at La Hacienda Recreation Center. **The registration forms and instructions are now on the VAA website under FORMS.** The show ends Saturday, September 14.

The following awards will be given: 1st Place \$100.00, 2nd Place \$75.00 and 3rd Place \$50.00. Our judge for this show is noted artist and teacher David Fithian, who works in a variety of media.

The **postmarked deadline** for registration forms is **June 3.**

Don't delay, get your registration forms in the mail and let's make this another wonderful exhibit at LaGalleria.

Reminder: Pick up of your artwork from the Spring 2024 exhibit is at the same time, 8:30 to 9:30 am.



ANNEX Exhibit

Catherine Sullivan, Chair

To those of you who have previously entered your art in one of our ANNEX Exhibits, thank you.

The deadline for receiving your Entry Form and Fee for our next ANNEX EXHIBIT is June 7th so there is still time to create a new piece or to choose from one you have already completed. You can download the current Registration **Form** and **Rules** on the VAA website: www.visualartsassociation.com. As usual, this is a BOGO Exhibit, and you must choose which entry will be judged while the BOGO is a BONUS piece. This Exhibit which is open to the public will run from June 15 through October 5, 2024.

Your original art must be delivered to The Sumter County Office/Sheriffs' Office on **Saturday, June 15th between 8:30am and 9:30am** for installation. My Exhibit Committee will be there to accept your entry in the first room as you enter the side entrance. The Installation Committee will be busy removing the previous exhibit for pickup as well as hanging the current exhibit. This is a very small area in which to work, and your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please do not stay any longer than necessary.

Judging will be done privately on a separate date (TBD) by an independent judge. The winners will be notified on that date by phone or email. There will not be a Reception.

I'll be happy to respond to any questions or concerns you may have regarding this Exhibit.



Conversations



Martha Ayotte

Are Artists Born or Taught? The Psychology of Skill

By Antoine Khanji

When children first begin to explore art and the process of creating it, results vary widely. What can eventually be seen as a “natural talent” might occur without prompting from a teacher or parent, while other children practice drawing the same thing over and over again until it is finally recognizable—or even spectacular.

So, the question remains—are artist born or are they taught? And is artistic skill a prerequisite that an artist has from birth or is it something they develop over time and with practice? From ancient times, philosophers have argued that the truly great masters of art, literature, and music were born with a gift from the gods. This concept of natural talent continues today, and by its very definition, allows an individual a steep learning curve, through which he or she acquires skills quickly with less practice or hard work than what would be required of the average person.

The Case of Two Artistic Siblings

Orazio Gentileschi, a 17th century Baroque painter in Rome, ensured that both of his children—including his daughter, thus going against cultural norms—received the best art education available. While both pupils would go on to become famous painters, it was his daughter, Artemisia, who would become the better painter, even surpassing her father’s ability.

She later became the first female member of the Academy of Design in Florence and she paved what was a difficult path for women painters of her day. Her brother, Francesco Gentileschi, would also go on to become a painter, but would not achieve nearly the degree of his sister’s fame. er, did this mean that Artemisia was a natural born talent? And if her brother acquired skills in his practice but was unable to reach his sister’s mastery, does this mean that the truly great artists were simply born with talent?

The Psychology of Skill Acquisition

To answer these questions, it’s important to look at human psychology and what happens in the process of honing a skill. In his paper entitled “[The Psychology of Skill Acquisition](#),” author R.H. Sharp defines skills as: (A) intentional, i.e. goal directed, (b) learned, (c) organized and coordinated, and (d) not just the simple connection of responses to stimuli, but involving central integration. This latter point is reflected in the term which is now frequently used to



define most skills whether previously termed “motor”, “physical” or “mental” skills, etc., and that is the term perceptual-motor skill, which emphasizes the important relation that exists between the stimulus and subsequent response.

The author goes on to discuss how the acquisition of skills, being learned and goal-directed, is limited in that there is a maximum amount of information a person can process at a given time. He writes, “We say that man has a limited channel capacity, which is reached when increasing the amount of information input does not lead to further increases in the amount transmitted.”

“Practice Makes Perfect”

Considering this, an artist who is not born with natural talent would be at a disadvantage to one who was born with it—but only if they spend the same amount of time practicing. Since Gentileschi’s children likely spent similar hours in practice, we can only assume that Artemisia was simply born with more natural talent as an artist than her brother. Had she not developed her natural talent through practice, along with her brother, it is unlikely that she would have reached such heights of fame as an artist in her own right.

Classical Greek physician, Hippocrates, once wrote, “First of all, a natural talent is required; for when Nature opposes, everything else is in vain; but when Nature leads the way to what is most excellent, instruction in the art takes place.” If nature or birth has indeed gifted an artist with raw talent, there are few limits to what she or he can accomplish with enough practice. However, natural talent can also be wasted, or perhaps leaned on too heavily without enough focus on honing it. In cases such as this, the artist who was born without natural talent but has worked hard to practice an artistic skill can rise above those born with such skills naturally.

The true question to ask, then, is not whether artists are born or made. The question to ask is how much time and effort does an artist spend perfecting his or her craft? It is this focus on honing one’s ability that either turns a natural-born talent into a master or an acquired skill into a work of art.

Happy
Mother's
Day!





Members Gallery

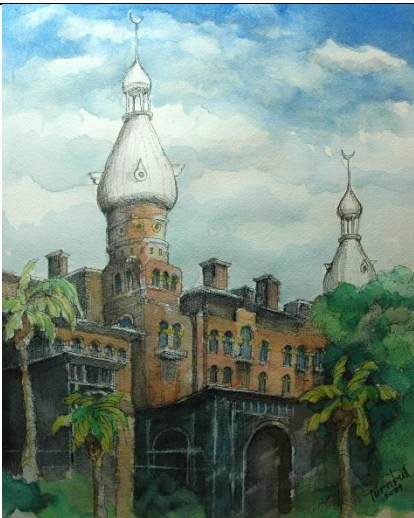
Members: PLEASE provide feedback for each artist's photo below that includes email



Wanda Boyd, "Marsh Life"
Oil and cold wax on cradleboard
Wboyd2009@yahoo.com



Leona Asta, "Rascals-Groovin' on a Sunny Afternoon"
Medium: mixed, Size: 24" x 24"



Alexander Turnbull, "University of Tampa"
Pen, Ink and Watercolor,
sturnbull007@yahoo.com



Nan Kohr, "Antelope Canyon"
Acrylic
Kohr240@gmail.com



Stephen Friedman, "After the Storm"
Digital Artistry



Jo-Ann Rosa, "Hurdles"
Acrylic and Resin

Remember to bring one or two of your works of art to the next membership meeting to show off! Friday, May 3, 1:00p, SeaBreeze Rec Center.





Events & Opportunities



Village Art Workshops

Art in the Heart of Florida

CLASSES AND EVENTS FOR MAY

ARTFUL TUESDAYS



May 7
Kathy Mantel
Watercolor Batik

May 14
Bev Hennessy
Watercolor with Masa Paper



May 21
Cindy Vener
Abstract Acrylic



Events & Opportunities

OPEN STUDIO WEDNESDAYS

Open Studio extended days and hours!
EVERY Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm.
Come enjoy starting (or finishing) a project
in a creative, inspiring environment.



TRADITIONAL THURSDAYS
WITH LIONEL:
May 9, 16, 23 and 30



Bulletin Board



PO Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

visualartsassociation.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg - *Members Gallery*

Friday, May 3, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

Membership Mtg

Friday, June 1, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

La Galleria Exhibit *

Saturday, June 8.
8:30-9:30 a.m. hanging
Register by June 1st

Annex Exhibit *

June 15, 8:30 – 9:30 am
(pick up- drop off)
Register by June 1st

July – August Summer Break

* *indicates show or exhibit activity*

VAA Executive Board

President	Nan Kohr	kohr240@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Carol Reynolds	caroljr46@gmail.com
Secretary	Betty Eich	bettybrock@comcast.net
Treasurer	Connie Giebels	cgiebels43@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Lee Asta
Marge McQueston
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr
Catherine Sullivan

Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor
Sally LaBaugh
Cheri Ptacek
Lisa Melcher
Karyn Zais
Eileen Sklon

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

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