

# From the Art Room

## Special Notice To Participants: November Verdes Fine Art & Gift Show

By Margaret Sullivan



We have been given the go-ahead for a one day show in November as the renovation of the community Center is on track!! Great news, as we will be back to the format of previous shows.

The show will be held on Sunday, November 21st, the day after the Rio Verde Bake Sale. We feel this will give us the best attendance possible for a show and it is a day that the Community Center is free in all rooms.

The deadline for signing up for the mini sales has passed and artists that paid their fees and signed up for the mini shows will automatically be the participants of the November 21st show. **If you have signed up for the mini shows, please email Margaret at [msull3519@aol.com](mailto:msull3519@aol.com) immediately and let her know if you will be participating in the November 21st one day show, or dropping out.**

**If you are interested in participating in the show but did not sign up, please email Margaret immediately and ask for a registration form and you will go on a wait list. You will be informed if someone drops out.**

As soon as we determine who is participating in the new one day show, we will be sending out a form for equipment (number of tables, chairs, grids) that you will need.

Since it will only be a one day show, we will go back to one table, one chair, and three grids. A form will go out shortly to those participating asking for an update to equipment.

Hope you are all gearing up for summer, wherever you are!

Please get in touch with Margaret or Chris if you have any questions:

Chris Demma: 480-518-6429  
[ckdemma0111@yahoo.com](mailto:ckdemma0111@yahoo.com)

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



Like us on Face Book

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

From the Co-Presidents



Connie Lewis

Jackie Kingsbury

The hot days of summer are here! I take the dog very early for her walk these days, then we get in the air conditioning. Looking forward to being in Colorado for the month of July.

We are slowly getting back to some normalcy. Hopefully, it will continue to improve. I am doing some painting but have not been satisfied of late so will continue to see if it gets better. I did take a DVD course from Thomas W. Schaller on The Power of Design. If anyone would like to borrow the DVD and watch, they are welcome. It is in watercolor. I enjoyed it. Probably about a 4 hour watch.

I received an email from Margie Barritt that Kaaren Carone is moving to Colorado and is donating art supplies. Marz Doerflinger will be sorting them and putting them in the cupboard for distribution next year. Thank you to Kaaren and good luck to you.

Below is something I have done recently. Hope you are all keeping your fingers and minds busy this summer and look forward to a happy season ahead.

Connie



Connie Lewis's latest watercolor.

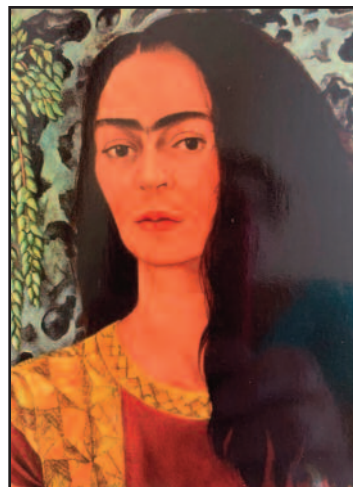
Happy Summer to my Painting Friends

I boxed up my supplies and brought them to Colorado where I am spending most of the summer. I am sorry to say they are still in the box. I am opening them starting tomorrow for a four day watercolor symposium being held in Crested Butte, CO. One of my paintings was accepted in the juried show which is sponsored by the Colorado Watercolor Society. It will be a busy time with well know artists. Perhaps I will be brave enough to ask keynote speaker, Steve Quiller, why he rejected a painting for a previous show that I thought was wonderful. His opening program focuses on "Composition and Analyzing Award Winners".

If you are in the Chicago area you may be interested in the exhibit "Frida Kahlo: Timeless" being shown until September at the College of DuPage in Wheaton. It was an in-depth show of her struggles with her health and husband Diego Rivera. There were extensive photographs of her life in the United States and Mexico, her clothing, and her art. Plan on a few hours to learn why the curator felt her life was timeless and comparable to the life some women face today.

I hope your summer offers new adventures and new art experiences. Our new officers and board are busy making plans for an exciting year with new experiences for us all. The construction at the community center is on schedule and we will be able to reorganize our supplies in our new closet adjacent to the Art Room. Margaret Sullivan and Chris Demma are finalizing plans for our Fall Show to be held on Sunday, November 21st.

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



Frida Kahlo, 1907-1954



Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera

Art Trivia

With what type of quick drawings did a young Claude Monet begin creating art?

Answer on Page 8

# Verdes Art League Directory Is Completed

Below are seven submissions from the VAL Directory. That leaves nineteen more to be showcased in subsequent Newsletters. Meanwhile do go to the Directory online at:

[verdesartleague.org](http://verdesartleague.org)

to see all 56 submissions.

In the first 60 days of our website being public we have had 30 visits, 23 unique visitors and 170 pages were "reviewed." We are hoping that in the future the VAL website can be linked to the Rio Verde and Tonto Verde websites.

**Sunny Bottega Bonoff**



I have always had art in my life. Although a professional broadcaster, human resources recruiter, travel agent, instructor and bank supervisor by day, there was always room for art and hobbies at night and on weekends. I hail from North Providence, Rhode Island, but have lived in the Valley since 1987.

I won a town scholarship at age 16 to the Rhode Island School of Design Junior School and majored in Art History at Rhode Island College. I work in oil painting (Bob Ross/Di Alexander Wet on Wet Technique) and leatherwork. My oil paintings hang in Adams Library and the Women's Center at Rhode Island College and one of my water colors was displayed at the Rhode Island State House and around the world by the American Red Cross.

Due to dry macular degeneration in both eyes, I now work primarily in leather, using techniques adapted from Native American designs. My works are frequently one of a kind and are for sale.

cellphone: 310-699-4348  
 <psychicsunny@gmail.com>




Large Medicine Bag, leather with beads



Small info case, leather

**Marz Doerflinger**



Nature is my church and color is how I speak of god.

Minutes, hours, days, Footsteps, deep breath, heartbeats.

Bring me closer, break resistance, feel what is.

Die a little on the trail and bring forth the soul suppressed.

The Athlete and the Artist.

See the rain, taste the wind, hear the colors.

Transcribe in paint and canvas for those that can not journey

for miles in the wilderness and find peace.

"First Wave," mixed media acrylic, 15" x 30"

[www.MarzDoerflinger.com](http://www.MarzDoerflinger.com)  
[marz@MarzDoerflinger.com](mailto:marz@MarzDoerflinger.com)  
 Signature member: Pacific Society of America



"Death by Southwest," acrylic, 24" x 36"



"Bill of the Morning," pastel, 8" x 10"

**Deborah J. Etcheson**



I've been doing artwork just about ever since I can remember. It just wouldn't leave me alone. I completed a BA degree in art from Macalester College in 1971. There were a few years of teaching art in there, but most of my professional career has been spent teaching adolescents who struggle to learn.

After our daughter and son, Emily and Jared, were grown and out on their own, and I retired from a 31 year career in education in 2009, the artwork recaptured me. My husband Gary has always been so very supportive of my interest in art whether traipsing along with me around art museums and galleries, or waiting patiently while I perused a myriad of art supplies or giving feedback when asked.

Oil painting has always been my first love, but my mind and hands wander to other things as well: acrylic painting, block printing, crayon batik, small watercolors, desert refuse constructions, weaving with yarn and natural objects, ceramic and natural wood wind chimes, water granite drawing, pastel, encaustic, ink drawing, Native American art studies,.... well... The opportunities are endless. And, in the recent past, I have found great joy "doing art" with my grandchildren. Their creative minds never cease to amaze me.

I have greatly appreciated the friendships and learning opportunities made available through the Verdes Art League.

[deborahjetcheson@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahjetcheson@yahoo.com)  
 Phone/text: 515 343 4334



Above: "Desert Refuse Construction," 18" x 20"



Right: "Cochoise Apache Chief," Crayon Batik, 11" x 14"

**Evonne Evans**



Dr. Evonne Evans, retired Wisconsinite orthodontist, accomplished artist and singer/musician for over 40 years, has now concentrated her efforts in the lapidary arts and jewelry making. Since retiring in South Dakota, she has been able to work with South Dakota agates, especially the Fairburn agate, South Dakota's state Gemstone.

Although once very plentiful, the Fairburn agate is now more difficult to find and therefore is quite valuable. The Fairburn's striking colors and vivid banding lend themselves to becoming beautiful jewelry. Dr. Evonne believes the Fairburn agate is one of the most beautiful agates found in the world. She refers to the Fairburn as the "finger print of God... no two are the same, they are all different!" For her, there is nothing more thrilling than opening a rough agate and being the first person to "see what's inside." Even though her work requires cutting, shaping, polishing and artfully carving the agate to reveal its inner beauty, for her, all the time required is worth the effort.

The Fairburn agate of southwestern South Dakota is a beautiful silica gemstone originating from shallow ocean sediments between 290 and 300 million years ago. They were brought to the surface by the geologic forces that created the Black Hills uplift and can now be found in the badlands, grasslands and in the Black Hills.

[evonne@evonnejewelry.com](mailto:evonne@evonnejewelry.com)



Agate necklaces in a Southwestern motif



South Dakota "teepoo" Canyon agate, same family as the Fairburn, also rare color and pattern.

pecked wood, the middle ring and upper right are all Fairburn, rare color and patterned Fairburn agates, the lower right is a carved, rare color and patterned Fairburn agate.

Verdes Art League Directory

Continued from Page 3

Robin Hoyt



Hi, I'm a snow bird living in Rio Verde for seven months and Kennebunk, Maine, for five months. My husband, John, and I feel very fortunate to have found Rio Verde and I especially have appreciated being in a community with an active Arts League. I believe that artists are very special people – they are creative, open minded, observant, helpful and heartfelt.

Since I was a small child, I have loved to draw, paint, and sculpt. I was fortunate to have had a long career in art education during which I taught kindergarten through University. My degrees are a BS in art education and a master's degree in curriculum design at University of Southern Maine and St. Mary's University. I have taken courses at the Holland College School of Visual Arts (P.E.I.), Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Haystack, Portland College of Art, and Portland Pottery, as well as fifty years of art workshops.

My art style has evolved over the years from realism to expressionism and I love to create women from my imagination – we are all part of the "Sisterhood" and The Sisterhood is very important to me. I paint with acrylics and watercolors and sculpt in clay. The southwest often influences my subject matter as I feel a spirit connection with it's early inhabitants.

johnrobin4436@yahoo.com



"Day Dreamer," acrylic, 24 x 22"



Well hanging dolls, each 21" x 5"



"Toby and Friend," acrylic, 20 x 16"

Mary Kuhr



As long as I can remember, I loved to draw. That evolved into painting horses. Growing up in Minnesota fostered my love of art and horses as I was blessed to have horses when we lived on the Minnesota River bluff.

After raising two beautiful daughters in that pristine location, we all moved to Arizona in 1984. It was here in Arizona that I received my "formal" art education at Scottsdale Artist School in between working as a full time Realtor. "Once an artist, always an artist" – no matter what our vocation. I started in watercolor and moved to oils. I still love painting horses, flowers, cactus blooms and presently am working on a painting out of the book of Revelation. Some of my work is on [www.Fineartsmarket.com](http://www.Fineartsmarket.com).

I have taken advantage of the many art opportunities in Arizona, by being a long time member of Scottsdale Artists League and participating in many of the shows including the Desert Botanical Garden show, which has been my favorite for many years.

I moved to Rio Verde in May, 2020, after living in Pinnacle Peak for the last 26 years. I joined Eddie Lopez' art class and attend when I am in town.

I look forward to meeting all of the Verdes Art League members and participating in every way possible.

602-430-5896  
MARYKUHR@GMAIL.COM



"M.", oil on canvas, 8" x 10"



"Sweet Darling," oil on canvas, 8" x 10"



"Out of the mist," oil on canvas, 30" x 30"

Linda Kuehne



Artist Statement

My passion for the landscape informs my work as I photograph the man-altered environment and explore its cultural implications in suburban and urban settings across the country. As a photographer I started out wanting to photograph sublime landscapes in wilderness settings. But it became more and more difficult to photograph the beauty of the landscape without addressing, at least indirectly, the intrusive effect we humans are having on our environment.

My husband and I split our time between New York and Arizona. When I am in Arizona, however, I do veer from my main subject matter described above to photograph the natural landscape on occasion. How could one help but be inspired by the incredible landscape here.

In my former life, I worked at a major publishing house in New York City, later becoming the director of an art center outside of New York. I have been a full-time photographer for the past 15 years. I received a BA from Sarah Lawrence College. My work has been exhibited in contemporary art galleries and museums including the Kalonah Museum of Art, the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, Kean University and A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn.

www.lindakuehne.com



"Pine", 2017



"Pine", 2017



"Mesa", 2017

VAL Website

The Verdes Art League now has a website which can be reached by typing in your browser:

[verdesartleague.org](http://verdesartleague.org)

Thank you to all of the Verdes Art League members who submitted their information and images of their work. Our plan is to make changes to the individual submissions each February. Members who have paid their dues will be able to make changes to their text and/or images at that time. To see each member's text and images, click on their photo. We hope you will let us know if your pages generate contacts from folks who are interested in your art. Also look for issues of the VAL newsletter which will be included on the website. If you have questions contact:

Margie Barritt

[margb@umich.edu](mailto:margb@umich.edu)

Toni Lowden

[tonilowden@yahoo.com](mailto:tonilowden@yahoo.com)

## *Fearless Fashion at the Phoenix Art Museum*

Through more than 80 ensembles and a collection of original sketches, letters, personal papers, photographs, press clippings, and newly filmed oral histories, *Fearless Fashion: Rudi Gernreich* explores the significant social and cultural impact of the work of Rudolph "Rudi" Gernreich (1922–1985), the acclaimed designer best known for innovative and body-positive creations such as the "monokini" topsless swimsuit, the thong, unisex clothing, and pantsuits for women. Organized by the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, the major fashion exhibition provides a broader understanding of the late designer's life and how his work continues to influence fashion trends and current notions of beauty, gender, and identity.

Born in 1922 in Vienna, Austria, Gernreich, who was Jewish, fled Nazi oppression as a teen and immigrated to Los Angeles, where he continued to face discrimination. He eventually found safe haven in the performing arts community and the gay rights movement, which drove him to seek social change and promote a truer expression of self through fashion design. Gernreich was propelled to fame when he launched his "monokini" design. Throughout his career, he continued to create trailblazing designs that illustrated his dedication to inclusivity, non-conformity, and liberation.

*Fearless Fashion* is organized into seven sections that, together, chronicle Gernreich's rise to prominence and underscore how his designs revolutionized the understanding of beauty in the fashion industry.

The show runs through September 26th.



Rudi Gernreich



## Demystifying Your Creativity

For centuries, the concept of creativity has been misunderstood and attributed mostly to artists. But creativity is humanity's most valuable skill.

In a 2020 report, the World Economic Forum said that by 2025, machines and automation would eliminate 85 million jobs but create 97 million new ones, and 50% of those jobs will require significant reskilling or people will have to change jobs completely. Based on this data, the organization also named creativity as one of the most crucial skills for anyone in any industry.

With creativity in one form or another - whether it's innovation or embedded into critical thinking and analytical problem solving - this is not only the number one skill employers are looking for, but it's also the most critical one for artists, entrepreneurs and business owners to thrive in what they do.



Matisse and his studio assistant, Annelies Nelck, working on cut-outs at the Hotel Regina, Nice, c. 1953.

### Creativity By Conscious Work

Henri Matisse used to be very aware that achieving his greatest creative potential was actual work and not just sitting idle waiting for the gods to give him some inspiration. In 1933, he told his friend, art journalist and publisher Tériade, "One gets to creativity by conscious work."

Later, in 1953, he wrote an essay where he expressed, "to see is itself a creative operation requiring an effort. Everything that we see in our daily life is more or less distorted by acquired habits... everything should be looked at as if it were the first time... The effort needed to see things without distortion takes something like courage."

Matisse was basically telling us that to be creative you have to put in the work and to stay mindful of the limitations we develop in a world full of distractions that can make us jaded once we become familiarized with our surroundings.

**6** He was also telling us something extremely important: creativity takes courage, because we have

*From The Groove, by Maria Brito*

to put ourselves out there with our ideas and own them in front of the world. This can be terrifying, but it is the only way to express our authentic selves.



Matisse's Studio inside Hotel Regina, Nice.

### Creativity Isn't One Thing

Creativity has also been linked to a bunch of mysterious and fantastical entities such as muses, fairies, and other mythological creatures that avoid certain people but randomly favor some others.

This is where I think people trip up the most: believing that being a creative person is just one thing, or that it just happens randomly to a chosen group of people without the need of putting in the work. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Creativity is an amalgamation of skills such as intuition, observation, risk-taking, associative thinking, curiosity, and self-awareness. These are developed by nurturing them at will and showing up every day to practice as many of these habits as possible until they become second nature.

### Honor Your Uniqueness

We each have an incredibly unique combination of skills. The way we see things is informed by years of cumulative experience, whatever those are. That's why creativity is also accompanied by a burning desire to make a difference in the world, and it is the root of both artistry and entrepreneurship. Remember that the creative process looks exactly the same for artists and for business-people, they just apply their creativity to their respective areas in different ways.

Whether we are talking about Matisse or Google, or anyone in between, owning one's creative powers isn't a random thing. In other words: we all should stop perpetuating the myth that to come up with our best ideas we have to be endowed with special superpowers. Creativity takes courage, risks, openness and above all, real action.

## What Are You Up To?

Connie Lewis



Connie shares this photo of a visitor to her yard in June.

Toni Lowden



Toni visited Seattle to see her daughter. Here they are standing in front of an incredible Rhododendron Bush

Susan Murphy



Susan tried some watercolors on the bark of the Arizona Sycamore while camping in Cave Creek Canyon in the beautiful Chiricahua Mountains in early May.



Hiking along Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains.

Kathy Morgan



Kathy celebrated her husband John's 80th birthday with their family in June. Kathy has also been totally involved in moving into a new home along with helping her daughter while selling her house.

# What Are You Up To?

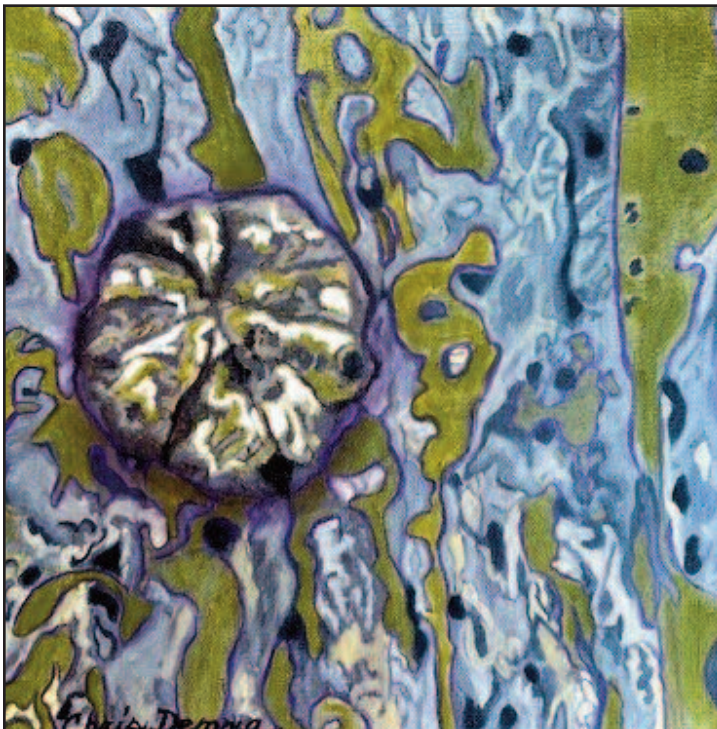
Continued from Page 7

## Chris Demma

Chris has been painting a new summer series and staying indoors during the Arizona heat.



Red Aloe Aglow



Determination

## Jackie Kingsbury

Jackie's watercolor was juried into a show by the Colorado Watercolor Society's Splash Show.



Been There, Done That

Share what you've been up to. Send your info and images to: [sdmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:sdmurphy@gmail.com)



[verdesartleague.org](http://verdesartleague.org)



## Summer Draw Studio

Draw Studio on Wednesday mornings will continue throughout the summer. Email reminders will be sent out to those that are interested.

Draw Studio takes place in the Art Room on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to noon. It can be cancelled due to construction.

If you would like to be put on the Summer Mailing List or have any questions contact Susan Murphy at:

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



Marz Doerflinger, Jane Lewis, Terri Graham and Kathy Brancheau discussing Marz's latest work at Draw Studio on May 26th

## Ongoing Classes

### Art Classes with Eddie Lopez

Mondays at Rio Verde  
9:30-12:30

### Summer Draw Studio

Wednesdays in the Art Room  
10:00-12:00

If you have any questions...  
Contact: Susan Murphy  
[sdmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:sdmurphy@gmail.com)

Abstract & Portrait Groups  
Will Resume in the Fall

“  
*The object of art is not to reproduce reality, but to create a reality of the same intensity.*  
”

Alberto Giacometti

## Watch & Listen at the Heard

The Heard Museum team has pulled together some resources for you to help engage with American Indian art and culture in the comfort of your own home and on your schedule. They will be updating this content weekly for you to access some their most popular videos, articles and books online.

[heard.org/heardathome](http://heard.org/heardathome)

## Interested In Teaching?

Calendar is being set for the 2021/2022 Season! If you are interested in teaching a class for the upcoming season please contact Kathy Brancheau at:

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

## Next Newsletter *Let us know what you're up to!*

Deadline for September/October Newsletter is **Monday, August 23rd**. Please keep sending in your stories and images to Susan Murphy:

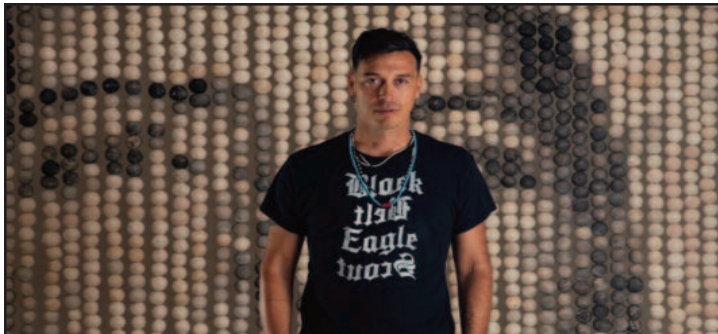
[sdmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:sdmurphy@gmail.com)

## What's Happening

### MESA CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

Cannupa Hanska Luger: Passage

Through August 8th



Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum at Mesa Arts Center is proud to present the collaborative, site-specific exhibition *Passage* by renowned multidisciplinary artist Cannupa Hanska Luger (Madan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lakota, European). The centerpiece, *Something to Hold Onto*, is Luger's second project from his *Counting Coup* series. This immersive installation is made from 7,000+ 1-inch unfired clay beads, created by Arizona residents and national/international partners. Each bead represents a life lost along the US-Mexico border in the last 30 years and is intended to humanize these staggering statistics. The installation mirrors a large-scale floor mural by Phoenix based artists Thomas 'Breeze' Marcus (Tohono O'odham) and Dwayne Manuel (Onk Akimel O'odham). The exhibition is accompanied by art-work and a pop-up educational experience by Tanya Aguiñiga (Mexican) and journalistic documentation by Thosh Collins (Onk Akimel O'odham) and Chelsey Luger (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock Lakota Nation).

*Visit their websites for Covid Protocols.*

## Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?

Have you paid your membership dues for the Verdes Art League yet? Annual dues are \$30.00 for the season which runs from November 2020 to November 2021.

Please make your check out to the Verdes Art League. Please mail your checks to:

**Anne Buhler**  
 4934 Tok A Lou Avenue NE  
 Tacoma WA 98422



## 2020/2021 Board of Directors

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