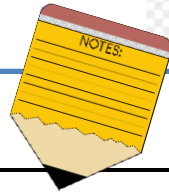




Nan's Notes



Nan Kohr, President

*The future lies before you like waves lapping up onto a Florida beach.
Find a sea shell to inspire your next artwork....
And may 2025 provide you with the **best** of inspirations all year.*

The next **“Artists ‘Round the Square”** is in Spanish Springs on **January 26th**. Come show off your art! The form you need is on www.visualartsassociation.com under ARTS Registration.

Next, show off your stuff at the Sheriff’s **Annex Exhibit** on **February 1st** where the general public comes to do business. A change for this venue is that there is no fee, no judge, no ribbon and no critiques – just share your art. We welcome your artwork that can be hung. It’s an opportunity to sell your art!

If you are planning ahead, sign up for the **Winter Fine Art Show** to be held **February 8th** at Laurel Manor. This is one of the **best** shows to show off the **Best** of your **Best!** (*Priority registration will begin the first week of January*).

Happy New Art Year!

Nan Kohr, president

Eileen Sklon, acting vice president

Betty Eich, secretary

Connie Giebels, treasurer

New Members

Darlene Hayes, Chair

Aixa Deluca

Aixa Renta-Deluca
aixa@delucastudio.com
Village: Monarch Grove



Aixa's creative path includes working as a Graphic Designer, Art Director and professional photographer before dedicating more time to painting mostly in oils and pastels. Her love for nature and wildlife inspire her. Aixa's paintings have been on exhibit at the Winter Garden Museum of Art (SOHO), Winter Garden City Hall, Museum of Art of Ventura County, Buena Ventura



and San Pedro Art Association Gallery, Ventura Community Health Hospital as well as in the Ventura and Lake County fairs where most of the paintings won awards. Her work can be seen on her website at www.delucastudio.com

OIL PAINTINGS: I use safflower oil and soap to clean my brushes and also oil and solvent free medium instead of mineral spirits as I paint to avoid solvent fumes. My paintings are then varnished to protect them for many years to come.

PASTELS: My pastel paintings are created using pastel pencils, pan pastels, and soft pastels of various hardness. The pastel paintings range from lightly photorealistic to very loose and painterly allowing the velvety pastels to show the intensity of the colors and the buttery texture. I love pastels!

DIGITAL PAINTING: I was trained in Photoshop during my career as a graphic designer and use it to work compositions and sometimes play with color and values before painting but like to create paintings using Procreate app on my iPad as it gives me the freedom to create art on the go without having to carry all the supplies.



Spotlight on You



Carol O'Brien

Janet Marks – VAA Librarian



Art was my minor at Ball State University in Indiana. I did nothing big while I raised my children.

But after retirement from banking, I moved to The Villages and that's when I delved back into it, and it's been a blessing.

I love color, which is easy to see from my artwork. My ultimate goal is to put a smile on the faces of those who view my work.





Scholarship Program



Helen Poor, Chair

It's that time of the year and the VAA is again beginning its mission to find the best regional artists in the high school class of 2025.

With your help and support, we can recognize and reward their talent and dreams. Thank you to all those who have been part of this effort in years past. We so appreciate your continued support and welcome new members to join us. Updates and activities will follow in the weeks and months ahead!

Wishing you all a wonderful New Year!

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



Conversations



Martha Ayotte

AI Art: Whoa, Computers Can Make Art Now?

You know how computers are getting super smart? Well, now they can make art, too! We're talking paintings, music, sculptures - the whole shebang! But this awesome new tech also brings up some tricky questions.

Is AI Really Being Creative, Though?

Some people say AI can't be creative because it just follows instructions and uses information that humans give it. It's like a fancy art tool, but it needs a person to tell it what to do. Others think AI *is* creative because it comes up with surprising stuff that even its creators didn't expect. It's like AI can see things in art that we can't! The truth is, nobody really knows for sure. "Creativity" is a tough nut to crack, even for humans! But one thing's for certain: AI is making us rethink what art can be.

If a Robot Makes a Painting, Who Owns It?

Imagine a computer creates a masterpiece. Who gets to say it's theirs? The company that made the computer? The person who told it what to paint? Or maybe even the computer itself? This is a really confusing question that lawyers and lawmakers are still trying to figure out. This matters because if nobody owns AI art, then anyone can copy it and sell it, and that might not be fair to the artists who make a living from their work.

Is AI Art a Threat to Human Artists?

Some artists are worried that AI will take their jobs. AI can make art faster and cheaper than humans, so what happens to the people who create art for a living? But some people think AI can actually *help* artists. It can do the boring parts of art-making, giving artists more time to focus on the fun stuff. It can also help people who aren't great at art make cool things anyway! It all comes down to how we decide to use AI. Will we use it to replace artists, or will we use it to help them make even more amazing art?

The Future of Art is...Interesting!

AI art is changing the art world fast. It's making us ask big questions about what art is, who makes it, and what it means to be creative. As AI gets even smarter, we need to talk about these questions and make sure we're using this new technology in a way that's fair and awesome for everyone!

*This article was written by AI Gemini and edited by Martha Ayotte.
These main topics will be explored in future newsletters.*



Artists 'Round The Square (ARTS)

Nan Kehr, Chair

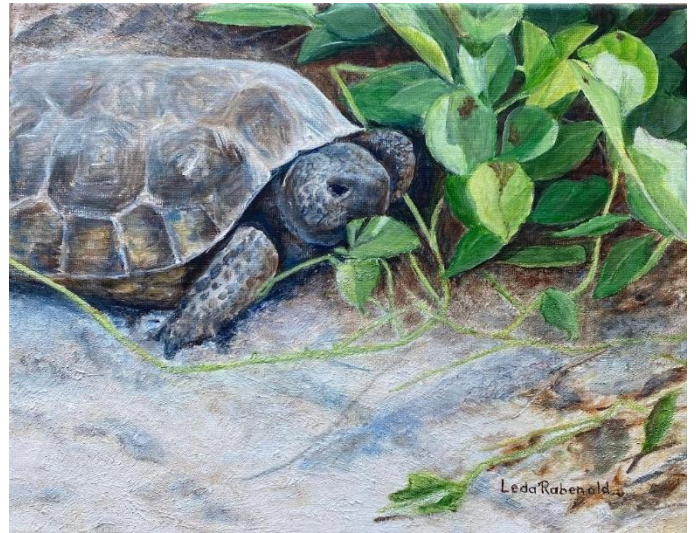
ARTS
ARTISTS 'ROUND THE SQUARE
Sunday
Jan. 26, 2025
1-4 pm
Spanish Springs
The Villages, FL
Sponsored By
The Visual Arts Association &
The Entertainment Department

Members Gallery

Please send critiques to those with email



Peter Kushner
"Looks Like SpongeBob Missed Me"
Colored Pencils



Leda Rabenold
"Siesta Key Turtle"
Acrylics



Nan Kohr
"Coming In"
Acrylic on Canvas
Kohr240@gmail.com



Betty Eich
"Shadow Camel Caravan," Sahara, Morocco
Photography
Bettybrock@comcast.net

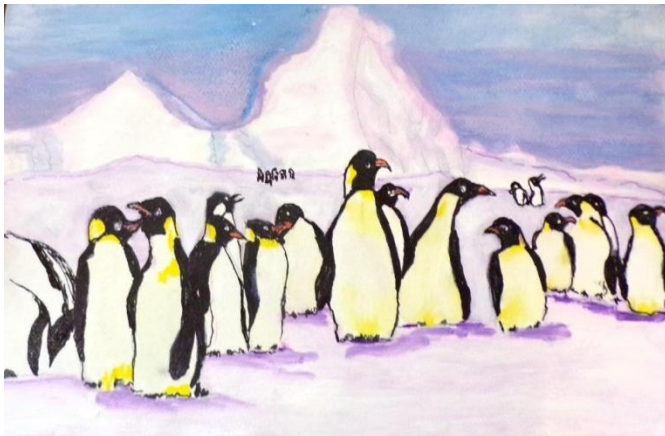
Members Gallery



Merilee Tutcik
Title: Spinning
Acrylic 18" x 24"



Ellen Cora
Blue-footed Boobies...Galapagos Is. (Ecuador)
Multi-media – watercolor, acrylic (waves)



Ellen Cora
Antarctic Emperor Penguins
Watercolor plus Metallic Watercolor



Steven Friedman
"The Morning Coffee Club"
Digital art

Members Gallery



Doris Glapion
"Bearded tree" 22x28
Acrylic



Carol Savacchio
Personalized wine barrel-tempered glass cutting board



Ed Kyttle
(title and medium not available)



Brian Dickson
"Impossible Bridge" (12 x 6 ft optical illusion)
Acrylics

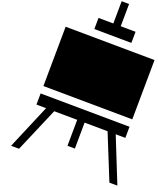
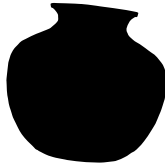


Brian Dickson
"Portrait from Life"
Acrylics



Cheri Ptacek
"Nature's Ballet"
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 CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS WITH LOCAL INSTRUCTORS:

Frank Zampardi

"Planning for Composition"

Seven-week Class

January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 14, 21 and 28 (skipping February 7)

9:00 am - 11:45 am

All Levels Welcome!

Lionel Sanchez

"Designing a Painting from a Photograph"

January 9, 30 & February 13, 27

9:30 am - 2:30 pm (30-minute lunch)

All Levels Welcome

Take one class OR take all four

Michael Sastre

"Drawing Fundamentals for Beginners and Beyond" Six-week Class

January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 14 & 21

1:00 - 4:00 pm

All Levels Welcome, But Beginners Encouraged!

Cathy Stone and Kathy Guido

"Furry Pets on Suede Board"

January 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 2025

1 pm-4 pm

Colored pencil 1 and 2, or a knowledge of colored pencil is required for this class.

Mark Polomchak

"Series of Watercolor Workshops"

January 16, February 6, 20, March 6, 20, April 3, 17 and May 1

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All Levels Welcome

Bev Hennessy and Wanda Boyd

"Batik Blossoms: Hollyhocks on Masa Paper" Watercolor Workshop

January 26, 2025

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch break

All Levels Welcome

VISIT WWW.VILLAGEARTWORKSHOPS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bulletin Board



PO Box 964
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1655

visualartsassociation.com

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Membership Mtg

Friday, January 3, 1:00pm
Sea Breeze

ARTS (Artists '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

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Betty Eich, Photo Frame
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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**