

March 2022

FROM THE ART ROOM



SPRING 2022

Art Show

SUNDAY MARCH 20

9:00 am to 4:00 pm RioVerde Community Center

The Verdes Art League Spring Art Show will again be chaired by Ed Botkin, with the help of many volunteers. The show takes place on Sunday, March 20 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A wide range of media will be on view, including oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, jewelry, gourd art, handmade note-cards, leather work, wood work, and so much more.

Twenty Six Artists Will Participate in this Annual Show:

- Jan Allison
- Linda Berck
- Linda "Sunny" Bottega
- Ed Botkin
- Chris Demma
- Jack Dodd
- Evonne Evans
- Irene Fleming
- Patricia Byrd Franklin
- Retha Herman
- Kari Hogden
- Janet Hulbert
- Jackie Kingsbury
- Mary Kuhr
- Julia Kulikoff
- Connie Lewis
- Toni Lowden
- Michael Luksich
- Carol Lewallen Matthews
- Kathy Morgan
- Michele Mulleady
- Katherine Otte
- Nancy Renaut
- Margaret Sullivan
- Debi Visconti
- Jackie Yuhas



Like us on Facebook

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



Marz Doerflinger

Toni Lowden

We are artists, we create. Some of us create to relax, to socialize, to learn and some, because we can't NOT create. Regardless of the reason, creating is better when we share.

I'm currently reading the book "Share Your Work" by Austin Kleon. It's part of a trilogy of fun little books for artists of all disciplines. Austin talks about the importance of sharing a little something of ourselves or our processes everyday. It's this consistency that helps us find our voice, develop connections, and move the world forward. Don't have a completed work to show? It doesn't matter, people are interested in your research, references, sketches, notes, and stories. Posting daily to social media may seem pointless, but daily posting creates a following and those small tidbits soon turn into something massive. The Verdes Art League has a new web site, complete with member pages that are perfect for sharing your work. Posting on Facebook or Instagram? Use the #VerdesArtLeague so members can find you easily. Learn more about our web site and how to make it your own at our March meeting.

And speaking of sharing, please consider sharing your time by serving on the VAL board next year. Reach out to Toni or myself for more on how you can help our league.

Marz



Plein air pastel during the week of February 6 at the Boulders.

In the Place I Find Myself

The creative path isn't always the easy path. But it's the one we choose because it enriches our lives. Finding our own authentic voice is something that takes time and is going to keep changing and evolving.

It's about finding out what you want to express, and then trusting that the process will take you there. Making art that is personal - that repetition that hopefully brings out your personality and what you want to express...that is where I find myself.

A landscape can be a beautiful representation of nature, but it can also be a very personal memory of a special place.

Study the biography of your favorite artist and it is a revelation how many years it took them to arrive at their best expression. How do we stay engaged? One way is to find inspiration through a community of fellow artists and we have that in our Verdes Art League. We also get inspiration from the calm beauty of the desert, the melange of color as the sun sets, the subtle arrival of cactus buds, that signal Spring is not far away.

My cousin is a textile artist and I asked him how he keeps up his creative vibe and he said, "By surrounding myself with stimulating people." There is something to that, and it is what makes our VAL so special.

The last body of work I did came as a result of Covid quarantine and finally letting go- huge things for me because my whole life has been about planning, controlling, organizing. Going in my studio space early and doing a little bit each morning is now working for me.

Thank you in advance to our newly formed Bylaw Committee for updating the VAL Bylaws, We found that these hadn't been updated since 2013. The changes that they suggest will be brought up at the March meeting and will require a two-thirds vote of the membership in order to pass.

Please think about stepping up and taking a committee assignment or an office this year. A healthy organization keeps changing and moving. We'll be asking for your input on topics you want for programs next Fall. Please feel free to contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

This is your art league. What do you want it to look like in the next five years?

Toni

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Classes & Workshops
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VAL General Meeting

WEDNESDAY

March 9 - 3 pm

Rio Verde Community
Center Large Meeting
Room

Nancy Gray will give a talk about improving our website, submitting work and photographing your work.

Welcome New Members!

Kathy Clements

Judy Eisenberg

Rebecca Hathaway

Kim Johnson

Art Excursions

March

Mesa Contemporary Art Museum



Thursday, March 17, Leave CC Parking Lot at 9:30 am

It's hard to believe the winter season is coming to an end. The good news is we have one more excursion. We will be going as a group on Thursday March 17 to the Mesa Arts Center. Everyone will meet in the Rio Verde Community parking lot at 9:30 and caravan to the museum. Admission is free. We will be looking for drivers. After viewing the art we will stop for lunch before going home. If you would like more information you can click on the link below.

www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/museum/visit

43rd Annual Contemporary Craft Show

Highlighting the finest in contemporary crafts from across the country, Mesa Contemporary Art Museum's Annual Contemporary Crafts has become a benchmark for innovation and quality. Representative of traditional craft mediums including ceramics, fibers, basketry, metals, wood, glass, jewelry, papermaking and book arts, this exhibition showcases 45 artworks by 36 artists, representing 15 states.

Along with the Contemporary Craft Show, there will be three other gallery exhibitions. There are also studios to visit which give classes throughout the year in ceramics, glass and much more.

The Gift Shop at the Museum is full of artist-made works that you will enjoy.

Any questions, contact:

Diane Kizewski
715-498-9958
Dlk_1021@yahoo.com

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

When you sign up for an Art Excursion and you change your mind or something comes up, please contact the chairs that you will not be attending.

VAL Spring Show

We are welcoming the return of the Spring Art Show this year after a two-year hiatus due to COVID in 2020 and RCC construction in 2021.

We have a full show of 26 artists showing art in many mediums.

Participating artists will set up on Saturday March 19 from 1 to 4 pm or on Sunday March 20 from 6:30 to 9:00 am.

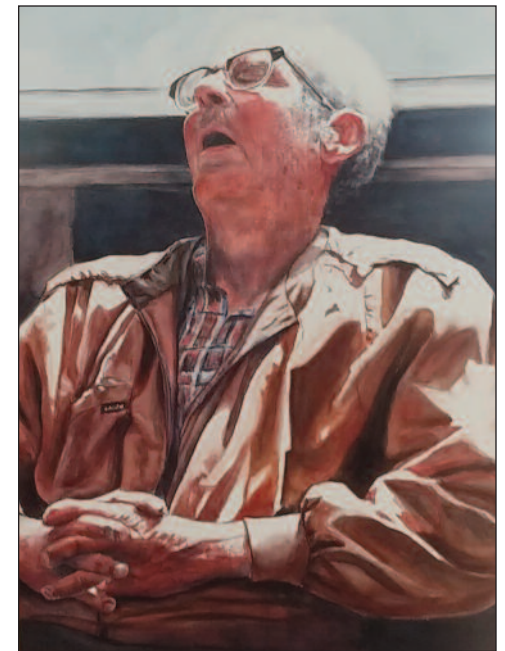
The show will be open to the public Sunday March 20 from 9 am to 4 pm.

It should be a good one - don't miss it.

For more information or questions, please contact Ed Botkin at:

ek@edbotkin.com
480-488-1051

New Member Kathy Clements Awarded



Kathy Clements took First Place in Watercolor "Gramps" at the Fountain Hills Juried Art Show in January.

Classes Workshops

March

Abstract Acrylic Painting Explorations

With Kathy Brancheau
Monthly on Saturdays:
 March 12, April 23
 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

Watercolor Batik

With Connie Lewis &
 Jackie Kingsbury
 Saturday, March 5th
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Rio Verde Art Room
 \$45
 Limit 12



Batik is a fun interactive process. Connie and Jackie hope that you will join them for a day of creativity. Beginning painters can do this!

Supplies provided: drawings to trace (you are encouraged to bring your own), wax, wax brushes, irons, rice paper, instructions and a paint palette and brushes.

You will need to bring a fine-point Sharpie pen, brushes, watercolor paints, water container, wax paper and paper towel & newspaper, if you have any. Please bring a sack lunch too! Sign up in the Art Room in the Black File Box.

Watercolor Workshop

With Raleigh Kinney
 Friday, March 11
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Rio Verde Art Room
 \$50
 Limit 12, Supply List in Black File Box



Over the past thirty years, Raleigh has enjoyed a reputation of high regard from his peers through the continued critical appraisal of his own studio and plein air works, and through his continued acceptance in major art shows and competitions, as well as from the sales of his paintings and his watercolor workshops.

Sign up in the Art Room in the Black File Box. You can mail your check to Raleigh at: 8317 E Farndale Dr, Mesa AZ 85208 or pay the day of workshop.

Continued on Page 5

Classes Workshops

March

Ink & Etching Workshop

With Justine Mantor-Waldie
March 19
\$150 at her home in Fountain Hills



Jackie Westbay's work learned at Justine's class.

Justine will hold a one-day Ink and Etching on Scratchboard Class on March 19. You will create stunning atmospheric effects by applying watercolor wet-on-wet techniques using the unique properties of ink. Capture foreground and textural details with etching and pointillist techniques to achieve multiple, layered paintings. Learn color mixing for transparent and opaque colors, etching techniques, and compositional considerations for these exciting paintings. Supplies provided for this class: etching tool, brushes, palette, more than 50 acrylic inks and pearlescent inks, scratchboards will include 3x5, 5x7 and 9x12. Justine has source pictures, but students may choose to bring their own as well. This one-day workshop will be at Justine's home in Fountain Hills.

For additional information or to sign up for her class, you can call or email Justine at:

480-837-2681

Justine.waldie@cox.net

or visit

www.sedonaartscenter.org

under workshops: Ink & Etching on Scratch Board.

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

Kathy Brancheau
kathybrancheau@gmail.com
925-786-3771

Kimberly Schols
kimberlybellschols@gmail.com
480-566-5823

Kari Hogden
karihogden@gmail.com
608-387-1350

Class/Workshop Forms are
in the Art Room.

Notice

Registrations for Workshops
will not be accepted with-
out a check. There is a 14-
day cancellation policy.

“
*You can't use
up creativity.
The more you
use, the more
you have.*”

Maya Angelou



FEBRUARY

In The Alcoves



Ed Botkin



In the winter, Ed works at his studio located in Arizona. He and his wife spend their summers at their cottage/studio located in Tenants Harbor, ME. Ed has served on the board of the Sonoran Arts League as a Juried Artist member, and is a Juried Member of the Arizona Art Alliance. He is a member of the Plein Air Painters of Maine and of the VAL Plein Air Painters in Arizona.

“I learn from every painting and am truly enjoying the journey.”



Chris Demma



I have studied under master art professionals and have taken course work at the Scottsdale Artists School. 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'Keefe / Van Gogh style. My art can be seen at the Fountain Hills Artists Gallery or on my web site: www.christinedemma.com.

I am collected nationally, and have done many commission paintings. Hope you enjoy my art.

Fountain Hills Theatre Fundraiser

By Connie Lewis



Many theatres have closed during these times. Fountain Hills Theatre is struggling, but still operating for our entertainment. They are having a fundraiser dinner on Sunday, March 6, at 6:00pm. at the D.C. Grill in Fountain Hills. Tickets are \$125. I am asking for a donation of your art that would be tax deductible. It would support the arts which we all enjoy.

Please call me:

Connie Lewis
480-471-2116

You can drop off your art or I will be happy to pick it up. I will put some forms in the Art Room. Let's help keep local theatre alive! Thank you! You are such a giving group of artists!

Please! Share Your Work!

*Share Your Art With The Community!
We Need Members To Sign Up!*

Please sign up for the Alcove Display. We need displays from May on. It's a great opportunity for you to show your work and possibly make a sale!

Sign-up sheets are in the Art Room on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Mulleady:

703-408-5795
mmulleady29@gmail.com

Art Trivia

True or False: Roman statues were made with detachable heads.

Answer on Page 7

Join A Studio Group

All Studio Groups are free and open to all! Consider joining any group. If you have any questions, please contact group chair.

Oil & Acrylic Painting Studio

Tuesdays, 10-1 Art Room
Linda Berck
lindaberck01@gmail.com

Draw Studio

Wednesdays, 10-12 Art Room
Marcy Roth
mcroth47@gmail.com

Abstract Studio

Wednesdays, 1-4 Art Room
Kathy Brancheau
kathybrancheau@gmail.com

Water Media Studio

Fridays, 9-12 Art Room
Jackie Kingsbury
jackiekingsbury28@gmail.com

Ongoing Classes

General Art Instruction:



Instructor: Eddie Lopez
Rio Verde Community Center Art Room
Mondays 8:30 am-11:30 pm
12:00 pm-3:00 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.

Oil & Acrylic Studio:

Linda Berck 630-219-8595
RV Community Center Art Room
Tuesdays 10:00am - 1:00pm

Draw Studio:

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

Abstract Studio:

Kathy Brancheau 925-786-3771
RV Community Center Art Room
Wednesdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Water Media Studio:

Jackie Kingsbury 303-589-1712
RV Community Center Art Room
Fridays when available
9:00am - 12:00pm

Educational Programs:

Kathy Brancheau
Kimberly Schols
Kari Hogden

Rio Verde Community Center Art Room

TUESDAYS:

Oil Painting Studio, Mornings
Open Studio, Afternoons

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

Retrospectrum: Bob Dylan

Contributed by Margie Barritt



Retrospectrum is the most expansive and in-depth exhibition of Bob Dylan's artwork ever staged in the United States. Spanning six decades, Retrospectrum features more than 180 paintings, drawings, ironwork, and ephemera, showcasing the development and range of Dylan's visual practice, in tandem with that of his musical and literary canon.

Retrospectrum, organized by Shai Baitel, the artistic director of Modern Art Museum (MAM) Shanghai, positions the Nobel Prize winning multi-faceted artist within his broader body of work, and shines a light on a life-long visual practice that is entirely remarkable in its own right.

The show runs through April 17, 2022 at the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum in Miami, FL.

Visit:

www.frost.fiu.com

Upcoming Workshops At The Scottsdale Artists' School

MAY

Portrait Drawing in Charcoal to Limited Palette

Sookyi Lee
May 2-6
Charcoal - All Levels
9:00-4:00
\$600 + fees

Making Connections

Kevin MacPherson
May 2-6
Oil - Intermediate Advanced
9:00-4:00
\$995 + fees

Painting the Town! Cityscape Painting Fundamentals

Rob Adamson
May 9-12
Oil - All Levels
9:00-4:00
\$550 + 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

Hannelore Bailey Wolcott Donation

Thank you to Hannelore who donated art supplies to the Verdes Art League.



VAL CALENDAR

MARCH

- 5 Batik Watercolor
- 9 General Meeting
- 11 Watercolor/Raleigh Kinney
- 12 Abstract Explorations
- 17 Mesa Arts Center Excursion
- 19 Ink & Etching
- 20 Spring Art Show

APRIL

- 23 Abstract Explorations

Calendar Is Subject To Change.

Inspiring Youth



Janet Dicks' granddaughter Charlotte joined the Draw Studio group on Wednesday, February 16, painting rocks!

Trivia Answer: True. They made it so that if the heads were damaged they could be easily replaced.

Why Autonomy Is Crucial for Creativity

From *The Groove*, by Maria Brito

Every creative leader possesses autonomy, which is the quality of being self-governing, self-directing, and independent. It is an essential trait that every successful artist, innovator and entrepreneur must develop and cultivate.

Autonomy is at the heart of an artist's practice and that of an innovative entrepreneurial venture. It is the conviction that each of us must have to stand by our ideas, to back them up with our actions, and to not only be willing, but also eager to go against common beliefs.

Leadership, critical thinking, and autonomy are intertwined concepts in both business and art.

Autonomy has many facets; for example, when creative leaders embrace self-direction, they have the confidence to know they can solve any problem that comes their way.

They don't have to take what life throws at them; they can find ways around business's and life's circumstances if they are creative enough. Developing creative autonomy begets action; you don't wait around for things to happen; you take the initiative because you know your success or failure depends on what you do or don't do.

How Artemisia Gentileschi's Defied All Odds with Her Autonomy



Self-Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, 1615–1617 by the Italian Baroque artist Artemisia Gentileschi.

Back in 1610, women weren't autonomous. They were expected to marry young and bear children. Women who wanted to become artists could not study anatomy or life drawing. As a young girl, Artemisia Gentileschi learned how to draw, mix color, and paint. Her father, Orazio, was an ac-

complished Roman painter. He encouraged her artistic talent and let her play in his studio and hang out with other artists.

In 1610, seventeen-year-old Artemisia finished her first major work, *Susanna and the Elders*, a scene from the book of Daniel in the Old Testament. This painting, showing Artemisia's phenomenal talent, prompted her father to hire another painter, Agostino Tassi, to privately tutor his daughter. Tassi raped her and, with the false promise of marriage, lured her into a continuing sexual relationship. Artemisia eventually told her dad, who pressed charges against Tassi.

In a public and humiliating trial, nineteen-year-old Artemisia was tortured with thumbscrews (a barbaric precursor of a lie detector test) to assess the veracity of her testimony. Tassi was convicted, although he never served his sentence.



Susanna and The Elders by Artemisia Gentileschi, 1610.

After all that Artemisia had gone through, she didn't hide or resign herself to a life of misery. She married an older man, moved to Florence, had four children, and pursued her ambition to become a famous and well-paid artist.

She never again painted a woman looking like *Susanna*, a victim of men. Artemisia determined she would be thought the equal or better than any of her male counterparts. Her creativity soared in tandem with her skill and fame.

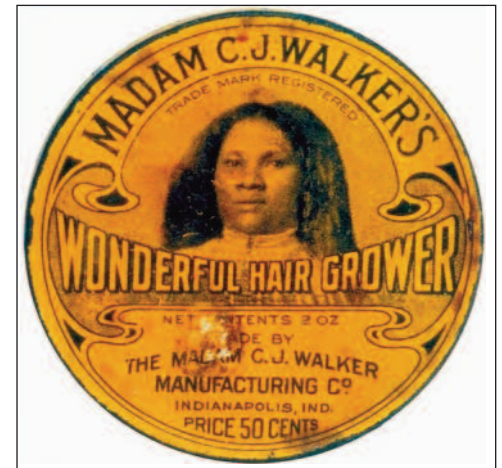
Throughout her forty-year career, she painted many heroic women nude or in

sumptuous dresses that revealed ample décolletages and tight cleavages, including *Cleopatra*, *Venus*, *Danaë*, and *Mary Magdalene*, charged with eroticism and orgasmic facial expressions.

She became friends with influential people like Galileo Galilei; took commissions from princes, kings, cardinals, and dukes; traveled to different cities in and outside Italy; and became the first woman accepted as a member of the prestigious *Accademia del Disegno* in Florence.

She was the headliner, the earner, and the leader in control. Had Artemisia been alive today, her life might look like a Quentin Tarantino movie: an avenging heroine marked by crime and violence, absurd situations, dark humor, wittiness, and, ultimately, triumph.

Creativity Thrives on Pushbacks



The lid of one of Madame C.J. Walker's products which led her to substantial wealth in the early 1900s

Given the circumstances of her life, I can't think of a more autonomous and independent entrepreneur than Madame C. J. Walker, whose creativity and innovation took her from extreme poverty to substantial wealth.

Born Sarah Breedlove in 1867 in Delta, Louisiana, to slave parents who worked in cotton fields, she was lucky enough to have come into this world after the Emancipation Proclamation. As many rural Americans in the late nineteenth century did, Madam grew up without indoor plumbing and proper hair hygiene. Consequently, she started going bald and always covered her head with a wrap. She was adamant about finding a solution, and eventually formulated a product that she said "came to her in a dream."

Continued on page 9

Autonomy

Continued from Page 8

As soon as she made some money, she reinvested it in newspaper ads with her own "before and after" pictures, which helped her build a mail-order business. She added shampoo and a pressed oil to her product offerings, and opened a parlor to demonstrate the benefits of her mixes. Madam had almost no formal education, but her gift was palpable. She realized that she could train others and recruit them as commissioned sales agents of her products, thus expanding her reach and sales exponentially.

She networked relentlessly with pastors, members of the church, and Black community organizers. She realized she had to do this all over the country, and embarked on long tours that involved meeting Baptist church leaders, churchgoers, and anyone else who could spread the word about her transformational hair treatments.

In 1913, she purchased a large townhouse and opened a salon in Harlem when it was becoming the center of African-American culture.

Her best and most creative business strategy was to autonomously do what she thought best, even in the face of cultural and racial pushback. She recruited and trained twenty thousand sales agents throughout the two decades she was at the helm of her company, and the novel way in which she organized them set her and her business apart.

By the time of her death in 1919, Madam's personal net worth was close to \$600,000, which translates to almost \$9 million as of this writing.

The trick of successful artists and entrepreneurs is to know how to self-regulate, maintaining that fine balance of autonomy with the discipline to get things done.

Excessive freedom leads to lack of attention and repeated effort that dilutes concentration and focus. Parameters, structures and routines counterbalance autonomy.

Alchemy Lab

Being autonomous doesn't mean working in isolation or disconnecting from the rest of the world. Practice independent thinking and foster your autonomy by following these steps:

1. Question the status quo, processes, products, systems, authoritarian models, and/or information coming from media sources that don't offer an alternative point of view.

2. Hold an internal debate with yourself on a divisive topic. Balance all the options,

benefits, and disadvantages that might come from choosing an unpopular idea in which you believe.

3. Take the road less traveled. Creativity and innovation don't spurt out of "business as usual." When everyone zigs, you zag.

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

MAR Schols/Doerflinger
APR VAL Executive Board
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUG
SEPT
OCT
NOV
DEC

Glass Case Exhibit

The Glass Case Exhibit has temporarily been removed for renovation.

New Member?

For orientation or questions, contact:

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

Chris Rich
720-771-0274
chris_rich@msn.com

Next Newsletter

Deadline for April Newsletter is **Wednesday, March 23**
Please keep sending in your stories and images to Susan Murphy:
sdmurphy@gmail.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. Please include your email address. 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

What's Happening

MESA CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

43rd Annual Contemporary Crafts
February 11 Through April 24



Highlighting the finest in contemporary crafts from across the country, Mesa Contemporary Art Museum's Annual Contemporary Crafts has become a benchmark for innovation and quality. Representative of traditional craft mediums including ceramics, fibers, basketry, metals, wood, glass, jewelry, papermaking and book arts, this exhibition showcases 45 artworks by 36 artists, representing 15 states.

HEARD MUSEUM

Southwest Silverwork: 1850-1940
Through October 31



Exploring rarely seen works from the Heard Museum's collection How Old Is It: Southwest Silverwork, 1850-1940 will document nearly a century of the evolution of Native silverwork from its earliest years through the decades prior to World War II.

PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Generation Paper: Fast Fashion of the
60s - Through July 17



During the 1960s, paper dresses took the world by storm, when Scott Paper Company launched an ingenious marketing campaign—an early forerunner of viral marketing strategies—to promote “Dura-Weve,” the textile featured in their new disposable tableware line.



Board of
Directors

2021/2022

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Toni Lowden
tonilowden@yahoo.com
775-772-0844

Marz Doerflinger
marz@marzdoerflinger.com
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Alcove Exhibit

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Art Excursions

Diane Kizewski
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715-498-9958

Mary Kuhr
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602-430-5898

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Librarian

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

Past Co-Presidents

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