



# Newsletter



## 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](http://www.valleyartassoc.org)

Email: [valleyartinfo@gmail.com](mailto:valleyartinfo@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation)

[ValleyArtAssociation.](http://www.valleyartassoc.org)

[Hagerstown.Md](http://www.valleyartassoc.org)

January/February 2026

### President's Message

Greetings to all VAA members,

As we turn the page into a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we shared in 2025. From inspiring exhibitions and workshops to the friendships strengthened within our community, last year was a testament to the creativity, dedication and passion that define the Valley Art Association. Together, we celebrated artistic achievements, welcomed new members, and expanded opportunities for learning and collaboration.



Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be just as vibrant. We are already planning exciting programs, exhibitions and community events that will continue to showcase the diverse talents of our members. This year, we aim to deepen our connections, broaden our reach, and create even more spaces where art can flourish and inspire.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your energy, ideas and support make the Valley Art Association not just an organization, but a thriving family of artists and art lovers. Let's carry the momentum of 2025 into the New Year and make 2026 a year of growth, creativity, and shared success.

Warm regards,  
Donna B. Crow  
Valley Art Association

### Dates to Remember

January 12, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting (Zoom)  
January 25 - Deadline to register for Cupid's Art Sale & Reception  
January 28, 7:00 pm - General Meeting  
February 9, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting (Zoom)  
February 10, 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Cupid's Art Sale & Reception  
February 25, 7:00 pm - General Meeting

## **VAA Member News**

**Some Announcements from VAA Board members Hal & Donna Mason:** We would like to thank everyone who honored us at the VAA Holiday party on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Café Roma! Your generosity was very much appreciated, and we look forward to another fun and productive year at VAA!

We would also like to announce that we have received notice that VAA will again be receiving funding from the Maryland State Arts Council's Creativity Grant for Fiscal Year 2026! Thanks to everyone for all that they have done to make that possible! This will help VAA continue their mission of promoting the arts and artists for another year, and without raising membership fees for its members!

We would be remiss if we failed to thank the VAA members who worked at the chilly City Park Lighting event on December 5<sup>th</sup>! Also, thanks to VAA members who helped with the planning of VAA's participation that night. Special thanks to the City of Hagerstown Parks & Recreation for providing a heated and well-lit tent for the VAA's children's art activity! The crowds numbering in the hundreds (maybe even thousands) really seemed to enjoy this wondrous night of holiday lights and fun!

**Washington County Arts Council "Annual Community Show: The Best of Local Art of 2025":** Congratulations to Valley Art members who were accepted: Jennie Avila, Patricia Boyst, Dennis Clarke, Richard Gottlieb, Dolores Henry, Haley Hollins-Crosson, Amelie Lavenant-Wink, Donna Mason, Judy Melby-Robinson, John Mullican, Tarah Reynolds, William Roberts, Christopher Shingler, Trish Suder, Nicole Troup, Elaine Wolfe, and Stephen Wright! Valley Art members who were award winners were: Amelie Lavenant-Wink First Place Photography "Commuter Cacophony", Dennis Clarke Second Place 2D "Charters & Rentals", Haley Hollins-Crosson Second Place 3D "Villagers". The Exhibit runs through January 13, 2026.

**The Meritus School of Medicine Art Contest:** Congratulations to Valley Art members who were award winners: Donna Crow First Place \$250, Donna Mitchell Second Place \$200, Rick Gottlieb Third Place \$150! VAA members Donna Mason, Sandi Polvinale and Elaine Wolfe were recognized as Honorary Mentions. Exhibition dates to be determined.

**Cumberland Valley Artists Exhibition at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts:** Congratulations to VAA members who were accepted: Dee Henry, Amelie Lavenant-Wink, Donna Mason, Susan Parker, Sandra Schuster, Trish Suder and Shannon Thomas! The Valley Art Association Award (\$250), donated in honor of recent year's deceased VAA members, was awarded to Thomas Renner, Smithsburg, MD, for his acrylic on canvas painting, "All American Girl, All American Sandwich". In honor of the semi-quincentennial, or 250th anniversary of founding the United States, this year's annual exhibition was organized exploring the ideas of: "Unfinished Revolutions", "The Power of Place", "Tell Everyone's Story" and "American Experiment". This exhibit runs through April 26, 2026.

**Submissions for Newsletter:** If you have news you would like to include in the Newsletter, please send it to the email address: [valleyartinfo@gmail.com](mailto:valleyartinfo@gmail.com) with the subject **Newsletter**.

**Social Committee:** Volunteers are being recruited to help with meetings, planning and setting up special events, etc. Contact Julie Gottlieb at 240-707-6271(h) or email [julgot6@gmail.com](mailto:julgot6@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Member Activities

### FY26 General Meeting Program Schedule

January 28, 2026, VAA member Breann Clifford - Alla prima painting demonstration  
 February 25, 2026, VAA member David Buckley Good - Still Life Oil painting demonstration  
 March 25, 2026, Amy Lindenberger - Colored pencil solvents demonstration  
 April 22, 2026, VAA member Donna Crow - Demonstration TBD  
 May 27, 2026, VAA member Lynn Ferris - Watercolor painting demonstration

Julie Adkins and Cathy Poropatic are providing refreshments for the January meeting.  
 Tarah Reynolds and Kunie Stabley are providing refreshments for the February meeting.

### North Gallery Exhibits and Sales

Month	Exhibition Title	Drop Off Dates (Sunday & Tuesday)	Opening Date (Friday)	Closing Date (Sunday)	Pickup Dates (Sunday & Tuesday)
January 2026	<b><i>A Creative Celebration</i></b>	Nov 23,25	Nov 28	Jan 25, 2026	Jan 25, 27
February 2026	<b><i>A Journey in Creativity</i></b>	Jan 25, 27	January 30	February 22	Feb 22, 24
March 2026	<b><i>7 Elements of Art: Line, Space, Shape, Form, Value, Color, Texture</i></b>	Feb 22, 24	February 27	March 29	Mar 29, 31
April 2026	<b><i>In My Garden</i></b>	Mar 29, 31	April 3	April 26	Apr 26, 28
May 2026	<b><i>Amanda Taylor's students' artwork. Art Enabled: A Creative Chance Showcase. Reception date TBD</i></b>	Apr 26, 28	May 1	May 24	May 24, 26
June 2026	<b><i>Inspired by Nature</i></b>	May 24, 26	May 29	June 28	Jun 28, 30
July 2026	<b><i>Outside My Window</i></b>	Jun 28, 30	July 3	July 26	Jul 26, 28
August 2026	<b><i>Art In Nature</i></b>	Jul 26, 28	July 31	August 30	Aug 30, Sep 1
	<b><i>Founders Day Reception: August 1st or 2nd - TBD</i></b>				
September 2026	<b><i>Chasing Light &amp; Shadow (Plein Air Artists &amp; VAA Member show)</i></b>	Aug 30, Sep 1	Sep 4	Sep 27	Sep 27, 29
October 2026	<b><i>It's Fall Again</i></b>	Sep 27, 29	October 2	October 25	Oct 25, 27
November 2026	<b><i>Wonderful World</i></b>	Oct 25, 27	October 30	Nov 29	Nov 29, Dec 1
<b><i>Here, There, Everywhere</i>, originally scheduled for May is postponed to a later date</b>					

**Pick up and Drop Off Times: Sunday 1 - 5 pm, Tuesday 11 - 12 am**

### **Art in the Hallway at Meritus Healthcare Center**

<b>January 2026</b>	Elaine Cooper	<b>July 2026</b>	Tarah Reynolds
<b>February 2026</b>	Andy Stanicek	<b>August 2026</b>	Nicole Abuhmada
<b>March 2026</b>	Jennie Avila	<b>September 2026</b>	Lori Bell
<b>April 2026</b>	Laura Shindle	<b>October 2026</b>	Chris Shingler
<b>May 2026</b>	Gwen and Larry Bergey	<b>November 2026</b>	Amanda Taylor
<b>June 2026</b>	Dianna Basile	<b>December 2026</b>	Amelie Lavenant-Wink

### **Figure Drawing at the Mansion House**

Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm in January and February 2025, plus TWO 10 am - 3:30 pm sessions on Thursday, January 22 and on Monday, February 16, with model Gazelle. Open studio, uninstructed, figure drawing sessions with professional models.

CONTACT: Elaine Wolfe [valleyartinfo@gmail.com](mailto:valleyartinfo@gmail.com) / 304-261-9583 no text

COST: Participants share the Professional Model's fee

Drop in okay but pre-registration is helpful.

### **Workshops and Classes at the Mansion House**

#### **Hans Guerin - Figure Drawing Workshop:**

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 10 am - 3:30 pm

CONTACT: Elaine Wolfe [valleyartinfo@gmail.com](mailto:valleyartinfo@gmail.com) / 304-261-9583 no text

FEE: \$80 for VAA and Museum members, \$90 non-members

Half-hour lunch break (lunch provided)

MINIMUM: 8 artists, maximum 12

MODEL FEE: shared among artists (estimated fee per artist \$20)

PAYMENT: Send check payable to Hans Guerin to Mansion House,  
Attn. Elaine Wolfe, 480 Highland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

#### **Michael Timothy Davis - Two Day Oil Painting Portrait Workshop**

Thursday - Friday, March 26 - 27, 2026

Details will be available later in January.

If interested, please contact Elaine Wolfe (see above)

#### **Lynn Ferris - Watercolor Classes**

Thursdays, July 9 - August 13, 2026, from 9 am to noon

Six weekly watercolor classes. To register, contact Lynn directly at [ferrislynn@yahoo.com](mailto:ferrislynn@yahoo.com)

Information on her 2026 exhibitions and workshops is on her website

<https://www.lynnferris.com>

These classes fill up quickly - to avoid disappointment, please register early.

#### **Upcoming Workshops and Classes at the Mansion House:**

Lesa Cook (Sculpture), Amy Lindenberger (Colored Pencil), Pam Wenger (Watercolor Portrait).  
Information will be provided when finalized.

## **Requests for Workshops/Classes**

Please contact Denise Ruby or Elaine Wolfe with any requests for workshops, or if you would like to become involved in coordinating workshops at the Mansion House.

## **Off-site Workshops and Classes**

**A Series of ART, EAT & DRINK Classes by VAA members Donna Crow and Julie Gottlieb** at Café Roma Ristorante, 14224 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hagerstown, Md. 21742.

To register, contact Julie Gottlieb at 240-707-6271(h)

Friday, January 30, 2026, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Paper Quilling class, \$45 per person

Friday, February 13, 2026, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Valentine Couple's Acrylic Painting event, \$45 per person

Saturday, March 14, 2026, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, St. Patrick's Day Gel Prints - Green Potted Plant, Clover or Tree, \$45 per person

Friday, March 27, 2026, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Easter/Passover Spring Flowers Gel Painting Prints, \$45 per person

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Cherry Blossom theme Watercolor, \$45 per person

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Mother's Day Die Cut Cards - Birds, Flowers, Watercolor, Quilling, \$45 per person (Moms and Daughters or Besties)

Classes fill up Quickly! *These are not VAA sponsored classes.*

**Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Classes** [wcmfa.org/learn/classes/](http://wcmfa.org/learn/classes/)

## **Call for Artists**



**Cupid's Art Sale & Reception:** There is going to be a Cupid's Art Sale & Reception on February 10, 2026, during Cocktail Hour at Cafe Roma from 3 to 6 pm. Most drinks are ½ off. Artists are asked to bring artwork to display. If you have an easel to accommodate your painting, bring it. Otherwise, it is not necessary. All unsold artwork should be taken home at the conclusion of the reception. The deadline to register is January 25, 2026. Contact Julie Gottlieb, 240-707-6271 (h) or [julgot6@gmail.com](mailto:julgot6@gmail.com).

**Program available for VAA members to display and sell their artwork:** VAA artists can hang and sell their artwork at Cafe Roma Restaurant in Hagerstown. Cafe Roma does not charge a commission on cash sales. However, there is a 15 percent commission for credit card sales. For details on the program and requirements including size of paintings & limits on the number (currently 1 painting per artist), please call Coordinators Rick & Julie Gottlieb, 240-707-6271(h).

## **Exhibitions**

**Washington County Museum of Fine Arts** [wcmfa.org](http://wcmfa.org) "In Nature's Studio," through January 4, 2026. American landscape painting, featuring key artists.  
"Cumberland Valley Artists Exhibition," through April 26, 2026.

**Washington County Arts Council** [www.washingtoncountyyarts.com](http://www.washingtoncountyyarts.com)  
"Best Local Art of 2025," through January 13, 2026.

### Message from our Historian, Roy Tressler

Thank you for your continuing contributions to the VAA archival scrapbooks. Please leave any art-related information and other appropriate materials at the Mansion House desk. Place your name on any information you share. The scrapbooks will be on display at selected VAA events.

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