

Update Regarding the Verdes Fine Art & Holiday Gift Show

By Margaret Sullivan

In checking with the Rio Verde Community Association, we are, as of this date, informed that we are still on schedule to have all currently registered artists participating in a one day show on Sunday, November 21st. The show will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Rio Verde Community Center.

This, of course, could change depending on the status of COVID-19 as we get nearer to the date of the show. If anything changes, we will communicate with you immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Margaret Sullivan

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or

Chris Demma

ckdemma0111@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

First General Meeting Of The Season

Wednesday
November 10th
2:00 pm
Rio Verde
Community Center

Community Center Progress



The three alcove display areas in the Community Center have been improved and new lighting has been added.



Construction is moving along at the Community Center. The new storage closet for the Art Room has been framed in. This area used to be a hallway. This will be storage for grids and sandwich boards.



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Newsletter is online at www.rioverdearizona.com under Community Center & Verdes Art League, in the Post Office and online at www.verdesartleague.org.

From the Co-Presidents



Connie Lewis

Jackie Kingsbury

I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to our board and members for allowing Connie and I to have a successful term as Co-Presidents. Connie was always ready to help with any request and a great resource for remembering past events. Our board was efficient and worked to make the year of Covid pass with many new experiences. As we now turn the board over to Toni and Marz, we know that the coming year will be a huge success. We will act as advisors and look forward to new experiences in the league.

My summer has been full of travel as we explored locations in the states. A highlight of traveling from Washington state to the Carolinas was exploring art centers and museums. In Naperville, Illinois we saw a Frida Kahlo retrospective with photos and art from a museum in Mexico dedicated to the lives of Diego Rivera and Frida. I did not realize how her back injuries had affected her life. Seeing her childhood pictures and even her braces gave me a better understanding of her life as a teen, wife and artist. Art gave her meaning and pleasure throughout her life. Like many of us, our art experiences add much joy to our lives.



In Great Falls, Montana we spent hours at the Charles Russell Museum. Russell moved to Montana when he was 16 where he was a shepherd, trapper, horse wrangler and night herder before becoming a full-time artist in 1892. One of his early art endeavors was carving small examples of animals and gear to entertain his fellow cow hands. His life spanned from 1864 to 1926 and he was known as the "cowboy's artist" producing over 4,000 works of art. It is believed that art pieces could still be unknown. Perhaps we should start a search and go to estate sales to find hidden treasures. This museum was built on his homesite with his studio being preserved. A large art auction is held in Great Falls every year with art from well known national artists. It was a wonderful side trip on our way to Spokane.



In Kansas my camera was shooting farms and silos. I look forward to painting an old gas station turned into a motel or the row of rusted cars and trucks lined up along the highway. I have rock carvings from Wyoming and lake scenes from the Carolinas. I hope you had an exciting summer. I didn't paint regularly but now have a multitude of art memories and photos as resources. I hope you had some great experiences to share in our coming year. I look forward to seeing you all.

Jackie



Hello everyone, it is the dog days of summer, but fall looms just beyond. We are so hopeful the new building will be done and activities will be back to normal. I have enjoyed working with Jackie (thank heavens she learned to zoom). I believe Toni and Marz have some special, unique ideas for next year. I am looking forward to their leadership which starts in November.

I have been working on Holiday wreaths, arrangements and gifts for the November show. I think we are all excited to get back together. Covid variant seems to be hanging around so I expect a booster in the fall.

I was able to be in the Colorado mountains (Estes Park) for a month, and I painted. I will have some pictures framed soon to show.

Be happy working on whatever your medium might be. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Thank you for supporting Jackie and myself this past year. Sending happy thoughts your way!

Connie

Verdes Art League Directory Is Completed

Below are eight submissions from the VAL Directory. That leaves nine more to be showcased in future Newsletters. Meanwhile do go to the Directory online at: www.verdesartleague.org

You can view all 56 submissions on the Verdes Art League website.

See page 5 for the latest on the website.

Jane Lewis



Paintings by Jane Lewis

My love of art started when I was a preschooler. Getting a coloring book and a box of crayons was very exciting. All through school I enjoyed art classes and I won a couple of national art awards. I continued my education at the University of Washington as an art major.

When I got married and had twins, art took a back seat except for an occasional art class. When we moved to Rio Verde in 2001 from Washington State, I discovered that all the sunshine inspired me to paint. Sunshine, along with taking art classes from Eddie Lopez in the Community Center was a perfect combination. My favorite media are oil and acrylic and my favorite subjects are people.

Another favorite is mural painting. I've painted children's rooms, bathrooms, a seascopie in a hospital examining room, but I think my favorite project was working on our Community Center Art Room wall along with other members of the Verdes Art League.

janelewis@msn.com



"Hool Skids," acrylic, 40" x 20"



"Hon Pany," acrylic, 20" x 20"



"Jane, self portrait contour drawing," acrylic & permanent marker, 8" x 15"

Carol Lewallen Matthews



Since November 2019, I have been taking Matt Smith's online class. Recently I painted Elk Lake which is by far and away my best painting. Although I have a very good idea of how I accomplished this feat, the paintings that followed did not come together as quickly or as solidly. On reflection as to why, I think it is because I did not decide the location and color of the horizon line from the beginning and STICK TO IT as I did with Elk Lake. As a result, I painted problem areas over and over again which blurred perspective, color and value lines.

The second realization is that I have to review all of Matt Smith's class instruction before my year is up November 1, 2020 with the goal of learning how to lay down real life color and value in one or two brush strokes.

I am on a journey. I hope you join me plein air painting for the fun and excitement of looking for hours at the beautiful country we live in!

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"James Hiker," oil 8" x 10"



"Morning Sunrise Mist," oil 11" x 14"

"Glacier Breasted Hawk," oil 11" x 14"



"Morning Sunrise Mist," oil 11" x 14"

Kathy Morgan



My high school Art teacher told us to look at a piece of Art and decide how to redo it and make it your own. That's what I enjoy doing! I started out in Art and Home Ec at St Catherine's college in St. Paul, Minnesota. After two years I took a break and went to work at a local TV station and then got married a year later and had three little girls in five years. When the girls were old enough for pre school I created craft projects for three year olds at their school and did all the buying for the school for ten years.

Next a friend convinced me to co-manage a Wildlife Art Gallery for two and a half years. When it closed I decided to learn how to frame and went to a picture framing center in Jackson, Mississippi, in March 1982. For the next eighteen years I did framing for a gallery, local wildlife artists, businesses and private homes and my frame shop was in my home. At this time I learned how to do faux finishing doors frames and furniture.


We moved to San Antonio, Texas, where I designed and painted children's furniture. I also took classes at Texas A&M to become a Master Gardener. I love gardening and flower arranging. I took a class on designing belt buckles (look second place for best glitzy buckle) and designed wine charms and jewelry. I was juried into art shows in Texas and sold in galleries in Santa Fe and Minnesota.

Eighteen years ago when we bought a lake home in northern Minnesota I ran into my high school Biology teacher who was the assistant director at Camp Knutson, a camp dedicated to children and adults with special needs. She asked me to get involved and that's when I started a new program for the campers called "Beading at the Beach" twice a week. I had sixty kids the first year and now we touch 1200 kids and adults with disabilities every year. This is how I spend my summers.


Another passion is knitting and needle pointing. My Nana taught me to knit when I was seven so I could knit doll clothes for my sisters. My mom started me on needle pointing.

I served as President of the Verdes Art League for three years using my time and energy with this amazing group. Our Verdes Art League is so special because we are all so caring and enjoy sharing with each other.

kbigbie@aol.com



Various earrings, necklaces, and brooches styles



Baby booties and hats! Needlepoint and knitted animals for my grandchildren



Reading with my Campers on a rainy day

Providing a magical camping experience for children and youth with special needs.

Katherine H. Otte



I am a retired registered nurse from western Nebraska where I had always enjoyed spending the summers outdoors raking a large garden and canning the produce. I moved to Rio Verde in 2013 and it soon became clear that I would need a new hobby. Arizona summers are not kind to gardeners and gardeners and there isn't enough space to do much gardening. Staying inside during the summer is definitely more comfortable!

I had enjoyed sewing in the past and have always done well following a pattern so I look up beading. Heidi Middleton taught me the basics and my new hobby began. I like the challenge of finding new and different patterns to try. I like taking classes from the different artists in the Verdes Art League and especially love seeing everyone's work at our local art shows. I thoroughly enjoy the friendship and encouragement extended by my fellow art league members.

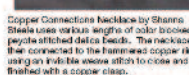
khotte@hotmail.com 480-404-6107



French Quarter Lark, designed by Marilee Parth features 42 inches of open beading which will result in one each week. The bracelets are three layers of peyote stitched beads with over 200 crystals. It is available in multiple color combinations.



Holiday Garland bracelet designed by Jeanette Day Hawley. Beads and bands are constructed using a right angle weave, with embellishment on the edges and spacer bead closure on the ends. The surface embellishment features another layer of beads and biacore crystals.



Copper Connections necklace by Shanna Sheale uses various lengths of solar treated peyote stitched delfia beads. The necklace is then connected to the finished copper rings using an invisible wire which attach to a clip and is finished with a copper clasp.

Verdes Art League Directory

Continued from Page 3

Marilyn Perry



Elementary education was my specialty. Twenty six years with six graders teaching all subjects. Before I was licensed and after retirement I substituted at all grade levels for years. I envied teachers drawing cartoon characters on the chalk board while I drew stick characters.

Mike Perry is my husband. I have three children and six grandchildren.

After moving to Rio Verde, I found myself with free time. I decided to join the art class taught by Eddie Lopez. You can see the results of this decision.

mmperry@cox.net



"Horsas"



"Vase with Sunflowers"

Marilyn's paintings are either oil or acrylic.



"Dust"

Chris Rich



My Story

I am Chris Rich, my home is Colorado eight months of the year, Rio Verde four months of the year with a sprinkle of Taos, New Mexico every chance I get.

I have always loved art. As a child I remember winning a poster contest and my teacher telling me I was an artist. That's all I needed to hear. While raising my children and during my career I managed to express my love for art thru decorating my home and garden. Then about 2000, I attended watercolor classes at the Denver Art Students League, and I was hooked.

I have tried to be loyal to watercolor, but occasionally try a different medium. I am in a 12 step program for "too many art supplies," also I am a member of Verdes Art League and Louisville Art Association. Most of my paintings are for personal satisfaction, some are gifts or private commissions.

I have taken many classes from well-known and hardly known artists. I love them all!

When my husband and I met we discovered our mutual love for the southwest. That has given me a chance to paint air paint throughout Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California.

I am past co-president of Verdes Art League, a position I shared with Marcy Roth. The Verdes Art League has opened doors for new friends and good times and great fun classes.

Chris Rich
Chris_rich@msn.com 720-771-0274 cell



"Dying for Winter," watercolor, 11" x 11"



"My Neighbor's Laundry," watercolor, 5" x 7"

Jack Vogler



Atelier en Plein Air

For the past 25 years, I have had the pleasure of visiting Tonto and Rio Verde for vacations. Nearly every morning, I would drive down Forest Road into the Tonto National Forest, always taking pictures of the surrounding area and often setting up my easel to quickly paint the scenes en plein air.

My in-home gallery features many other paintings of this area, along with numerous other paintings of the Grand Teton Range in Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, the East Coast area around our previous home in Connecticut, and many other locations.

I am a graduate of the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. From there, I attended the Art Students League of New York. While there, I studied with several masters in fine art, editorial illustration, watercolor, and calligraphy. During the Vietnam conflict, I was drafted into the United States Army. Following my basic training, I was assigned to the 4th Army Training Axis Center in El Paso, Texas, as an illustrator. I painted surface-to-air missiles at the White Sands Missile Range like the Army had never seen before! I returned to Chicago where I began a 57-year career in consumer product and corporate strategy development and design. This often took me to the distant capitals of the world. I was always designing, drawing, and painting too.

After all of that, in October of 2016 I became a permanent resident of Tonto Verde and that's when I joined the Verdes Art League.

jack_vogler@yahoo.com



"After the Storm," Oil on Linen, 16" x 20"



"The Road into the Tonto National Forest," Oil on Linen 20" x 24"



"Beaver Creek," Oil on Linen, 11" x 14"

Jackie Yuhas



I was born in Massachusetts and spent 28 yrs. in Southern California, now in Rio Verde since 1988. Art has been a part of life since I was a child. The first lessons I took were from Eddie Lopez, who has been coming to Rio Verde for years. He has been a big inspiration for me and has refined my art beyond my expectations. After trying several mediums, I have settled on acrylic.

I have had so much satisfaction having my art in many homes in Rio Verde, and now some in Tonto Verde. Painting is my love, portrays my favorite, but westerns and still life are a challenge too. I look forward to creating many more paintings and taking part in the excitement of the art shows.

yuhasjackie@gmail.com



"Girl on a horse," acrylic, 16" x 24"



"Girl in a flowered hat," acrylic, 16" x 20"



"Indian pots," acrylic, 24" x 24"

A Little History of Pima Cotton



Pima home, Edward Curtis 1907.

"I had asked Linda Hefter if the Heard Museum had any samples of the cotton woven by the primitive people. Being the researcher that she is, her answer is very interesting. This bit of history on the origin of Pima Cotton is worth sharing".

Toni Lowden

Below is the answer to Toni's question from Linda Hefter...

The Hohokam disappear from the archeological record about 1450.

Their descendants are the people who live today on the Salt River Reservation here in Phoenix. The name they call themselves is the Akimel O'odham (the River People). When the Spanish arrived in this area in the 1500s they couldn't understand what the native people were saying so the Spanish called them Pima.

The Pima people here on the Salt River Reservation were and still are very successful farmers. Two of their most successful crops were wheat and cotton.

In the early 1900s the US Department of Agriculture wanted to develop an American version of the extra long staple Egyptian cotton known for its softness and strength. The Department of Agriculture asked the Pima people here in Arizona to help with this project. They agreed to help and American Egyptian cotton was first grown right here on the Salt River Reservation.

To thank the Pima farmers for their help the federal government named the American Egyptian cotton Pima cotton.

Since they grew cotton I assume they wove with it although we don't have any Pima weaving at the Heard. The Hohokam were known for their pottery and shell jewelry. The Pima were expert basket makers.

Art Trivia

Who was the first living person to have their art displayed in The Louvre?

Answer on Page 10

More About the VAL Website

By Margie Barritt

After about three months of the online version of the Verdes Art League Directory we can report some statistics about its use, which we have learned is called the analytics for the website. Use of the paper copies of the Art League Directory in the Community Center library and the Art Room will have to remain a mystery.

The analytics for the VAL website for June 20-July 19 showed a 733% increase of visits to the site over the first month that the website existed. Before you think that is amazing you should know that the number of visits was 50, but it was a 733% increase over the visits of the first month. There was a big spike of visits when the July/August VAL Newsletter came out with an item about the new VAL Website.

The 50 visits from June 20-July 19 break down as follows: 32 views of the Member Directory pages (the pages of members head shots, name and kind of art), 23 views of the Home Page, 8 views of the Newsletters, four views of the History page and 20 views of individual members pages which include their artist statement and examples of their art. If one adds analytics for July 19 through August 14 the visits were 16 but there were 130 page views including 40 of the Members Directory, 18 home page, 6 newsletters, 3 history pages and 63 views of individual members pages including their artist statement and examples of their work.

We are hoping to get permission from the Rio Verde and Tonto Verde Associations to have the VAL Website attached to each community website. We will let you know how that goes. If you think that is a good idea you could let your respective Rio and Tonto management folks know.

Questions:

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Toni Lowden

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www.verdesartleague.org

Monday Mornings With Eddie Lopez

By Mary Kuhr

Monday morning Summer Art Classes with Eddie Lopez continue in spite of the Community Center construction. There was only one unexpected closure, and during the rest of the closures, three diehards, Debbie Gilsmer, Marilyn Perry and Mary Kuhr, plus Eddie, met at Mary Kuhr's home. It was cozy.

We continue to be blessed with expert, professional instruction from Eddie. One of his many quotes states: "I am not here to help you paint a pretty picture, I am here to make you a better artists". How true this is, as it is more like attending art school. Eddie Lopez has been a faithful instructor for 40 years in the Verdes. That in itself is an amazing feat of dedication. During Covid last year, students mailed their art to him to critique, including Margie Barritt who still mails her artwork from her summer home in Michigan.

Classes continue throughout the summer, fall and winter.



What Are You Up To?

Toni Lowden



Toni enjoyed time in the Bay Area of California with family and friends during the month of June.



Nicholas Wilton, Toni and Ferris

Left: While Toni was in Sausalito visiting her son Josh, she stopped by the Art Building at Gate 5 in the harbor to thank Nicholas Wilton and his technical coordinator for the Creative Visionary Project; the 12 week online class she took in Abstract Painting during the Covid lockdown. He titled the class "Art2Life".

What Are You Up To?

Continued from Page 6

Chris Rich



Chris enjoyed some time in Taos, New Mexico during the month of June sketching and painting, and enjoying the bloom of hollyhocks.

Susan Murphy



Susan has enjoyed sketching, watercolor and whittling on her many camping trips this summer above the Mogollon Rim.

Ed and Kay Botkin

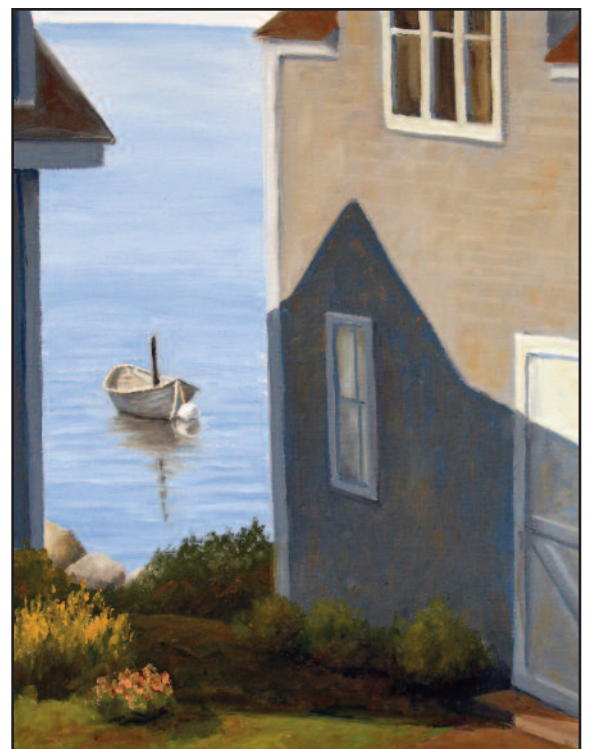
2021 Botkin Art Show was held in August at The Granite Gallery in Tenants Harbor, Maine. The show ran August 20 through August 24 with an Opening Reception on August 20th.

Kay showed her granite and glass sculptures, while Ed showed his oil paintings.



Kay's granite sculpture with bronze wind bell. 38 inches.

Kay's granite sculpture with blue stained-glass inlays. 39 inches.



Ed's oil on canvas "Mooring Close to Home". 16" x 12". Location is on Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine.

What Are You Up To?

Continued from Page 7

Margie Barritt

How did becoming snowbirds for the first time in May 2021 affect the art I did this year? Well, before we left I consciously painted four Arizona/Utah scenes to take with me to the Michigan destination, including the watercolor of Four Peaks.



Four Peaks Watercolor

I also painted Rosie, my great grand daughter for the third time, this portrait was for her grandmother, my daughter Laurie, on the occasion of her 63rd birthday. (The younger generation is all in Michigan, which is why we made the move.)



Rosie

And when we were confronted by empty white walls in the new condo - more than the paintings that I had brought from Arizona could cover - we acquired the painting below by my daughter-in-law Carolyn.

www.carolynreedbarritt.com



Painting by Carolyn Reed Barritt in our condo.

I do not recommend moving if one wants to concentrate on art. I have been struggling to paint anything that I really like. Perhaps it is the lack of a teacher and fellow artists for inspiration. I hope to find both again when we return to Rio.

Heidi Middleton

Heidi has been creating beaded jewelry during the summer in their 5th wheel summer home in Montana. She was in the Polson Cherry Festival and was very successful.



Continued on Page 9

Plein Air at the Plant Sale

Would you like to paint or sketch in Plein Air during the RV Plant Sale? Wednesday, November 3rd in the Community Center parking lot. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Tartaglia at [203-395-9872](tel:203-395-9872)



What Are You Up To?

Continued from Page 8

Debbie Etcheson



A Gift To Remember...

After the pandemic prevented a celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary in December, this last June, Gary and I planned a family celebration with our children at the Wyoming High Country Lodge near Lovell, Wyoming. It is a beautiful place in the Big Horn Mountains and we had a great time. I asked everyone in the family, 5 adults and 4 children, ages 6, 10, 13 and 15 to create an acrylic painting of their choice to commemorate our time together and as a gift from them to us for our 50th.

I planned it to be a 30 inch square collage of 9 - 10 inch paintings. Each painting was totally unique and all put their heart and effort into it. Granted this was an endeavor worked on over 4 days and amongst many other activities including hiking, fishing, off road bicycling, and 4-wheeler riding.

The finished product will be assembled, framed and proudly hung in our home in Rio Verde.



Susan Murphy



I attended the Immersive Van Gogh exhibit in Scottsdale on August 26th, located at 4301 N Scottsdale Road. The exhibit runs through November 28th. For tickets and more information visit:

www.vangoghphx.com

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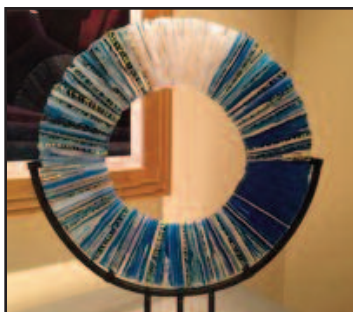
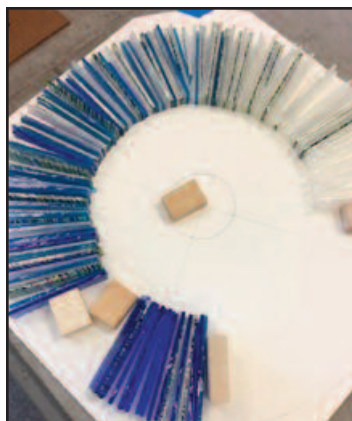
What Are You Up To?

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Valerie Holton

I tend to quickly lose interest in art projects. These past two summers have been no exception - I tried new techniques in printmaking, kiln glass and jewelry. The good news - I loved them all!

KILN GLASS: Glass has become my new favorite medium. This summer I took a class at an internationally recognized art glass supplier, Ed Hoy's in the Chicago area. The three day workshop involved creating a 16" diameter ring made out of hundreds of pieces of glass, each 3 inches long and in various widths (1/2" and 3/4") and colors, including handmade pieces of multicolor glass "stringers". The glass pieces were then stacked on their sides, in a pinwheel fashion and kiln fired. I attended the class twice and made two complimentary pieces.



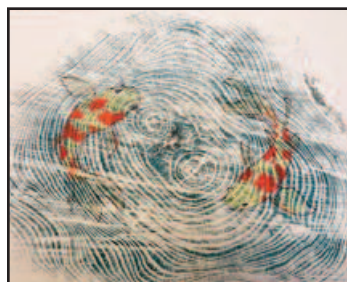
Left: Glass stacked like dominos around a pinwheel, before firing.



Left: Glass strips used in "Fire" piece.

PRINT MAKING: The summer of 2020 was particularly challenging because my local art center closed during the pandemic. I found inspiration in a home decor magazine where black and white tree slice prints were all the rage. A video by Bryan Nash Gill inspired me to try to imitate his process. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-cm8lpOvzI>

I would chase tree cutters in our neighborhood looking for interesting tree slices, (called cookies). I would bring the heavy cookies home, sand them for hours, use a propane torch to burn and heighten the unique character of the rings, ink with a brayer and then pull a print by manually using a wooden spoon as a barren. It was not as easy as Gill made it look on his video! But it kept me entertained for hours. I tried water coloring koi fish and adding paper collage to create more interest in some of the prints.



Koi Fish

HANDMADE JEWELRY CUFFS: Inspired by a high-end jewelry artisan, I started making leather cuffs this summer. I enjoyed choosing the leather strips, from hundreds of colorful samples online, and affixing them to metal cuffs. I may even sell them at the Verdes Art League Spring Show next year!



CREATIVE WRITING CLASS: Because I am always moving on to the next creative adventure, I also joined a memoir writing class. I'd be happy to share my story "My Love Affair with Roy Rogers" when we are all together in the fall.

As Roy would say, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again."

September Workshops at Holland Center

Fused Glass Picture Frames
Saturday, September 11th
10:00 am to 11:30 am, \$50

Pretty as a picture - made by you! Create your own picture frame to hold your fondest memories. Frames will be 4 x 6 inches with your own personal design. The instructor will fire them in her kiln, and bring them back to the Holland Center for you to pick up.

Colored Pencil Art: Learn How To Draw Eyes
Saturday, September 18th
10:00 am, \$40

Nicole McCaigue, a local artist, will walk you through the process that she uses to create lifelike eyes with colored pencils. She will show you the tools she uses and explain why and how she uses certain art materials. This class will be Zoom only. Instructions upon registration.

Bookbinding Basics: Four in One
Thursday, September 23rd
10:00 am to 2:00 pm, \$45

Japanese Stab Bindings - In this 1/2 day class you'll create four small journals and an origami folder to hold them all. Japanese stab bindings are great for holding together a group of single-sheets of paper and you'll learn four different bindings! These sweet booklets are great as gifts, making notes, or for use as travel journals. Lynda Abare will be your instructor.

Register at the Holland Art Center
34250 N 60th St, Bldg B, Scottsdale AZ
www.hollandcenter.org
click on Lifelong Learning

The Power Of Rituals

People tend to believe that routines are boring, that they keep you in an uncreative rut. The opposite is true. The myth is that creative people are different, that they have a crazy and unpredictable lifestyle, an alternate reality every day. But that's not accurate.

Ideas need certain structure to flourish. Note that I say "structure" and not "rigidity." Creativity is built incrementally by practicing small habits or following daily routines, or even having an occasional ritual when starting something new.

Do The Same Thing Every Day



Louise Bourgeois photographed by her assistant, Jean-François Jaussaud, in her Chelsea apartment in 2000. She was always surrounded by her notebooks and diaries.

To stick to a routine, you have to find something you love doing and that doesn't feel like a chore.

The extraordinary French-American artist Louise Bourgeois, wrote every day in her journals. Her thoughts, activities, and experiences served as a memory bank of ideas.

Bourgeois also kept three types of diaries. She described these as: "The written, the spoken (into a tape recorder), and my drawing diary, which is the most important. Having these

diaries means that I keep my house in order." She wrote and drew in those diaries until her last days, before dying at the age of 98 in 2010.



Chris Ofili at the Studio Museum in Harlem during the installation of "Afro Muses 1995-2005," his show of the watercolors he did privately for years.

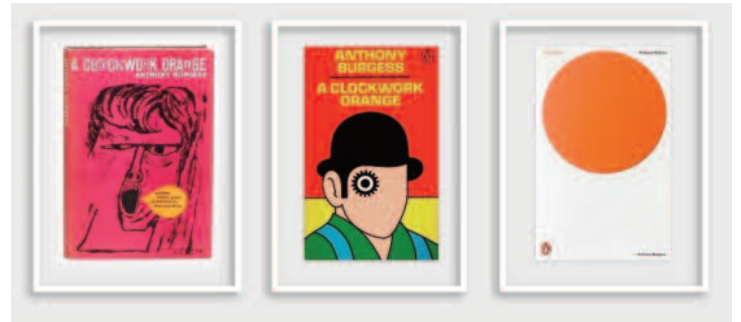
In 2005, British artist Chris Ofili had a spectacular solo exhibition at the Studio Museum in Harlem. Afro Muses showed 181 watercolors of men and women's heads wearing an intricately detailed kaleidoscope of African outfits and adornments, with different hairstyles and expressions. They all had the same width and height, but each subject was distinctive and special.

That exhibition was a delight to the eyes. Watercolor is a very quick medium, but his were particularly detailed. Then I read in *The New York Times* that he had been painting between one and ten watercolors a day for nearly 10 years, mostly to keep for himself. He had thousands of them, and this exhibition was just a tiny selection.

From *The Groove*, by Maria Brito

It would take him between 5 and 15 minutes to make each one, while in parallel he created his large paintings. Watercoloring became his anchor, his daily ritual. He said "Sometimes, I will return to the watercolors in the evening. And that's a completely different atmosphere. If things haven't gone well during the day, I can calm down."

Invent Your Own



The iconic covers of some of the editions of *A Clockwork Orange*.

Anthony Burgess, the genius who wrote *A Clockwork Orange*, was obsessed with dictionaries and consulted them every day. To the point that after his death in 1993, people who worked in his foundation found part of a manuscript for a slang dictionary that the prolific author had began working on more than 50 years before the discovery.

When he felt stuck or out of ideas, he devised a ritualistic way to get his creative juices flowing when writing about a dull object. He opened a random page and challenged himself to use the words in it to create his description. I think this is not only a fantastic way to keep the brain engaged but I've also tried it myself and it's a hell of a lot of fun.

The 80-20 Rule

Think about the 80-20 rule. 80% of the time, it's quite helpful to stick to a routine or to follow a ritual, 20% of the time, it's better to roam around free to spice things up.

When Warren Buffet arrives to work at the Berkshire Hathaway offices, most of his time is spent reading. "I just sit in my office and read all day." He estimates that 80% of his daily work routine is spent on reading materials ranging from financial statements, journals and business reports to newspapers and books.

While teaching an investing class at Columbia Business School, Buffet held up a stack of paper and said, "Read 500 pages like this everyday," in response to a question about how to prepare for success in investment. "That's how knowledge works."

You may not have the freedom, time or attention span to read 500 pages a day like Buffet suggests but picking up a form of meditation - literal or metaphorical - like journaling was for Bourgeois, or watercoloring is for Ofili, is a feasible 15-minute daily ritual that can pay you back with dividends.

Verdes Art League Lecture Series - New Ways to Learn Until We Are Together Again

By Valerie Holton, VAL Lecture Series Chair

For many years the Verdes Art League has offered art history lectures for the Verdes communities presented by docents from areawide art museums. This past year we were forced to take a hiatus. Unfortunately our plans for January through April of 2022 are still uncertain.

However, there are many FREE zoom art lectures and podcasts offered by art museums around the world. Favorites include: The National Gallery of Art, Norton Simon Museum, the Frick (cocktails with a curator combines drink recipes with art - fun!) and Metropolitan Museum of Art. Just go to your favorite museum website and noodle around to find great learning opportunities. Almost all of them have video clips, too, available on their respective YouTube channels.

There are also fee-based classes. For example OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) offers university quality non-credit classes for senior citizens. OLLI programs are affiliated with 124 universities across the country. Each one is separately managed; being an alum is not required. The OLLI program at ASU is great - they have over 100 classes this fall on a wide variety of topics such as history, science, technology, literature and art. Classes are relatively short - 90 minutes long, for two to four weeks, and reasonably priced. While some are in-person at their Tempe location, most are on zoom this fall. A few art classes that might interest VAL members include:

- ▶ Vermeer: His Life and his Art
- ▶ American Colonial Art & Architecture
- ▶ Picasso, Matisse and the Steins: the Start of Modern Art
- ▶ Picasso's Early Years: His Life, His Women, His Art
- ▶ Contemporary Art You Will Actually Like
- ▶ Modern and Contemporary Women Artists: From Surrealism to Assemblage
- ▶ Painting Flowers in the Style of Monet

For more information:

<https://lifelonglearning.asu.edu>

Until we are together again, I hope you enjoy learning from the comfort of your home. Enjoy!

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

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West is proud to announce the stunning upcoming exhibition celebrating the life and works of Edward Curtis. The show opens on October 19th and 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>

New This Year! Monthly Art Excursions

Tentative plans are in place for monthly Art Excursions during the 2021/2022 VAL Season. Local Art Museums & Lunch including Heard Museum, Western Spirit Museum, SMOCA and Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Celebration of Art Tents, and Art Supply Trips to Jerry's Artarama and Blick. Dates and details will be coming soon.

If you have any suggestions or questions, you can contact the chairs:

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Alice Neel: People Come First Comes To An End at the MET

Contributed by Susan Murphy

Alice Neel: People Come First was the first museum retrospective in New York of American artist Alice Neel (1900–1984) in twenty years. This ambitious survey positions Neel as one of the century's most radical painters, a champion of social justice whose longstanding commitment to humanist principles inspired her life as well as her art, as demonstrated in the approximately one hundred paintings, drawings, and watercolors that appeared in The Met's survey.

Images of activists demonstrating against fascism and racism appear alongside paintings of impoverished victims of the Great Depression, as well as portraits of Neel's neighbors in Spanish Harlem, leaders from a wide range of political organizations, queer artists and performers, and members of New York's global diaspora. The exhibition also highlights Neel's erotic watercolors and pastels from the 1930s, her depictions of mothers, and her paintings of nude figures (some of them visibly pregnant), all of whose candor and irreverence are without precedent in the history of Western art.

Neel was a longtime resident of New York, and the city served as her most faithful subject. Indeed, the sum total of her work testifies to the drama of its streets, the quotidian beauty of its buildings, and, most importantly, the diversity, resilience, and passion of its residents. "For me, people come first," Neel declared in 1950. "I have tried to assert the dignity and eternal importance of the human being."



Portrait of Irene Peslikis, a member of a new generation of revolutionary feminists that Neel began to paint in the early 1970s.

Alice Neel: People Come First has a hardcover catalog that can be purchased at the Met Store or [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Summer Draw Studio

Draw Studio on Wednesday mornings have continued throughout the summer. Email reminders were 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.

Studio sessions for portrait and abstract will resume in November. Look for more information in the November newsletter.



Ruth Orton and new resident Deca Fletcher learn some origami from Kathy Brancheau during July 21st Summer Draw Studio. Kathy taught how to make a Spanish Box and a Triangle Box.

A Massive Crocheted Canopy Provides Shade for a Shopping District in Malaga

thisiscolossal.com



Three years ago, the town of Alhaurin de la Torre in Malaga city council's Department of the Environment decided to swap a large plastic tarp with a more eco-friendly and colorful solution. The textile tarp features colorful geometric patterns and organic shapes that radiate like stepping stones created by local crochet teacher Eva Pacheco and over a dozen students. It now covers nearly 500 square meters.

“
I dream of painting,
and then I paint
my dream.”

Vincent Van Gogh

”

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

Abstract & Portrait Groups
Will Resume in the Fall



November Newsletter Will Have A New Look!

Deadline for November Newsletter is **Wednesday, October 20th**. Please keep sending in your stories and images to Susan Murphy:

sdmurphy@gmail.com

What's Happening

PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Oscar Muñoz: Invisibilia

September 11 through January 16, 2022



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. Beginning with his early, stark charcoal drawings from the late 1970s and early 1980s, whose approach to light and shade continued to impact Muñoz's aesthetic in later photographic and video works, the exhibition will also include approximately 50 exemplary works from his most evocative series created during the late 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s to the present day, including site-specific work, to trace the evolution of his practice. Opening at Phoenix Art Museum in the fall of 2021, Invisibilia will be accompanied by the first comprehensive bilingual catalogue that explores the artist's work, with contributions by leading scholars in the field.

SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Jacob Meders: And It's Built on the Sacred

Through October 17th



And It's Built on the Sacred is an installation by Jacob A Meders (Mechoopda/Maidu) that reflects on the gentrification of Indigenous land and the handling of unwanted Euro-American religious objects. The installation facilitates an open dialogue about discarded or unwanted objects like souvenirs and religious novelties, and reconsiders how meaning can be layered and reclaimed in these commodities. Meders took found objects, which have completed their cycle with their previous proprietor, and hand-painted traditional markings of Indigenous people on them.



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