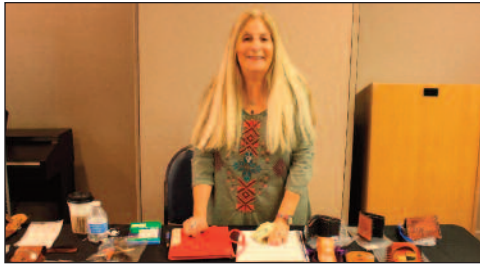




# Verdes Fine Art & Holiday Gift Show: Huge Success

By Margaret Sullivan



Sunny Botega Bonoff



Ed Botkin



Kathy Brancheau

This show, in the planning since April of this year by Chris Demma and Margaret Sullivan, seemed a huge success! Almost 500 eager people jammed the rooms of the Rio Verde Community Center to explore and buy the art of 25 very talented Verdes Art League members. (Almost half of our artists were doing this show for the first time), and Christmas shoppers commented on the wonderful array of art!! At times, there was no room to shop and visit in one area, so guests moved on to another room and then came back when more space was available.

Christmas plants and bowls of candy were on the "resting tables" to entice husbands and grandchildren to wait out their Christmas shopping friends and family. When asked how they heard of the show, about half the visitors said "The Roadrunner," a good portion saw news of the show in the Tonto Verde e-blasts and the rest came to us by way of word of mouth and the sandwich signs. Our fabulous "greeters" were at the front of the Community Center giving out information, and candy, to all who came thru the doors.

For the past five years, Chris Demma and Margaret Sullivan have co-chaired the November show for the Verdes Art League and both feel it is time to give the reigns to other members of the League. They both expressed appreciation to all involved in the show. If you are interested taking over, please contact Jackie Kingsbury at:

[jackiekingsbury29@gmail.com](mailto:jackiekingsbury29@gmail.com)

A final thought - We were not able to advertise outside the Verdes because of covid-19, this year, so had extra monies from show entry fees of over \$600 after expenses. The extra money will be used to help with storage and equipment purchases now that we have extra closet room.

*Continued on Page 6*



**Like us on Facebook**

Newsletter is online at [www.riverdearizona.com](http://www.riverdearizona.com) under Community Center & Verdes Art League, in the Post Office and online at [www.verdesartleague.org](http://www.verdesartleague.org)



Marz Doerflinger

Toni Lowden

Hello fellow artists and art lovers, I'm currently in the middle of driving from Rio Verde to Olympia, Washington for the holiday season. The long drive gives me time to reflect on the year coming to a close and start setting goals for the coming year. Personally, I've found the pandemic a time of tremendous growth. I've had access to instructors around the world that previously had resisted teaching online. I've been able to concentrate on my work without distraction. I've been able to enter exhibitions that have gone virtual, avoiding the hassle and expense of shipping paintings. However, the isolation is wearing thin and I am looking forward to a 2022 filled with in-person classes, workshops, excursions and exhibitions. So far my plans include attending both the Plein Air Convention and the International Association of Pastel Societies conference this spring as well as many of the excursions offered through the Verdes Art League. I hope that you, too, are finding time to reflect on 2021 and begin planning for a fabulous 2022. See you all in January.

Marz



Treasurer Anne Buhler and Kathy Brancheau welcome members to the meeting.

Our year has begun with Marz doing a great job as your new president. We all look forward to Toni Lowden's speedy recovery and return to Rio. I will be assisting Marz as her Co-President until Toni is with us.

New members and new projects will fill our year with exciting events. Join a small group or come along on an excursion. Our first excursion to local art stores was led by Diane Kizewski. Lunch followed as we experimented with Vietnamese food at a PHO restaurant. Diane made the mistake of trying the hot peppers. The rest of us found the food quite mild and delicious. We were not that brave.

I hope you all will join the cookie exchange and show & tell on December 3rd. Come just to visit if baking is not one of your pastimes. Come to talk with your fellow artists to see their latest project. Come for a glass of wine and to wish happy holiday wishes. Come for the fun!

We want to welcome all our new members. Spread the word. We are a fun and talented group of men and women. Perhaps a neighbor is just interested in art and has no medium. They may want to join the excursion group or may want to try new products.

Jackie Kingsbury



VAL General Meeting on November 10th

## New Season New Workshops New Art Excursions

January Art Excursion  
Page 3

Operation Santa Claus  
Page 3

Workshops & Classes  
Pages 4 and 5

## HOLIDAY Party!

Friday, December 3rd  
3:00-5:00pm in the Art Room

Join us to share cookies, wine, and your artwork. Bring 3 dozen cookies and your current project for a show and tell get-together in the Art Room. If you don't bake come anyway! There will be plenty to share. If you have no current project, come anyway. There will be lots of fellowship. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Art Room by the black file box. We don't want to run out of wine or punch. Remember to bring a container to take an assortment of cookies home if you participate in the cookie exchange. Bring your unwrapped children's gift for Operation Santa Claus. See you on the 3rd!



# Art Excursions

January

## Heard Museum Tour With Docent Linda Hefter



Remembering The Future:  
100 Years of Inspiring Art  
Thursday, January 27th  
9:00 am

The Heard Museum Tour is back and we are scheduled to see an exciting exhibit! When we visit in January we will be seeing *Remembering the Future: 100 Years of Inspiring Art*. This exhibit will showcase painting and sculpture produced by leading American Indian artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. Our very own and talented Linda Hefter will be our docent. We are limited to 25 people so sign up soon. There will be a sign-up sheet in the black box in the Art Room.

We will meet in the Rio Verde Community Center parking lot at 9:00 am. We will need drivers. We will receive a "friends discount" which is approximately \$11.00. Members are free. Lunch following at the Heard's Courtyard Cafe. Lunch will be an additional cost.

Any questions, contact:

Diane Kizewski  
715-498-9958  
Dlk\_1021@yahoo.com

Mary Kuhr  
602-430-5898  
marykuhr@gmail.com

February 16th Excursion  
Scottsdale Art Tents

## Mary Kuhr Receives Artist of the Month



Mary with Brilliant Desert

Wild and Free

Mary Kuhr received October "Artist of the Month" in the Fountain Hills Art League. Mary received second place for her *Brilliant Desert*, a 16" x 20" oil on canvas. It took on many renditions to get the perfect balance of light and shadow. Kuhr said the desert has so many outstanding displays of colors, and the prickly pear is no exception. She said the cactus is always a joy to paint as "they burst forth from the desert floor, making us smile."

Mary also received first place for *Wild and Free* at the November meeting. The 16" x 20" oil on canvas was inspired by the Salt River Wild Mustangs... wild and free, dancing and cavorting, tossing their gorgeous heads and manes.

## Marz Doerflinger: Bold Brush Finalist



Marz was a finalist in the September Bold Brush Competition for her 36 x 36" acrylic *Hell Hath No Fury*.

## Operation Santa Claus

By Jacki Westbay



HO, HO, HO! Once again this holiday season, VAL is asking it's generous members to donate an UNWRAPPED toy for a child who might not otherwise receive a holiday gift. We will collect toys (to be placed in the large box located in the Art Room) until December 10th. The toys will then be taken to the Rio Verde Fire Station for them to distribute. In the past it's been suggested that the toys VAL donates could have an "art" theme such as crayons, paints, etc.

## Date Set For Spring Art Show

The third Saturday in March 2022 will be the date of the Verdes Art League Spring Art Show: Saturday, March 19th. Ed Botkin will again chair this event. Look for more information as the date nears.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Botkin at:

ek@edbotkin.com  
480-488-1051



# Classes Workshops

## December

### Large Beaded Cross

With Kathy Morgan  
Saturday, December 4th  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Tonto Verde Multi-purpose Room  
\$45, includes all materials



You will be creating a large 1 foot by 7 foot beaded cross. A treasure for yourself or an amazing gift. Wine will be served following class. Pay Kathy directly.

Register with Kathy by call or email:

**210-240-8674**  
[bigkbig@aol.com](mailto:bigkbig@aol.com)

If you have questions regarding any of the workshops, please contact Educational Program Chairs:

Kathy Brancheau  
[kathybrancheau@gmail.com](mailto:kathybrancheau@gmail.com)  
925-786-3771

Kimberly Schols  
[kimberlybellschols@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlybellschols@gmail.com)  
480-566-5823

Kari Hogden  
[karihogden@gmail.com](mailto:karihogden@gmail.com)  
608-387-1350

### Cowboy Rope Vessel

With Margaret Sullivan  
Tuesday, December 7th  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Margaret's Home  
18518 E Horseshoe Bend, Rio Verde  
\$99, includes all materials  
Limit 7



This is not a gourd class! Vessel will be made from three cowboy ropes - deer horn provided. If a lamp is preferred, add \$10.00 to class fee.

Register with Margaret. Check required to hold your spot. Make check payable to Margaret and mail to 18518 E Horseshoe Bend, Rio Verde AZ 85263.

Contact Margaret:

**480-710-2388**  
[msull3519@aol.com](mailto:msull3519@aol.com)

### Zentangle

With Suzanne O'Malley  
Friday, December 10th  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Rio Verde Art Room  
\$50, materials included  
Limit 10



Zentangles are miniature pieces of planned abstract art created through a very specific method to form structured patterns. The Zentangle Method is an easy to learn, relaxing & a fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns called "Tangles". This workshop will provide step-by-step instructions on how to create tangles & then move onto applying them to create a beautiful art piece.

All materials are included: micron pens, tiles, stumps, pencils, templates and bristol paper are given to you to take home and coloured pencils and gel pens are available for use.

This year the subject will be hummingbirds, geckos and cacti. Please sign up in the Art Room or email [kimberlybellschols@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlybellschols@gmail.com).

Payment is required to hold your spot. Checks payable to Suzanne O'Malley must be placed in envelope along with the sign-up sheet in the black file box in the Art Room.

Workshops Continued on Page 5



## December

### Origami Boxes Plus

With Kathy Brancheau  
Friday, December 17th  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Rio Verde Art Room  
\$25, some materials included  
Limit 6-8



What does a box and a present have in common? With the magic of Origami, they can become one and the same! Join Kathy and find out how you can make beautiful gifts/boxes for yourself, family and friends. We will be decorating larger pieces of paper with markers, pens, and pencils to make great designs to use in the box folding. Then, using colored foil and patterned papers, plus our personal papers, we'll make three different kinds of boxes. If you can fold a piece of paper in half you too can make beautiful, one of a kind presents this year!

Some paper, pens and markers will be supplied. Supplies needed: your favorite Christmas wrapping paper (at least 10 x 10", scissors, glue stick.

Sign up in the Art Room in the black file box. Make checks payable to Kathy Brancheau and place in the envelope with registration.

## January

### Abstract Acrylic Painting Explorations

With Kathy Brancheau  
**Monthly on Saturdays:**  
January 15th, February 19th,  
March 12th, April 23rd  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Rio Verde Art Room  
\$40  
Limit 8



In this class we will explore acrylic painting and mixed media in an abstract setting using all kinds of mediums and gels. Gels and mediums for experimentation will be provided.

Supplies needed: a basic set of high flow (soft body) acrylic paints, brushes: 1/2" flat, and #8 round, hair comb, old spatula, and 1" foam brush.

Sign up in the black file box in the Art Room. Make your check payable to Kathy Brancheau.

Any questions, contact Kathy:

**925-786-3771**  
[kathybrancheau@gmail.com](mailto:kathybrancheau@gmail.com)

## February

### Fiber Clay Sculpting

With Michele Mulleady  
Friday & Saturday  
February 25th & 26th  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Rio Verde Art Room  
\$50, all supplies included  
Limit 10



Learn how to build sculptures with air dry Sheepdog fiber clay. No sculpting skills required. Sculptures are built by using armatures and simple shapes.

Bring an apron and your imagination!  
Sign up in the Art Room black file box. You may mail your check to Michele at 28018 N Desierto Dr, Rio Verde AZ 85263, or place it with your registration in the file box.

Any questions, contact Michele:

**703-408-5795**  
[mmulleady29@gmail.com](mailto:mmulleady29@gmail.com)

## Notice

Registration will not be accepted on Workshops without a check. 14-day cancellation policy.



# Verdes Fine Art & Holiday Gift Show

Continued from Page 1



Janis Bunchman



Kari Hogden



Michael Kuksich



Kathy Clements



Anita Kempers



Ann McDonald



Chris Demma



Jackie Kingbury



Heidi Middleton



Evonne Evans



Mary Kuhr



Kathy Morgan



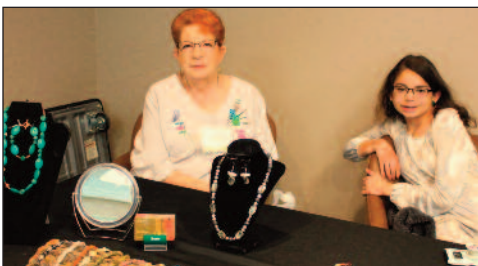
Patricia Byrd Franklin



Julia Kulikoff



Michele Mulleady



Retha Herman and grand-daughter



Connie Lewis



Katherine Otte

Continued on Page 7



# Art Show

Continued from Page 6



Tony Ouellette



Margaret Sullivan



Debi Visconti



Jackie Yuhas



Afternoon Greeters: Marcy Roth and Linda Berck



A little guest at the show.

# A Place to Call Homepage:

## Our Virtual Gathering Place for News and Views

By Margie Barritt



Nancy Gray who has recently rejoined the Verdes Art League has volunteered to be the web master for the VAL online Directory beginning January 1, 2022. Nancy teaches advertising, branding and design at the Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business within the Department of Marketing and has her own consulting firm GrayMatter Creative.

Nancy will be updating and adding functionality to the website between now and the end of January. To be included in the website you will need to have paid your dues. Once your dues are registered Nancy will send you a link for uploading your submission with directions on how to do this.

Submissions should include a short art biography, your photograph and contact information including your website, if you have one, and four images of your art. Each image of your art should be accompanied by title, medium and size. (Look at the website at [www.verdesartleague.org](http://www.verdesartleague.org) to see current submissions.) Changes can be made to your submission up until January 15. So be sure to send any changes, or a new submission if you were not in the Directory last year, before January 15, 2022.

# VAL At The Rio Verde Open House



Connie Lewis

Susan Murphy

The Verdes Art League was represented at the Rio Verde Community Center Open House on Saturday, October 30th.

Two lucky people went home as raffle winners from VAL. Connie Lewis and Katherine Otte generously donated work for the raffle. Connie donated a watercolor batik and Katherine donated a beaded bracelet.

The Membership Directory was a big hit and several people signed up for the VAL Newsletter mailing list.

## Art Trivia

Which artist said  
"Everything you can  
imagine is real".

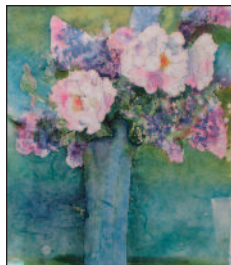
Answer on Page 14



# In The Alcoves



Connie Lewis



I have a college degree in marketing but art has always peaked my interest. There are many artists and writers on both sides of my family. I have always worked with my hands, creating something, so in the 90's I started lessons with Eddie Lopez here in Rio Verde. At that time he was teaching a class of basics: drawing, different forms of painting. I began doing oil painting but loved the way watercolor moved on the paper.



Margaret Sullivan



Because of the time required for each piece, Margaret only participates in a couple of art shows a year. She sells out of her home studio where she also teaches six or seven classes a year. A self-taught artist, Margaret enjoys sharing her love of art with her students. She is a member of the American Gourd Society, the Arizona Gourd Society, and the Verdes Art League.

# In The Glass Case



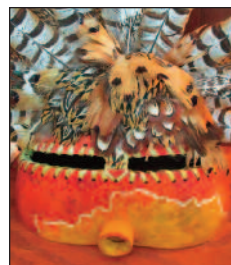
Chris Demma



I continually seek growth within my craft and believe learning in all forms is a daily habit. I consider my art contemporary southwest with a Georgia O'Keeffe / Van Gogh style. My art can be seen at the Fountain Hills Artists Gallery or on my web site: [www.christinedemma.com](http://www.christinedemma.com). I am collected nationally. I have done many commission paintings. Hope you enjoy my art.



Margaret Sullivan



Inspired by the magical Southwest, Margaret spends hours dreaming up creations on gourd canvases only nature can create. With the help of pyrography, carving, dyes, paints and a cornucopia of beads, precious stones, feathers and horsehair, her gourds are turned into creations of art. Most known for her kachinas and masks, she will tell you she still does not have a specialty because of the possibilities of her art.

# Best Art Books 2021 To Give As Gifts

Just a couple from the list at: [www.artnews.com](http://www.artnews.com)

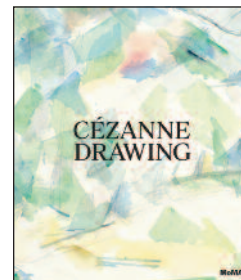


Magritte: A Life  
Alex Danchev

When someone describes something as "surreal" or "dreamlike," chances are good that the images popping into his or her head have been informed, consciously or not, by the work of René Magritte (1898–1967), a household-name artist who trans-

formed our expectations of what's real and what isn't. He did this by creating ambiguity out of the certainty of realism, incongruously juxtaposing figures and items within traditional illusionistic space, morphing textures and objects, and deploying language to decouple imagery from its representational function—most famously in his painting of a pipe above the legend "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" ("This is not a pipe").

Featuring 32 pages of color images and more than 160 black-and-white illustrations, Alex Danchev's book is the first major biography of the Belgian-born artist, whose façade of bourgeoisie propriety concealed a subversive mind-set that produced one of the most recognizable oeuvres in 20th-century art.



Cezanne: Drawing  
Jodi Hauptman

In all probability, Picasso—and indeed, modernism as we know it—wouldn't have existed without Paul Cézanne (1839–1906), whose efforts set the stage for Cubism and beyond (indeed, both Picasso and Matisse described Cézanne as "the father of us all").

A coeval of the Post-Impressionists, Cézanne departed from their approach of "painting modern life" by emphasizing how a painting was made. His faceted brushwork, and the way it deconstructed the difference between foreground and background, pointed the way to pure abstraction, and his works on paper (both in sketchbook form and on individual sheets) were key to that development.

This volume accompanied MoMA's extensive survey of this aspect of Cézanne's career (one of the first to examine it), which revealed not only how crucial his watercolor and pencil studies were to his practice, but also how much more modern they appeared than his better-known canvases.



# Studio Groups

By Marcy Roth



Draw Studio has undergone changes in the past two years. Instead of one large group, we have split into small groups, limiting each to 6-8 members.

You can sign up for more than one. Groups will decide their meeting days/times, so it may be possible to participate in more than one group each week. By selecting a group preference, you will be on the email list and part of the decision making as to scheduling the meeting time.

1. Drawing (Draw Studio, Wed. 10-12)
2. Abstracts
3. Portrait and Figure
4. Watercolor
5. Your suggestion?

At the meeting on November 10th, people were able to fill out a form to show their preferences. If you would like to participate in one of these small groups and did not attend the VAL meeting or are not yet in the Verdes, please send your preferences to me by January 1st.

**Marcy Roth**  
[mcroth47@gmail.com](mailto:mcroth47@gmail.com)

## Groups As Of This Printing

**Draw Studio**  
Wednesdays, 10-12 Art Room

**Marcy Roth**  
[mcroth47@gmail.com](mailto:mcroth47@gmail.com)

Margie Barritt  
Anne Buhler  
Kathy Brancheau  
Janet Hulbert  
Jackie Kingsbury  
Diane Kizewski  
Jane Lewis  
Susan Murphy  
Marcy Roth  
Jackie Westbay

**Abstract Studio**  
Wednesdays, 1-4 Art Room  
**Kathy Brancheau**  
[kathybrancheau@gmail.com](mailto:kathybrancheau@gmail.com)

Margie Barritt  
Anne Buhler  
Kathy Brancheau  
Chris Demma  
Marz Doerflinger  
Kari Hogden  
Janet Hulbert  
Diane Kizewski  
Mary Kuhr  
Connie Lewis

**Water Media Studio**  
Fridays 9-12 Art Room  
**Jackie Kingsbury**  
[jackiekingsbury28@gmail.com](mailto:jackiekingsbury28@gmail.com)

Margie Barritt  
Anne Buhler  
Kathy Brancheau  
Janis Bunchman  
Janet Hulbert  
Jackie Kingsbury  
Connie Lewis

**Jewelry Studio**  
Time & Location TBD  
**Katherine Otte**  
[kathotte@hotmail.com](mailto:kathotte@hotmail.com)

Andrea Kuehn  
Heidi Middleton  
Katherine Otte

**Gourd Studio**  
Time & Location TBD  
**Kathy Clements**  
[wkbcllements@yahoo.com](mailto:wkbcllements@yahoo.com)

Kathy Clements

# Water Media Studio

By Jackie Kingsbury

The water media group will be meeting on Friday mornings in the Art Room from 9:00 to 12:00 starting December 3rd. Please come on the 3rd to discuss what we can accomplish this year. Do you want an outside instructor and how often? Do you want to watch Zoom instruction? Do you want to work on the same project or have open studio? There are so many things that we can explore. If you have any questions about the plans or suggestions contact Jackie Kingsbury:

[jackiekingsbury28@gmail.com](mailto:jackiekingsbury28@gmail.com)



**Note Cards**  
December 3rd, 9:00-12:00

Come and explore new products with Jackie Kingsbury. We will play with Dr. Phil's liquid watercolors on note cards. Supplies will be provided. We will be using string, corks and saran wrap on watercolor note cards. The cost for supplies will be \$5.00. This is open to all members of the league even if you are not interested in joining our Friday water media get-togethers. If you have any stencils or markers bring them to help with our experiments! Bring your watercolors to add more color. This is just for fun!!!

“  
*I paint my own reality.*  
”  
Frida Kahlo

# November Art Excursion

By Diane Kizewski



Our first excursion, art supply shopping, was a success. The art supplies were in abundance. We even saw Bob Ross who was wearing a COVID mask. Lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant was an adventure on its own. Make sure you join us for the next excursion to the Heard Museum on January 27th..

# Flora Grande With Chris Demma



VAL's Nancy Gray

Participants painted in oil during Chris Demma's workshop at Trilogy on Monday, November 15th

# Jewelry & Wine With Kathy Morgan



Participants created a memory wire bracelet and two pair of earrings during Kathy Morgan's Jewelry & Wine workshop at Tonto Verde on November 6th.

# So Long Robin Hoyt



Margie Barritt, Anne Buhler, Robin Hoyt, Diane Kizewski, Jane Lewis and Marcy Roth

An impromptu send off for Robin took place on Friday, November 12th. Robin has returned to Maine to live full time.

Robin will be missed by the Verdes Art League. We wish her the best!

# Jersey City Mural

Contributed by Susan Murphy from [www.thisiscolossal.com](http://www.thisiscolossal.com)



A Monumental 20-Story Wildflower Blooms Above Jersey City in a New Mural by Artist Mona Caron

A single Joe Pye weed with barbed leaves and a blossoming head looms over Jersey City in a staggering new mural by Mona Caron. Set against a black backdrop, the hardy botanical—which is actually a wildflower from the eutrochium genus that's native to the region—is the latest from the San Francisco-based artist, who's known for her multi-story murals of plants and weeds that soar above city skylines. Commissioned as part of the Jersey City Mural Arts Program, the exquisitely rendered flower is a celebration of resilience as it "rises with the sun, facing off the skyline across the Hudson," Caron writes on Instagram. "A vision of nature winning, of plants being the ones towering over us for a change, putting us back in our place. May we learn. May they come back."



# Upcoming Workshops At The Scottsdale Artists' School

## FEBRUARY

### The Figure: Arriving at Full Color

Rose Frantzen  
February 11-15  
Watercolor - Intermediate Advanced  
9:00-4:00  
\$840 + fees

### Plein Air Painters of America

Mitch Baird, Aimee Erickson, Dave  
Santillanes and Eric Jabocsen  
February 13-17  
Oil - All Levels  
9:00-4:00  
\$850 + fees

### Portrait Painting

Rose Frantzen  
February 18-20  
Oil - Intermediate Advanced  
9:00-4:00  
\$600 + fees

## MARCH

### Drawing the Portrait From Life

Shana Levenson  
March 7-10  
Drawing - All Levels  
9:00-4:00  
\$525 + fees

### Abstracting the Landscape

Claudia Hartley  
March 28-31  
Acrylic - All Levels  
9:00-4:00  
\$525 + fees

### Fundamentals of Studio Landscape Painting

John Poon  
March 14-18  
Acrylic & Oil - All Levels  
9:00-4:00  
\$655 + fees

Listed above are just a few of the upcoming workshops being offered at the Scottsdale Artists' School. Please visit their website for more information at:

[www.scottsdaleartschool.org](http://www.scottsdaleartschool.org)

# Workshops at the Holland Center

Tree of Life Necklace  
Thursday, December 9th  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Tree of Life is a wonderful symbol. It represents our personal development, uniqueness and individual beauty. Using wire and chip beads, you will twist your way to an individualized tree pendant. You will learn to make the frame, and all parts of the tree. You will have a choice of whether to add apples, lemons, or flowers among the branches. The pendant is finished off with a taupe 24-inch leather cord. Materials fee of \$5 to be given to instructor at the beginning of class.

Fun with Paint Pouring  
Saturday, December 11th  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

New Class! Learn how to do paint pouring and make a one-of-a-kind painting to take home with you. This technique has become super popular lately. The results are very organic and colorful. These abstract art pieces are reminiscent of the most striking elements in nature. The Pour Painting popularity matches and coincides with the trend in marbling and geodes. So, come join us and have a really good time! All supplies will be provided. Please wear clothes that you don't mind getting paint on — paint pouring can get messy! No prior painting experience required! Ages 8 and up. \$35

Register at the Holland Art Center  
34250 N 60th St, Bldg B, Scottsdale AZ  
[www.hollandcenter.org](http://www.hollandcenter.org)  
click on Lifelong Learning

Also At The Holland Center...

## Winter Artisan Market

Friday and Saturday  
December 3-4  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Presented by The Holland Center and the Sonoran Arts League this 2-day holiday market will showcase local artists and makers celebrating the arts and unique, handmade gift options. The Winter Artisan Market is a juried show that supports regional fine artists and the sale of their own, original creations. This is an indoor show and it is free.

# Light and Legacy: The Art and Techniques of Edward S. Curtis



Mosa-Mohave, 1903, photogravure; From *The North American Indian* Volume 2, Portfolio Plate no. 61. The Peterson Family Collection

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West is proud to announce the stunning exhibition celebrating the life and works of Edward Curtis. The show will run through late spring 2023.

Over three decades, Curtis created thousands of images, audio recordings, and the earliest motion pictures of Native Americans, all while making tremendous contributions to the art and science of photography.

Due to Covid protocols, advanced ticket sales for timed entries will take place. Masks must be worn. Visit website for more information:

<https://scottsdalemuseumwest.org>

# Why Creativity Loves Constraint

From *The Groove* by Maria Brito

If you had a no-strings-attached \$100,000 grant to create anything you wanted for your career, do you think that the result would be better than if you had \$10,000 at your disposal? Or if you had an indefinite period of time to come up with a solution to a problem, would that yield a superior result than if you had a strict deadline?

According to research led by Dr. Oguz Acar, a behavioral scientist from the University of London, after analyzing hundreds of published studies about creativity and innovation in companies, he concluded that when there are no limitations on the creative process, complacency sets in, and people don't come up with their most ingenious ideas.

Constraints give people a challenge to search for and connect information from different sources to generate novel ideas of value. The same can be said about the artistic process. But there's also a fine line that needs to be found, because if the constraints are too severe, then the creative process suffers too. Let's dive in.

## The Constraints That Made Louise Nevelson Famous



Louise Nevelson in her studio photographed by Hans Namuth in 1977.

During the mid-1930s and for several years, artist Louise Nevelson and her son Mike walked around the streets of Manhattan gathering wood to burn in their fireplace to keep warm. She had almost no money and wanted to become a sculptress, so she selected wood as her material because it was easily available.

She called herself "the original recycler" and made a point to reaffirm that she was going in the right direction because the objects seemed to find her rather than the other way around.



Louise Nevelson, *Sky Cathedral*, 1958. Painted wood. 11' 3 1/2" x 10' 1/4" x 18". This is part of the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art.

She also didn't want color to help her; always used black and later in her career, white and gold. To her, black was "the essence of the universe" and "total color" and with all these limitations in place, Nevelson started producing work and showing in respected galleries in New York.

Her monochromatic wood boxes filled with things like chair legs, wine crates and barrel lids eventually made her famous. She added disparate elements that were in a continual dialogue and interplay. She was taking ordinary things away from their normal function and rendering them into poetry - but always following her strict constraints.

## A Minimalist Environment



Nevelson called herself "the original recycler". Photo by Arnold Newman, 1973.

In 1967, the year of her retrospective at The Whitney Museum and on the cusp of the most critical and financially successful phase of her career, Nevelson completely redecorated her house with grey metal cabinets and furniture. She wanted to pare herself down to allow her ideas to flow freely.

All these constraints allowed Nevelson to solidify her career and enter art history books. The uniqueness of the spray-painted scrap materials arranged as if in an old curio shop became her trademark, and later in her life that style opened the door for many commissions for outdoor sculptures, dozens of which live in public spaces all over the United States.

After many years of financial hardship, Nevelson's constrained body of work paid off. Not only had she amassed considerable wealth and acquired several buildings in SoHo, but by the time of her death in 1988 her estate was valued at \$100 million (that's \$237 million today).

## How Companies Use Constraints

Jeff Bezos has said that he likes to limit Amazon's teams to a certain number of people and coined the term "two pizza team": If a team can't be fed with two pizzas, it's too big. Bezos has favored this approach because he wants a decentralized company where ideas can flow freely.

What I have noticed in corporate environments is usually the opposite: managers keep adding more people to a project and in the end the result is diluted by too many cooks in the kitchen.

Google gives its employees the freedom to work on innovation projects that they want to pursue, which is limited to 20% of their time, but has also embraced the maxim that "creativity loves constraints".

Some of those constraints include strict deadlines for developing prototypes and lofty performance requirements about products in terms of its usability across different devices. That means that every innovation must work on all devices, regardless of screen resolution and download at a certain speed, or else the whole thing is discarded no matter how many other great features it may have.

The next time you feel that you have hit a creative wall, add some constraints, and frame them as creative challenges. Cut your budget, your timeframe, or the amount of resources that are available to you.

If you don't put some limitations around your projects, your mind won't be forced to work harder in the quest for the best ideas and instead your brain will follow the path of least resistance and produce subpar results.



# VAL CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

- 3 Holiday Party
- 4 Large Beaded Cross
- 7 Cowboy Rope Vessel
- 10 Zentangle Workshop
- 10 Deadline for Operation Santa Claus
- 17 Origami Boxes Plus

## JANUARY

- 15 Abstract Explorations
- 27 Heard Tour

## FEBRUARY

- 16 Scottsdale Art Tent Excursion
- 19 Abstract Explorations
- 25 Fiber Clay Sculpting
- 26 Fiber Clay Sculpting

## MARCH

- 12 Abstract Explorations
- 19 Spring Art Show

## APRIL

- 23 Abstract Explorations

Calendar Is Subject To Change.

## Fountain Hills Juried Art Show

The annual January Fountain Hills Juried Art Show is open to all area resident artists in the greater Fountain Hills area, including the Verdes. Artists are invited to compete, this year, for ribbons and monetary prizes. The application is due December 15th. The entry fee of \$30 will allow you to enter two pieces. Awards will be announced at the reception, Thursday, January 13th, from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Information and Application Forms were emailed to VAL membership on November 14th.

Delivery of art will be on January 6th between 12:30 and 2:00 pm. The show will hang through January 31st.

The judge for the exhibition is Donna Levine. Donna has been painting for over 60 years and teaching for over 40 years. She has a Masters Degree in Painting & Block Printing from Pius XII Institute in Florence, Italy, and Bachelor of Arts in Art & Philosophy from Dominican University in Illinois.

Criteria for Judging:

1. Originality.
2. Strength & quality of design and composition - based on principals and elements of design.
3. Mastery of chosen medium - skill demonstrated.
4. Clarity of the message - visual impact - emotional impact.
5. Quality of presentation.
6. Photos will be judged on the same criteria rather than technical aspects.

Criteria for entries: Artwork must be original, no reproductions and be recent (within last three years) and not shown at this venue before. Photos used in preparing the work must be your own. Art must be appropriate for this public venue (non-political, nudity). We reserve right of acceptance. Flat art must be gallery wrap or framed. Photography may require hanging by the artist.

Categories: Drawing: charcoal, pencil, ink, pastel. Paintings: oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media. Photography and digital imaging. Other: sculpture, ceramics, fiber art, beaded art, jewelry, wood, other.

Awards: Best of Show \$100. First, Second and Honorable Mention Ribbons for category awards plus monetary awards depending on number of entries.

VAL members are asked to help hang the show and bring a finger dessert or cheese/fruit tray to the opening reception.

For more information or questions, contact:

Bonnie Schweih  
480-467-9333  
[bonnieken65@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieken65@gmail.com)

## Ornate Painted Patterns Conceal Photographer Cecilia Paredes Against Textile Backdrops



Peruvian artist Cecilia Paredes continues her ongoing series of camouflaged self-portraits with deceptive new works that leave only her hair, eyes, and ears untouched. Set against lavish backdrops printed with birds in shades of blue, floral motifs, and ornate flourishes, Paredes paints her skin and positions herself in a precise alignment with the chosen pattern, disappearing among the colorful landscapes. Each work, which the Lima-born artist refers to as "photo performances," considers how individual identities are informed by natural environments and the broader cultural milieu. Explore an archive of Paredes's lavish portraits at Ruiz-Healy Art, Artsy, and Instagram.

# Alcove & Glass Case Exhibits

## Sharing Your Art With The Community

Sign-up sheets for the 2021/2022 Season are in the Art Room on the bulletin Board. Please consider signing up to show your work in either exhibit. We would like to have two persons share the Glass Case and Alcove Exhibits through April.\*

### For the Alcove Exhibit contact:

Michele Mulleady  
703-408-5795  
mmulleady29@gmail.com

### For the Glass Case Exhibit contact:

Katherine Otte  
480-404-6107  
kathotte@hotmail.com

\* In order to give all members a chance to display their crafts or artwork, a limit of displaying twice in a calendar year will be observed.

## Alcove Exhibit

DEC Gaughen/Perry  
JAN Abstract Painters/Brancheau  
FEB Demma/Botkin  
MAR Schols/Doerflinger  
APR

## Glass Case Exhibit

DEC Middleton/Otte  
JAN  
FEB Luksich/  
MAR  
APR

# Welcome New Members

Jan Allison  
Kurt Inman  
Missy Leathers

For orientation or questions, contact:

Marcy Roth  
785-452-1063  
mcroth47@gmail.com

Chris Rich  
720-771-0274  
chris\_rich@msn.com

# VAL Membership Dues

Membership Dues are now due for the 2021/2022 Season. Annual dues are \$30.00 for the season which runs from November 2021 to November 2022.

Please pay with check payable to the Verdes Art League. You may put it in the Membership Envelope in the Black File Box in the Art Room, or mail it to our treasurer:

Anne Buhler  
18426 E Picacho Rd  
Rio Verde AZ 85263

Trivia Answer: Pablo Picasso

## Next Newsletter

Deadline for January Newsletter is **Friday, December 17th.**

NOTE: January Newsletter will arrive in your inbox after the first. Please keep sending in your stories and images to Susan Murphy: [sdmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:sdmurphy@gmail.com)

## Ongoing Classes

General Art Instruction:



**Instructor: Eddie Lopez**  
Rio Verde Community Center  
Art Room  
Mondays 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Curriculum includes Drawing and Painting in all media. When the number of students exceeds what works well for the class, he will add additional classes. Watch this space for continuing information or check out the Art Room door for the current schedule. Classes are \$25 payable in cash only. Messages can be left for Eddie at the Community Association office.

Draw Studio:

**Marcy Roth 785-452-1063**  
Rio Verde Community Center  
Art Room  
Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm

Abstract Studio:

**Kathy Brancheau 925-786-3771**  
Rio Verde Community Center  
Art Room  
Starts December 1st  
Wednesdays 1:00 pm - 4:00pm

Water Media Studio:

**Jackie Kingsbury 303-589-1712**  
Rio Verde Community Center  
Art Room  
Starts December 3rd  
Fridays when available  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Educational Programs:

**Kathy Brancheau**  
**Kimberly Schols**  
**Kari Hogden**  
Rio Verde Community Center  
Art Room

TUESDAYS:  
Open Studio/Classes/Workshops  
All Day

WEDNESDAYS:  
Draw Studio, Mornings  
Abstract Studio, Afternoons

THURSDAYS:  
Open Studio/Classes/Workshops  
Mornings  
Woodworkers All Afternoon

FRIDAYS:  
Water Media Studio, Mornings  
Open Studio/Classes/Workshops

SATURDAYS:  
Open for Guest Art Teachers





2021/2022

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Toni Lowden  
tonilowden@yahoo.com  
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Marz Doerflinger  
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**Secretary**

Kay Hatcher  
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630-649-4481

**Treasurer**

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**Newsletter**

Susan Murphy  
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valerie.holton@comcast.net  
847-507-5348

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480-404-6107

**Alcove Exhibit**

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**Member Care**

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**New Member Orientation**

Marcy Roth  
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Chris Rich  
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**Art Excursions**

Diane Kizewski  
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715-498-9958

Mary Kuhr  
marykuhr@gmail.com  
602-430-5898

**Website/Directory Additions**

Margie Barritt  
margb@umich.org  
480-347-5098

**Librarian**

Ruth Orton  
ruthorton@gmail.com  
443-871-5515

**Past Co-Presidents**

Jackie Kingsbury  
jackiekingsbury28@gmail.com  
303-589-1712

Connie Lewis  
dkcllewis@cox.net  
480-250-9336

# What's Happening

## MESA CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

Wiley Wallace: Lucid Fate  
Through January 2nd



Phoenix painter Wiley Wallace creates luminous and ostensibly radioactive worlds intersecting the real and imagined. Under a neon-hued glow, his realistic and surreal renderings of children and adults are placed amid Arizona landscapes, creating "near-magical" references of the supernatural. Through narratives of connection and communication, Wallace's imagery suspends the viewer with a playful and macabre innocence

## PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Oscar Muñoz: Invisibilia  
Through January 16th



Oscar Muñoz: Invisibilia is the first mid-career survey of Colombian artist Oscar Muñoz's work in the United States. Although he has had large-scale retrospectives throughout Europe and Latin America, this exhibition will introduce U.S. audiences to a broad scope of his evolving practice.

## HEARD MUSEUM

Remembering the Future  
Through January 2nd, 2023



Remembering the Future: 100 Years of Inspiring Art will showcase painting and sculpture produced by leading American Indian artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.