



Banner artists revealed inside

The President's Message

Hi everyone,

Seems like a very long time since I have written to you. I am starting this letter on the 18th of August. I have been expecting an article by Michael Fortuna and it was in this morning's paper. He interviewed 4 of our VAA artists about how they stayed motivated during this pandemic. Jo Magram, Marilyn Wright, Susan Donohoe and Jo Ruth Patterson did a great job. Thanks to the ladies and Michael for a job well done.

I know all of you were as disappointed as I was that we weren't notified about the airing of our **TV Art Show** in time for any of us to view it. We have been told it **will air again on Sept. 22** starting at 6pm on Comcast Channel 2. It will appear within the 30-minute Daily Sun News Show which then airs every half hour for a 24-hour period. This means the last time it can be seen is starting at 5:30pm Sept. 23. We are also expecting a disk with the show on it and we plan to either put the show on our website or in the newsletter or both when we get the disk. **GOOD NEWS--** They want to do another show in late Oct. or Nov. with a fall theme!

We are having a board meeting on Thursday afternoon. I will be finishing this after the meeting and hopefully I will have some good news. So bye for now, I'll finish this later.

Today is the 21st. The board meeting was great. Nan Kohr is making changes to the Brownwood ARTS. I will let her tell you about it. I think you will really like it.

Looks like we **MAY** be able to have a membership meeting in October, although we will not be having snacks because we want to be able to get as many members in the room as possible (social distancing and mask). Without the large round tables, we can get more chairs in the room. We may be able to have the tables again at the November meeting as well as snacks.

I would like to start a monthly **Art Challenge**. I will be notifying you what the subject is and you would check your reference file or go around the Villages and choose a scene that fits the subject (maybe bridges, or water ways, or maybe building) --who knows. You would submit a picture of your art (no mat or frame) via email by a specified date. Entries would be posted in a separate publication and members will vote. The three place-winners would be in the next month's publication. Watch for a special email notification.



Also I would like you to notify me at grannieb43@gmail.com if you would like to do plein air painting. We could organize a place or two and you would have a chance to paint and socialize with some of the members.

I am sure you remember we are not having the Fall Festival of Art show. I pray we will be able to have the Fine Art Show in February.

I'm long winded today, forgive me. Have a great day, stay healthy. See you in October.

Barb Justice, Pres. VAA

Reminder:

Submit/Renew your Annual Dues of \$15
Download the Membership/Renewal form from our Website
Mail form with check payable to VAA to:
Janeen Whetstone
3420 Ridgewood Path
The Villages, FL 32163

New Members



David Wagner
Phone: 412-759-4345



Email: wagld830@gmail.com

My wife, Lynne, and I are full timers here in The Village of Fenny as of January, 2020. We absolutely love it here and have almost made it through our first summer successfully- our greatest fear having



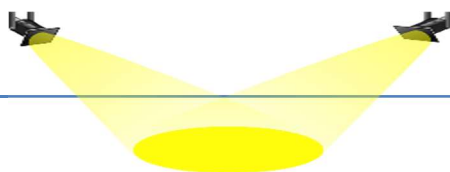
come from Minnetonka, Minnesota. Lynne insisted I have a hobby before I retired back in 2016. I dusted off my stained-glass tools from 30 years ago, attended a couple classes and took a real liking to leaded stained glass. My first works were 8 geometric abstract windows, all highlighting different jewel tones. After that, I was hooked. Later, in 2018, I experimented with agates and fused glass. Technique-wise, it was 180 degrees in the other direction but also rewarding.

My most recent endeavor is designing and completing a three-piece mosaic (triptych) for our front outdoor entryway. I think it'll be done by this Fall.

I'm an avid walker, golfer, have my own pool noodle, and play 2nd Trumpet in The Villages German Band. Octoberfest is right around the corner. I don't know exactly where I'll land in my stained-glass journey but I sure am enjoying the ride. BTW, I never took an art class in my life and think the knowledge and experts the VAA shares is priceless to us amateurs. And I've only been to my first meeting. Happy to be a member.



Spotlight on You



MEET RON KUCINSKI

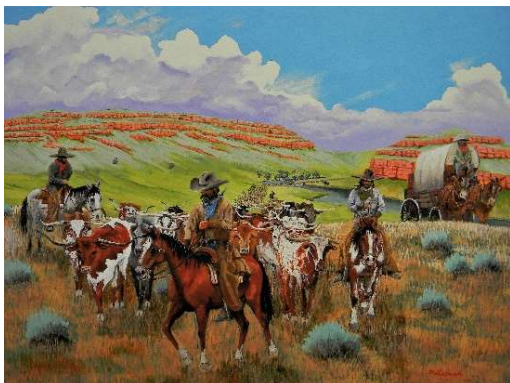
I was born and raised in the Buffalo New York area and after marrying my wife, Marge in 1960, we raised three wonderful sons, all married and lots of beautiful grandchildren. We spent almost three decades in the small Village of Silver Creek where Marge became the Treasurer and I joined the New York State Police. In 1978 at the urging of a co-worker, I signed up for an adult education class in oil painting at a local high school. It was for one night a week for about 4 weeks. I painted for about 15 years, completed maybe 15 paintings and sold a few of them. Oil painting began to lose its appeal to me because of the



appeal to me because of the



length of time it took to complete a piece. That along with job promotions and raising three sons forced me to give up painting for the next 15 years.



In 1996 Marge and I retired down to Naples Florida. She saw an ad in the local paper announcing art classes at the Naples Art Association. At her urging, I joined the association and signed up for my post graduate education in art. It was again, one night a week for six weeks with

instruction being given by a young lady from New York City with an art degree from Buffalo State Teachers College. After we all introduced ourselves, I became the teacher's pet and passed with high honors. Even with all that art education, I consider myself self-taught.



Around 1998, I bought myself a show tent and for the next six years I joined the weekend art festival circuit, but on a limited basis and only in Florida and New York. With tent and inventory, we traveled the highways and byways to various locations. In 2006, I had enough of the "work", got rid of the tent and really retired. I pity the poor artists who HAVE to do 30 to 40

festivals a year to make a living. After arriving in The Villages in 2003, I joined the V.A.A. and the V.A.L. and with the number of venues that they offer, I stay busy enough. With the large number of very talented artists in The Villages, I'm sufficiently motivated to try and keep up with them.





I'm a realist artist and while painting is a hobby for me, in order to have adequate room in my garage for my golf cart, I make a concerted effort to sell my paintings. Consequently, I don't zero in on one particular subject matter. I paint land and seascapes, wildlife, architecture, floral and old west subjects. My hope is to appeal to a broader field of art buyers. I think that I made a good choice. Sales are good.

Thank you Visual Arts Association for featuring me!!!

PHOTO FRAME



MEET MAUREEN TERRIEN



I caught the photography bug in 2005 when I lived in the seaside town of Lauderdale By The Sea but didn't actually start creating 'photo art' until moving to The Villages and joining the Photo Club and the VAA in 2010.



Live Oak Tree at Fenney



Egret Embrace

My art isn't about capturing a moment in time - it's about showing the art in life. The beauty that is in the extraordinary and even the ordinary, from the striking majesty of an egret in flight to the charm of The Villages and beyond. It's a passion that drives me to create art that is vibrant with the colors of life. Art is everywhere.



It's what inspires me to take a photograph of something that is already beautiful and then transform it to a piece of fine art. Every photo artist has their own unique style. I hope you enjoy mine!



Sunrise



Amelia Island

Banner Artists Revealed

Painting #1	"Full Bloom" Watercolor	Carol Hickman
Painting #2	"Spanish Mangoes" Watercolor	Marge McQueston
Painting #3	"Bird of Paradise" Acrylics	Diane Weekley

NOTE: The VAA Art Show on Comcast Channel 2 will be again aired on September 22 starting at 6 pm. It will appear within the 30-minute Daily Sun News Show which airs every half hour for a 24-hr period. The last time it can be seen is starting at 5:30 pm on September 23.



Conversations

With Martha Ayotte



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

DIGITAL ART

Digital art is an artistic work that uses *digital* technology, such as computers, software, digital tablets or scanners as part of the creative process. Just as traditional artists use pencils, paper, canvases, brushes or sculpting tools as part of the creative process. Historically, the first digital artwork was created by Kenneth Knowlton and Leon Harmon. They took a photograph of a nude woman and converted into computer pixels (large squares).

In 1985 Andy Warhol, who used the Commodore computer and ProPaint software created a portrait of a kind of bored looking Debbie Harry.



There are many techniques to create digital art. These are the more popular ones.

- You can start from scratch with a blank digital “canvas” and literally draw with your mouse or digital pen.
- Another technique is to scan in photographs or traditional art and alter them with various programs.
- Fractal/Algorithmics art is made from mathematical calculations
- Dynamic art is painted by an autonomous system, namely a computer.
- Raster Painting is done on electronic devices. You actually paint in strokes just like traditional painting, and you can mimic watercolor or oils.

There are also many programs to create digital art. Some of the more popular ones are Photoshop, Corel Painter, Rebele, Artweaver, and Artrage. GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a public domain program, similar to Photoshop, that is free to download. Then there are the easier programs such as Topaz, Fotosketcher, Snapart and Jixipix to name a few. They rely on filters and can manipulate photographs to portray a certain technique, or a look of conventional art.



If you paint a traditional painting in oils, then that is your original painting, and you can sell that as original and also make prints to sell. If the artist creates digital art on his computer, does he have an original? The only way he can, is to makes one print and then destroys the file. That print is the original artwork. He can then sell copies of that print.

Some traditional artists do not believe digital art is really art. They believe all you have to do is press some keys on the computer and you have art. This may be true with some easier software programs, but to become a successful digital artist you must understand the principles of art first, along with computer, photography and math skills. On the other hand, today's traditional artists are having to learn more technology with the use of computers, scanners and printers.

The definition of art is that it is created with imagination and skill, it is beautiful or expresses important ideas or feelings. I believe some digital art meets these criteria. But can digital artworks be considered "fine art"? Wikipedia definition of fine art is: "Visual art considered to have been created primarily for aesthetic and intellectual purposes and judged for its beauty and meaningfulness". I believe Digital art can fulfill this definition. However, historically, there are only five main types of fine art: Painting, sculpture, architecture, music and poetry, and performing arts including theatre and dance. Unfortunately, digital art has not yet made the list.

Steven Friedman, who is an active member of the VAA, is a traditional artist and a digital artist. Steven uses his own photos and paintings to create his work. He considers himself a Master Digital Artist, having spent over 10,000 hours mastering his digital art skills.

At the end of this article are a few of Steven's digital art paintings. They take skill and imagination to create, they are beautiful, and they express ideas or feelings. I personally believe this is art.

Here is a link to his best digital work:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21Aiw80yjBWaEngAE&v=photos&id=A252F0BE67C4A5D2%2130672&cid=A252F0BE67C4A5D2>

Here is a link to view example of fractals: <http://www.graphicmania.net/45-amazing-examples-of-fractal-art/>





Scholarship News

Checks have been sent for our recent winners. Three have left for their respective campus schools, and one will be distance attending this fall. We admire their fortitude and spirit in a year of such health, academic and financial challenges.

Our scholarship certificates & gifts were sent out to them in June. We hope at some future time to have them come to meet with our members and show us some of their portfolio & college art. Best wishes to the college class of 2024.

This is the 16th year that the Visual Art Assoc. has given scholarships to deserving high school artists. Started with inspiration, enthusiasm & creative fundraising on the part of early VAA members, an additional endowment was obtained to help insure annual awards. As of summer 2020\$133,000 dollars has been awarded to 74 winners in our tri-County area.

Special thanks go out to our most recent supporters, The Figure and Portrait Group of the Villages. Jan Barone, and that talented membership have been loyal benefactors to Scholarship over many seasons. Our winners and the VAA truly appreciate their generosity and support.

Please remember.... time, creative ideas, financial gifts & artistic donations make the VAA Art Scholarships possible. We hope we can we count on you!

In the good news dept. The VAA and its Scholarship Section were able to interest Channel 2 Television of the Villages in highlighting our organization, its history and its scholarship outreach. Along with this, the work of over 70 of our artists was featured in a first TV showing in Aug. This initial on-air exhibit has been reformatted and will be featured again on Sept. 22nd starting with the 6:00PM News & all day with the hourly Villages News on the 23rd. This encore art show in Sept, will be announced again before showings. Look for our updates on that....near show time. **A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to VAA member & photographer Dave Boege** for all his patience and hours of work to assemble & fine tune all the art for this TV presentation. What a terrific job !

Right now we are looking ahead to what is going to be a most challenging fall and end of 2020. Currently we are not able to meet, have our activities/shows and usual fund raising opportunities for 2021 Scholarships. **However, new possibilities are under consideration** and being explored at this writing. Also, when Show Collaborations and Art Films resume we will have updates / listings for you.

Its time for optimism and creativity, and our membership has plenty of both. We are asking for ideas & help! If you have suggestions, know of opportunities or a fund raising venuedo let us know. **Look for our future announcements coming soon.**

Be patient, stay well, and MAKE GREAT ART !

Helen Poor & The VAA Scholarship Team 352- 561- 4474



Past Scholarship Winners

Althea Rapio

The following images are from the freshman art works of **Althea Rapio**. She was VAA scholarship winner in 2019 and is attending the University of South FL. She was an IB student from Vanguard HS in Marion County and is majoring in Animation. This semester she is working from home on line, and has been elected President of the Animation/Illustration Society at her school. The Painting shown is an oil showcasing texture and you will enjoy her portraits of herself & friends.

As told by Althea: This painting of the fabric is made of oil paint from my Beginning Painting class last fall. We used different techniques to learn how to mix colors from a limited basic palette as well as different usages of brushes and palette knives.

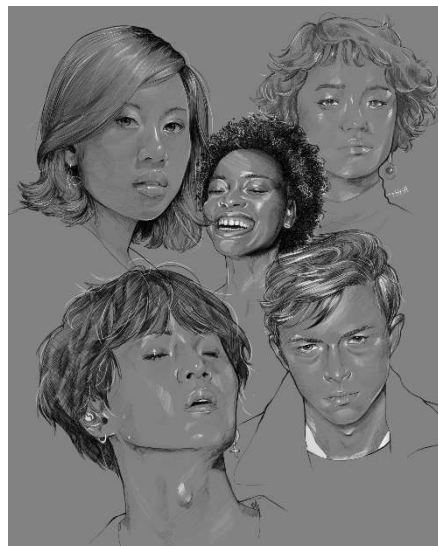


This is a black and white charcoal drawing from my Beginning Drawing Class. We had a little tricycle as our model and we drew it while watching.





Over the summer I had taken an Illustration Class and we drew Portraits digitally on Photoshop.



Last year was my first time in college studying for art and I truly enjoyed my time. I took several different courses and learned a variety of techniques, incorporating them all throughout my time on campus. I also joined Animation Club last fall, and I am President this year as I am trying to become an animator. This fall I am continuing my schooling online from the safety of my home, and holding meetings through Microsoft Teams and other online platforms. Even while it is a little more of a challenge to work in one space and I miss actual class, I still am excited for this semester.

Bailey Brown is now going into her sophomore year at Ringling College of Art in Sarasota. She was a VAA Scholarship winner in 2019 from Forest HS and is an illustration major at this time. She is back on campus this fall by choice and feels that is the experience that inspires her to do her best work. Her comments and images below are a small window into her assignments and children's book style of art work.

As told by Bailey Brown:

I hope the Association will enjoy the work I've made over the past year. The pieces I've sent you were the ones that were well received by my instructors, and I believe they are some of my best work yet! Enjoy!



The first still life is a self portrait with personal objects: a stuffed cat toy I made, one of my houseplants, and a soda can. This was a digital assignment from my Fall semester.

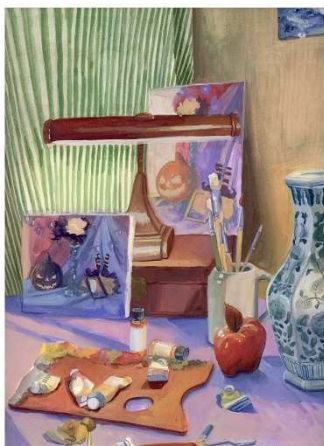
Bailey Brown

Project 4 Mood

11/02/19



The next two are from my Painting class from Spring semester, the first was an in class still life, and the second was from my dorm.



Bailey Brown





The last one is from my sculpture class from Spring semester as well, where we designed characters to make sculptures of. One of my less favorite classes, but I'm still happy with the results.

Thank you again and I hope the VAA stays safe and healthy!

-Bailey Brown



ARTS (Artists Around the Square)

is to be

A Celebration of Creativity on Sunday, November 1st.

Each artist may display their original artwork within the assigned 12' x 6' sidewalk space at Brownwood's Paddock Square. For this show artwork is not limited to three pieces on one easel. Arrange your art in a professional display suitable for outdoor viewing. Use ties and weights to secure your art arrangement while being conscious of safety for all. Entry fee is \$20 with no additional cost for browse racks (up to two racks allowed; however, **tables** or **boxes** are not). Time to indicate your interest in participation at this art event is to be submitted by September 15th to Nan Kohr at kohr240@gmail.com. Actual registration will be in October.

Remember to submit your VAA dues and The Villages' Waiver (available at all recreation centers), both required to participate in this art event.



Events & Opportunities

Dear VAA members,

As many of you know, Bev and I have taken every precaution to ensure our classes and workshops at **Village Art Center** are held in a clean and safe environment. We have arranged the tables as far apart as viable, require masks or face coverings of all attendees, and request that anyone feeling unwell, running a temperature, or has been diagnosed or been exposed to anyone with Covid-19 not attend a class at Village Art Center. In addition we've installed a Mylar shield between the instructor and the rest of the class. We are not providing coffee, tea or snacks, and we disinfect all tables and other high touch surfaces between classes.

While this is done to keep our attendees safe, it also means for the coming season there are only sixteen seats per workshop. **That means if you'd like to get a seat in one of our workshops you'll need to sign up early.** And what a wonderful list of workshops it is:

October 5-7 -- Anne Abgott, Watercolor -- www.anneabgott.com

October 12-14 -- Libit Jones, Watercolor -- libit.net

October 20 and 21 -- Jane Slivka, Acrylic -- www.janeslivkagallery.com

October 26 and 27 -- Gene Rizzo, Watercolor -- generizzo.com

November 2-4 -- Karen Fletcher Braverman, Watercolor -- kfbraverman.artspan.com/home

November 9-11 -- Tom Jones, Watercolor -- www.tomjonesartist.com

January 10-14 -- David R. Becker, Acrylic and Watercolor -- www.beckerart.net

January 19 and 20 -- Joye Moon, Watercolor -- www.joyemoon.com

January 25-28 -- Soon Warren, Watercolor -- www.soonwarren.com

February 8-11 -- Judi Betts, Watercolor -- www.judibettsaws.com

February 15-17 -- Karen Knutson, Watercolor -- www.karenknutson.com

February 22-24 -- Cynthia Knox, Colored Pencil -- cynthiaknox.com

February 25-26 -- Cynthia Knox, Colored Pencil -- cynthiaknox.com

March 1-3 -- Marie Natale, Watercolor -- www.marienatale.com

March 17-19 -- Linda Kemp, Acrylic -- www.lindakemp.com

March 22-24 -- Jennifer Stone, Acrylic Collage -- www.jenniferstoneartwork.com/

April 12-14 -- Kathie George, Batik and Watercolor -- <http://www.kathiegeorge.com>

Again, don't miss out; call Wanda Boyd at (804) 536-1794 to register today!



Bulletin Board



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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

(PENDING LIFT OF RESTRICTIONS)

Friday, October 2, 1:00
General Meeting

October 8 deadline *

Online Art Challenge

Sunday, November 1 *

ARTS at Brownwood Paddock Square

Friday, November 6, 1:00
General Meeting

November 8 deadline *

Online Art Challenge

Friday, December 4, 1:00
General Meeting

December 8 deadline *

Online Art Challenge

Online Art Challenge *

January 8, 2021 deadline

Sunday, January 10, 2021 *

ARTS at Spanish Springs

Saturday, February 8, 2021 *

Winter Show

Also Online Art Challenge deadline

* *indicates show or exhibit activity*

VAA Executive Board

President	Barb Justice	grannieb43@gmail.com
Vice Pres	Catherine Sullivan	cnjsullivan@aol.com
Secretary	Marilyn Wright	marilynwr555@comcast.net
Treasurer	Billie Edwards	billieedwards@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Lee Asta
Marge McQueston
Frank Zampardi
Nan Kohr

Appointed Board Members

Helen Poor
Bobbi Ruben
Sally LaBaugh
Janeen Whetstone
Cheri Ptacek

Newsletter Staff

Sally LaBaugh, New Members
sallylabaugh@gmail.com

Helen Poor, Scholarship
helenpoor@comcast.net

Betty Eich, Photo Frame
bettybrock@comcast.net

Darlene Hayes,
Banner Art & Spotlight Artist
dgh@comcast.net

Martha Ayotte, Conversations
mayotte22@aol.com

Cheri Ptacek, Editor
ptace002@umn.edu

**No Meeting is scheduled in
September.**

We will keep you informed as soon as
we are able to meet again.

We hope to see you in October!