



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

Email: valleyartinfo@gmail.com

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

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

September-October 2026

Presidents Message

September/October 2026

Greetings VAA members, Prospective members, and Art Lovers!

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see" - Edgar Degas.



You will want to SEE in this newsletter a lot of really interesting things about local ART! Please take time to read it all, and also to join in as many of the activities and/or events that you can! You'll be glad you did! Also note the following list of important upcoming dates in September & October. You might want to add them to your calendars! And be sure to contact a VAA Board member if you have any questions (their info is on the last page). I hope to see you soon!

Artfully yours,
Donna Mason
VAA President

Dates to Remember

Saturday September 5, 2026, 1-3pm: Plein Air Exhibit Reception at the Mansion House featuring the artwork of this year's Plein Air Festival Artists in the North Gallery. The exhibit runs from September 4th-27th. VAA members may display, demonstrate & sell their artwork on the porch 11am-4pm. Public invited & free refreshments provided by VAA.

Saturday September 19, 11am-4pm: City Park Fall Fest, Mansion House and all of City Park. VAA artist members will demonstrate, display & sell their artwork on the Mansion House porch from 11a-4p. Public invited & free children's art activities will be provided by VAA artist members. (Volunteers needed, please contact a Board member.)

Wednesday September 23, 7pm: VAA General Meeting at the Mansion House and on Zoom. Featured Artist is VAA member artist Nicole Troup, doing a demonstration titled "Gouache, an Oil Painter's Watercolor". Guests are welcome and free refreshments provided by VAA members Judy Melby Robinson and Charlotte Loveless.

Sunday October 18, 2026 2-4pm: Mansion House's Art Center & Gallery's 35th Anniversary Celebration Reception. Public invited & free refreshments provided by VAA. (Volunteers needed, please contact a Board member.)

Wednesday October 28, 2026 7pm: VAA General Meeting at the Mansion House and on Zoom. Featured Artist is Ruann George, Maryland Honorary State Regent of the DAR, doing a very informative, historical & fun program to honor the United States 250th Anniversary. Guests are welcome & free refreshments provided by VAA members KiKi Brewsaugh and Susan McGinley.

NEWS ITEM by VAA President Donna Mason

PLEIN-AIR ART (defined as “open air” or “outdoors” art): Hagerstown City Parks & Recreation held their annual **Plein-Air Art Festival** in City Park Hagerstown MD, this year on Saturday August 8, 2026. This event was co-sponsored by Valley Art Association (VAA), Washington County Arts Council (WCAC), and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (WCMFA). The park was filled that day, with artists doing plein-air paintings and other types of plein-air art! You can see some selected participating artists' artwork being exhibited in various spaces. The VAA will be hosting one of these exhibits entitled “History is In Our Nature” at the Mansion House Art Gallery, starting Friday Sept. 4, 2026, until Sunday Sept. 27, 2026. There will be a free opening reception at the Mansion House, hosted by VAA on Saturday Sept. 5th from 1-3pm. VAA members, whether selected to be in the exhibit or not, may exhibit and sell their plein-air and other types of artwork on the porch of the Mansion House on Sept. 5th while the Mansion House is open.

VAA Member News

Valley Art Association welcomes New Members: James Barkley taught visual arts, photography and art history at the high school level. Christine Coleman is a frequent member of the Tuesday painting group. Eliane Ambrose and Marti Yeager are returning members. Linda Musselman is currently interested in botanical drawing and watercolor. Kimberly Olthof learned about our organization from a VAA member at Hagerstown Porchfest. Kerry Marks, who has been crafting for most of her life, has now taken up painting, jewelry making and knitting. Terry Faith's media are oil, graphite and charcoal; and her interests are figure portrait, still life, and landscape painting. Danna Sharp is a multi-media artist with specialties in life drawing with charcoal and fiber arts. Erika Johnson joined to make friends and have fun learning. Nana Mensah is interested in VAA activities. Wally Minnick is a watercolor artist who enjoys all mediums. Todd Groesbeck joined during the Plein Air Festival.

Cafe Roma Art Program Update: Our 1st “Art Reception” was held at Cafe Roma on Friday, July 17th, to view the 47 pieces of artwork displayed by our 31 VAA artists. We had a nice turn-out and it was an enjoyable afternoon. We especially want to thank Luis Cruz, Owner of Cafe Roma, for providing the “charcuterie trays” during the cocktail afternoon, and also a special thank you to Don Wilson for entertaining us with his guitar, singing hits we all know & love! It was a great opportunity for artists to get together, and be available to talk with anyone wanting to “meet the artist” and to showcase their beautiful artwork to the public.

VAA Members in the Washington Goes Purple Show: Congratulations to all VAA members who were juried into the show and those who won awards! Jennie Avila, Kiki Brewaugh, Haley Hollins-Crosson (Best of Show), Richard Lange, Donna Mason, Judy Melby-Robinson, Lily Ramos-Burrows (2nd Place 2D), Tarah Reynolds (1st Place 2D), and Chris Shingler (1st Place 3D). Esperanza Alzona, who is not a VAA member, won 2nd Place 3D. **To vote for the People's Choice Award, either visit the gallery or online at www.washingtoncountyarts.com.**

VAA Members Melissa Hook, Anita Shively and Amelie Lavenant-Wink are in Gallery 50's “Between Worlds” Exhibit. See more information about the show in the Exhibitions section.

By-laws changes to be presented to membership for vote at the September 23 General Meeting (per Sue Parker's May 6, 2026, email to the Board). Changes to be voted on: 1. Eliminate Museum show information (obsolete). 2. Add BMAL duties. 3. Procedure to remove a Board Officer. 4. Define the term of the Past President.

For the **35th Anniversary Celebration of the Mansion House Art Gallery**, please consider volunteering to help with the planning and/or implementing of this event. VAA was founded in 1938 and moved into the Mansion House in 1991. It is now 35 years later and the VAA, presently a 501C3 non-profit organization with 180+ members, would like to celebrate their anniversary year with the public! They will be doing this on October 18, 2026, with a special event to honor the founders of the Mansion House and the present VAA members who are keeping this working Mansion House Art Center & Gallery open and viable!

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.

Submissions for Newsletter: 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

North Gallery Exhibits and Sales

Month	Exhibition Title	Drop Off Sun/Tues	Opening Friday	Closing Sunday	Pickup Sun/Tues
September 2026	<i>History is In Our Nature</i> (Plein Air Artists)	Aug 30, Sep 1	Sep 4	Sept 27	Sep 27, 29
	<i>Plein Air RECEPTION</i>		Sep 5, 1-3pm		
October 2026	<i>Mansion House, Past and Present</i>	Sep 27, 29	October 2	October 25	Oct 25, 27
	<i>Planned RECEPTION to celebrate MH's 35th Anniversary</i>		Tentative date: Sun, Oct 18, 2-4pm		
November 2026	<i>Wonderful World</i>	Oct 25, 27	October 30	November 29	Nov 29, Dec 1
Nov/Dec 2026	<i>Holiday Craft Mart</i>	Oct 31-Nov 8	November 6	December 27	Dec 20-Dec 27
Dec 2026/Jan 2027	<i>What's Your Favorite Color</i>	Nov 29, Dec 1	December 4	Jan 24, 2027	Jan 24, 26
February 2027	<i>The Painted Moment</i>	Jan 24, 26	January 29	February 28	Feb 28, Mar 2
March 2027	<i>Brushstrokes of Time</i>	Feb 28, Mar 2	March 5	March 28	Mar 27, 30
April 2027	<i>In Bloom</i>	Mar 27, 30	April 2	April 25	Apr 25, 27
May 2027	<i>Vibrant Canvases</i>	Apr 25, 27	April 30	May 30	May 30, Jun 1
June 2027	<i>Expressions in Color</i>	May 30, Jun 1	June 4	June 27	Jun 27, 29
July 2027	<i>Here Comes the Sun</i>	Jun 27, 29	July 2	July 25	Jul 25, 27
August 2027	<i>Art & Vision</i>	Jul 25, 27	July 30	August 29	Aug 29, 31
Drop Off and Pick Up Times, Sun 1 - 5; Tues 10 - 11					

Art in the Hallway at Meritus Healthcare Center Exhibitors

September 2026	Anne & Don Wilson	February 2027	
October 2026	Eliane Ambrose	March 2027	Donna Crow
November 2026	Rick Gottlieb	April 2027	Carol Miller
December 2026	Amelie Lavenant-Wink	May 2027	Lily Ramos Burrows
January 2027		June 2027	Judy Melby-Robinson

Chamber of Commerce Exhibitors

Aug/Sept - Nicole Troup

Oct/Nov - Cathie McCormick

Dec 2026/Jan2027 - Trish Suder

Figure Drawing at the Mansion House

Open studio, uninstructed, figure-drawing sessions every Monday from 10 am to 1 pm in September and October, 2026. NOTE: THERE WILL BE TWO LONG SESSIONS 10 am - 3:30 pm with lunch break on September 21 and Thursday, October 12. Professional models. Participants share the model's fee.

Drop in okay but pre-registration is helpful.

Contact Elaine Wolfe valleyartinfo@gmail.com / 304-261-9583 no text.

Workshops and Classes at the Mansion House

Erin Nelson - "Paint like a Ross" - Friday, September 11, 2026, 12 - 3 pm

Learn to paint like Bob Ross using techniques demonstrated in his "Joy of Painting" series.

\$60 VAA/Museum members, \$75.00 non-members. (All required materials included in the cost). Payment by check made out to EKAD Studio, or by PayPal (ekadstudio@gmail.com) or if by credit card payment with 3% fee, please call 443-244-0966. Mail check or drop off during business hours to the Mansion House Art Gallery, Attention: Erin Nelson, 480 Highland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Minimum 5/Maximum 18.

To register, use Eventbrite link below or email Erin (ekadstudio@gmail.com) (When using Eventbrite to sign up, please text/email Erin for VAA promo code)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paint-like-a-ross-with-erin-tickets-1986988125973?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Hans Guerin - Figure-Drawing Workshop - Thursday, September 17, 2026, 10 am - 3:30 pm

To Register, please contact Elaine Wolfe at valleyartinfo@gmail.com.

\$80 VAA/Museum members, \$90 non-members. Lunch is included in the workshop fee.

Payment by check, made out to Hans Guerin, mailed or dropped off during business hours to the Mansion House Art Gallery, Attn: Elaine Wolfe, 480 Highland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Model Fee is \$25/hour which will be shared equally by the artists. Cash payment is usual, but if paying by check, the check would be made out to the model. Elaine Wolfe will collect model payments.

Minimum 8/Maximum 12.

Patricia Boyst and Barby Weiss - Fall Watercolor Classes - Set of Six Weekly Watercolor Classes,

Fridays, September 18 - October 23, 2026 - 1 pm - 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.

Lesla Cook - Two Day Sculpture Workshop - 3-D or Relief Portrait Workshop - Thursday, September 24 and Friday, September 25, 2026, both days are 10:30 am - 4 pm

This will be a workshop working with live model and opportunity for choice of full 3-D portrait sketch sculpture or relief sculpture. For details and to register, contact Elaine Wolfe at valleyartinfo@gmail.com or call (no text) 304-261-9583. \$138 for VAA/Museum members, \$150 non-members; plus \$20 for clay supplied by the instructor. Half-hour lunch break (lunch is included in the workshop fee). Sculpture stands and sculpting tools loaned by the instructor for the workshop.

Payment by check or credit card: via Venmo @ Melissa Avera-Cook, or check made out to Lesla Cook, to be mailed or dropped off to Mansion House Art Gallery, Attn. Elaine Wolfe, 480 Highland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Minimum 6/Maximum 12.

Off-Site Workshops and Classes

Nicole Troup - "Drawing the Portrait in Charcoal with Added Gold Leaf Workshop," Thursdays, September, 10,17,24, 2026, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown, MD.

Students will learn how to draw the proportions of the face, shading and values, handling edges and how to incorporate gold leaf into the design to create a beautiful luster.

Students will also be given a tour of the exhibition of works on display by Alphonse Mucha, a Czech painter, who lived in Paris during the Art Nouveau period and was known for his illustrative design of portrait and figurative work.

\$175. Register at WCMFA, 301-739-5727 (supply list is given at the time of registration).

Questions regarding workshop details: Nicole Troup nfntroup@gmail.com, www.nicoletroupmasterpiece.com.

Deadline to Register: September 14th.

"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

Washington County Arts Council www.washingtoncountyarts.com or 301-791-3132

"Annual Community Art Show Best of Local Art 2026", from December, 2026 -January, 2027.

Call for entry information will be published soon.

Maryland Federation of Art (MFA) "Small Wonders" from November 25 - December 22, 2026.

Open to all artists in states or territories of the US, Canada or Mexico. 2-D or 3-D works 11' in all directions, including frame. Deadline for entries September 30. Works selected will be on exhibit in MFA's Circle Gallery, 18 State Circle, Annapolis, MD. For entry information, go to

<http://www.mdfedart.org> or email info@mdfedart.org or call 410-268-4566.

Exhibitions

Washington County Arts Council www.washingtoncountyarts.com

Washington Goes Purple and WCAC present "Broken Open: Addiction, Recovery, and the Work of Love". The juried community art exhibit will be on display in the gallery through September 29, 2026.

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts wcmfa.org

"Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau" - This exhibition, on display through November 1, shows more than 70 examples of his work, including the 7" tall Gismonda poster of 1895.

Cumberland Valley Photographers Exhibition to January 3, 2027 - This year's exhibition celebrates the semiquincentennial, with artists responding to four themes: Unfinished Revolutions, Power of Place, Tell Everyone's Story, and American Experiment.

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, Waynesboro, PA www.artsalliancegw.org

"Between Worlds" Exhibition on display through October 31, 2026.

Call for Artists

The VAA & Cafe Roma have a partnership to provide an opportunity to artists to display & sell their original artwork. Artwork is changed every 3 months & a contract needs to be signed. If anyone is interested in participating in the program, please contact Julie Gottlieb 240-707-6271 (h) to make an appointment.

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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