Newsletter

Valley Art Association is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org

Art is for everyone!

MANSION HOUSE ART CENTER & GALLERY
Gallery: (301)797-2867
480 Highland Avenue (City Park), Hagerstown, MD 21740
Hours: Friday & Saturdays, 11am-4pm
Sundays, 1pm-5pm

Website: www.valleyartassoc.org
Email: valleyartinfo@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation.Hagerstown.Md

November-December 2026

Presidents Message

Greetings Valley Art Association (VAA) members, prospective members, and art lovers! “The artist is a cartographer, he maps the world. The world within him, and the world as he sees it. Known or unknown, famous or anonymous, all art is an attempt to map the territory of the heart.”- Julia Cameron

Please take time to read this very informative newsletter, which some dedicated VAA members put together just for you! Then perhaps you will be inspired to create some art, by mapping the territory of your own heart!

VAA’s motto is and has been “Art is for everyone!” Whether you are creating art yourself or if you just love art, we do hope to see you at the Mansion House Art Center and Gallery soon!

Artfully yours,
Donna Mason
VAA President

November/December 2026 Dates to Remember

Friday November 6 to Friday December 27: Mansion House Holiday Craft Mart continues. Special holiday sales of crafts and art by VAA Members.
November 2026 Board Meeting: Date Monday, November 2, 2026 5:30pm
Wednesday November 18 2026, 7pm: VAA General Meeting at the Mansion House and on Zoom: Featured artists are VAA members Amanda Taylor and Jayson Cordes. Free refreshments and guests are welcome.
Sunday November 29, 2026: Members’ Show titled “Wonderful World” closes
Friday December 4, 2026: City Park Lighting. Members’ show titled “What’s Your Favorite Color” opens.
December 2026: Board Meeting: Date TBD
Wednesday December 30, 2026 5:30 to 8pm: Members’ Holiday Party/Open House at the Mansion House for VAA members and their guests. Please bring a finger food, beverage or dessert to share. Non-alcoholic beverages provided by VAA.

VAA Member News

The Maryland Symphony Orchestra unanimously chose Carol Wilks' pastel of "Landing in the Mist" for the cover of their November BRAVO, concert magazine and playbill for MSO performances. This will be shared with audiences at their Shakespeare in Symphony concerts on November 14th at 7:30pm & 15th at 3pm at the Maryland Theatre 21 S. Potomac St., Hagerstown. This is an annual community art initiative co-hosted by the MSO and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, inviting local, regional, and middle/high school students to submit original artwork inspired by concert music. Winning pieces are featured on the magazine covers. To see the painting, paste the following link in your browser: https://www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation.Hagerstown.Md

Delaplaine National Juried Photography Exhibit Amelie Lavenant-Wink has been accepted into the exhibit, opening November 7th at 2pm, in Frederick.

Valley Art Association welcomes New Members: Sandra Milia is getting back into it. Peni Jo Renner is an award winning author whose creativity has turned to drawing and watercolor. Helen Stevens has been an artist most of her life. She has been trained in painting, design, photography and color theory. Nafisa Chowdhury displayed her acrylic paintings in the September North Gallery Plein Air exhibit.

Cathy Poropatic is the new Social Committee Chair, stepping into the shoes of the most capable Julie Gottlieb. Cathy has very much enjoyed her two years of membership and appreciates the traits so many artists exhibit at VAA. Most of the work of the Social Committee is to supply refreshments at the monthly meeting. A sign-up sheet to contribute "something salty, something sweet" will be at the check-in table at the next meeting. To be a member of the Social Committee, sign up on the sheet at the check-in table. Duties are to set up the refreshment tables with coverings, put out water, paper products and utensils and arrange the goodies accordingly. Clean-up is usually very easy and quickly accomplished after members return for the evening's demo. Cathy's cell is 252-435-9348 and wigatic589@gmail.com

VAA Website Member Page: VAA members can have, at no cost to them, a member page on the VAA website. This page can serve as a web presence for those who don't have or want to maintain websites, or an additional presence for those who do. The VAA website is structured to have the member page move to the "Past Member" section when the member leaves. This should ensure a web presence even after the member's own page is taken down, and remain available as long as VAA has a website. To see the member pages, just go to the VAA website at valleyartassoc.org and then to the **"Members and Community"** section from the menu. To have a member page, just email up to one page of text about yourself and your art and up to 8 good quality images of your work to Sue Parker at valleyartinfo@gmail.com.

Workshop Committee: If you'd like to assist artists who want to set up workshops, or if you would like to have a workshop at the Mansion House, contact Elaine Wolfe or Denise Ruby.

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Submissions for Newsletter: If you would like to include information in the Newsletter, please email valleyartinfo@gmail.com with the subject "Newsletter" by the 20th day before the next edition.

Upcoming Member Activities

Holiday Craft Mart: Beginning Saturday, October 31, 2026, all members can bring in their handmade craft items and up to 10 shrink wrap prints to sell at the Holiday Craft Mart in the Mansion House. As table space for crafts is limited, 24 inches is allotted to each person on a first-come-first-served-basis. The craft items and prints will be on display from Friday, November 6 – Sunday, December 27, 2026. Before you bring in your items, please advise the Gallery Director, Denise Ruby, by email, phone, or text - denise7231@aol.com, 240-818-7547. Each item should have the member's name and sales price on it. Also, the VAA will provide a form for the member to list their items for sale. All forms will be kept in the Holiday Craft Mart binder. The items should be picked up by Sunday, December 27, 2026.

North Gallery Exhibits and Sales

Month	Exhibition Title	Drop Off Sun/Tues	Opening Friday	Closing Sunday	Pickup Sun/Tues
November 2026	***Wonderful World***	Oct 25, 27	October 30	November 29	Nov 29, Dec 1
Nov/Dec 2026	***Holiday Craft Mart***	Oct 31-Nov 8	November 6	December 27	Dec 20-Dec 27
Dec 2026/Jan 2027	***What's Your Favorite Color***	Nov 29, Dec 1	December 4	Jan 24, 2027	Jan 24, 26
February 2027	***The Painted Moment***	Jan 24, 26	January 29	February 28	Feb 28, Mar 2
March 2027	***Brushstrokes of Time***	Feb 28, Mar 2	March 5	March 28	Mar 27, 30
April 2027	***In Bloom***	Mar 27, 30	April 2	April 25	Apr 25, 27
May 2027	***Vibrant Canvases***	Apr 25, 27	April 30	May 30	May 30, Jun 1
June 2027	***Expressions in Color***	May 30, Jun 1	June 4	June 27	Jun 27, 29
July 2027	***Here Comes the Sun***	Jun 27, 29	July 2	July 25	Jul 25, 27
August 2027	***Art & Vision***	Jul 25, 27	July 30	August 29	Aug 29, 31
September 2027	***Slice of Life***	Aug 29, 31	September 3	September 26	Sep 26, 28
October 2027	***Seasons in Color***	Seo 26, 28	October 1	October 31	Oct 31, Nov 1
	Drop Off and Pick Up Times, Sun 1 - 5; Tues 10 - 11				

Art in the Hallway at Meritus Healthcare Center Exhibitors

Contact; Charlotte Loveless

November 2026	Rick Gottlieb
December 2026	Amelie Lavenant-Wink
January 2027	Bonnie Elgin
February 2027	Carol Wilks
March 2027	Donna Crow
April 2027	Carol Miller

May 2027	Lily Ramos Burrows
June 2027	Judy Melby-Robinson
July 2027	
August 2027	
September 2027	
October 2027	

Art Show at Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine (MSOM)

(This is an add-on show to the above Art In The Hallway and will be arranged in the same way with participating artists. *It will be an ongoing bimonthly show that began in June 2026*)
Following is a list of Valley Art Members who are currently exhibiting.

Chamber of Commerce Exhibitor

Dec 2026/Jan2027 - KiKi Brewsaugh

Figure Drawing at the Mansion House

Open studio, uninstructed, figure-drawing sessions Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm in November and December, 2026, with one LONG session on Thursday, November 12, 10 - 3:30, with lunch break. Dates of sessions are November 2, (Thursday) 12, 16, and 23 and December 7, 14, 28, and January 4, 2027. Professional models.
Drop in okay but pre-registration is very helpful. For weekly confirmation of each session, PLEASE CONTACT: Elaine Wolfe valleyartinfo@gmail.com / voicemail 304-261-9583. COST: Participants share the model's fee.

Workshops and Classes at the Mansion House

Patricia Boyst and Barby Weiss - Fall Watercolor Classes - Set of Six Weekly Watercolor Classes, Fridays, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18, 2026 - 1pm - 3:30 pm
To register, contact Patricia Boyst at 301-992-887. Further information will be sent to you after registration. $70 VAA/Museum members, $85 non-members. Pay by check made out to Patricia Boyst to be mailed or dropped off during business hours to the Mansion House Art Gallery, Attn. Patricia Boyst. Minimum 4/Maximum preferred 6.

Pam Wenger - Quick Sketch Portrait in Watercolor Workshop Thursday, August 19, 2027, at the Mansion House Art Gallery, from 10 am to 4 pm. To register, contact Elaine Wolfe at ecwolfe@frontier.com or voicemail 304-261-9583. $80 for VAA/Museum members, $90 for non-members. Lunch included in the workshop fee. Instructor will supply watercolor paper and paint samples for in-class use. Minimum 8 artists, maximum 12. A waiting list will be started if needed.

Sculpture, composition and other workshops are in the planning for 2027. Please let us know of special interests!

Please contact Denise Ruby at denise7231@aol.com**/240-818-7547 or Elaine Wolfe at** ecwolfe@frontier.com**/304-261-9583 (no text) with any requests.**

ANNOUNCING! Creative Chance will be hosting a brand new weekly community drop-in art session! Every Thursday from 12-4pm at the Mansion House Art Center (480 Highland Ave. Hagerstown, MD 21740), community members of all abilities are welcome to drop in to create art independently during the open session.

Creative Chance will provide basic art supplies for participants to use as well as storage for projects that need to be developed week after week. $10 per participant covers the cost of supplies and storage, which will only be collected when present. No pre-registration is required. This session will be monitored; however, it is not an instructor-led class. Participants must be accompanied by supporters (caregivers, staff, family members, etc.) as needed and free of charge.

Thank you to the Valley Art Association, who continuously supports and encourages Creative Chance, and recognizes that "art is for everyone"!

For more information, please contact Amanda Taylor at 240-338-8099 or amanda.creativechancebaltimore@gmail.com.

Off-Site Workshops and Classes

David Bottini - Acrylic Painting Workshop

"PAINTING: focus on Color and Composition" - Tuesdays, November 10, 17, 24, 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Howard's Art & Frames, 1256 Dual Highway, Hagerstown.
Would you like to restart or refine your technique? Many supplies are provided for in class use in this set of three classes: Topics include basic color theory (how do you mix color?), how to develop a painting on canvas. Good for beginners to painters working on honing skills.
Not an academic class-no previous experience required, most supplies provided for use in class, including one 8" x10" canvas panel. Ages: 14 - Adult. Registration Fee $25 (will be applied to cost of class on first day). Cost $95 - contact Howard's 301-733-2722 or email howardsarts@aol.com or go to howardsarts.com.

Sketchbook Adventures in Italy" Art Retreat with Nicole Troup
Bring your group on this exciting adventure September 10-17, 2027 at Hotel Leone in the medieval hilltop village of Montelparo, in the Le Marche region of Italy. Participants will learn: how to create their own travel sketchbook journal by combining writing and sketching in watercolor and ink, gouache, graphite, sketchbook journaling techniques, design layouts, quick observational drawing/ painting skills, portable sketching methods and improving economics while painting on location, tips for packing and organizing art supplies for travel, best practices for working outdoors and on location and more. Artists may bring a non-artist participant for a lower price. Contact Nicole Troup for more information via nfntroup6@gmail.com, www.nicoletroupmasterpiece.com or click on link: https://hotelleonemarche.com/en/retreats/art-retreat-italy/sketchbook-adventure-in-italy-nicole-troup/

Washington County Museum of Fine ArtsClasses wcmfa.org/learn/classes/

Howards Art and Frames howardsarts.com/events

Calls for Entry to Juried Shows

2027 Mountain Maryland Plein Air This exhibition will include up to 30 artists, to be shown in the Allegany Museum in Cumberland, with awards totaling almost $14,000. Deadline for entry is January 10. Entry fee $40 for 1 - 3 images. Contact the Allegany Arts Council via alleganyarts.org, 301-777-2787, or email mountain_maryland_plein_air@alleganyarts.org.

Best of Local Art 2026, from December 3 , 2026 -January 25, 2027. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 11 - 7, at 32 S. Potomac Street in Hagerstown. The date and time of the reception will be announced soon: website: www. washingtoncountyarts.com or call 301-791-3132.

Exhibitions

Washington County Arts Council www.washingtoncountyarts.com Amélie Lavenant-Wink will be hosting an artist talk on Saturday, November 21, 2026 from 2-4 for her current photography exhibit, CHOICE: On Being and Becoming: An open discussion with the solo artist. Explore themes of choice, ask questions, take part in the interactive word puzzle or just take in the art at the Washington County Arts Council. Address: 34 South Potomac Street, Ste 100, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts wcmfa.org

Believe in Yourself: What We Learned from Arthur, the Art of Marc Brown - From Bedtime Story to Beloved Childhood Friend -The exhibition is open until February 28, 2027. https://wcmfa.org/news/22788/.

Animal Animalier: Human and Animal Entanglements in Art,1751 to Present - The exhibition opens on November 21 and ends in April of 2027.
https://wcmfa.org/american-animalier-human-and-animal-entanglements-1751-to-present/.

Kindred Spirits: Artists in the Tenth Street Studio Building - Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Frederic Edwin Church, and focusing on the first purpose-built artist studio in the U.S. Delve into how this helped establish American art on the international stage. On until January 3, 2027.

Gallery 50 www.artsalliancegw.org new show, “Baker’s Dozen” with 13 artists participating, including Valley Art members: Patricia Boyst, Leslie McEntire and Marti Yeager.The Opening Reception will be Friday, November 6, from 5:30-8pm. Gallery Hours are Fridays 5-8pm; and Saturdays 10:30 to 4:30 pm. Address: 50West Main St., Waynesboro, PA

Museum of Shenandoah Valley "Gateways: African American Art" from the Eric Key collection, "Tiny Worlds of the Appalachian Mountains" - whimsical watercolor illustrations of the region's smallest plants, animals and fungi, a "Valley Quilts" show and the ongoing "Revolutionary Valley" exhibition. and hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. There are no admission fees on Wednesdays, thanks to sponsors of the Museum. Go to their website for regular admission fees: http://www.theMSV.org
Address: 901 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA, 540-662-1473,

Schuler School Annual Holiday Exhibition The Schuler School invites you and your friends to our annual Holiday Exhibition, Saturday and Sunday, December 5th & 6th, 2 - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday, December 7th - 11th, 9 am-4 pm. Come see the drawings, paintings, and sculpture from our instructors, alumni, students and invited guest artists in the historic studio of "Monument Maker" Hans Schuler and online at www.schulerschool.com.

Call for Artists

Cafe Roma Ristorante in Hagerstown has an opportunity for local artists to display & sell their original artwork. Artwork is changed every 6 months. A contract needs to be signed for all artwork submitted. If anyone is interested in participating in the program, please contact Program Coordinators, Rick or Julie Gottlieb- 240-707-6271 and leave a message for more information or to make an appointment.

SAVE the DATE!!! Cafe Roma Restaurant Saturday, April 17, 2027; 11-4 pm.
A SPRING FLING ART SALE is being planned and a committee has been formed. We are seeking artists to participate to sell their paintings and we need volunteers to help artists get set up. Call Julie Gottlieb 240-707-6271 to leave a message, for more information or to register.

Valley Art Association Archives

I trust that you have enjoyed a safe and creative summer. Thanks everyone for continuing to submit items and information that you would like to have added to the VAA scrapbooks. The items submitted have included your art related photos, copies of awards, newspaper articles, posters, business cards, letters of recognition and similar documents noting your hard-won successes. Please continue contributing by simply placing your items on the MH Gallery desk with a note instructing that it be placed in my folder. It is important that you attach your name, contact information and any other pertinent info to the item. *Please note – these items *will not* be returned to you. Respectfully, Roy Tressler, VAA Archivist

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