



**YAKIMA VALLEY
ARTISTS ASSOCIATION**

Membership Booklet

2024



**Located at the Harman Center
101 N. 65th Avenue
Yakima, WA 90980**

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Sara Cate's "Sage Brush Along the Columbia River" as accepted into the 2023 Central Washington Artists' Exhibit at the Larson Gallery.



Meldra Driscoll, YVAA president, and husband, Mark, man the ticket booth at the Yakima Tour of Studios, Labor Day weekend, 2023.

Welcome to Yakima Valley Artists Association

Welcome to the Yakima Valley Artists Association! We have created this introductory packet to acquaint you with the organization and what it has to offer.

YVAA is organized like an art club and is run on volunteer power, enthusiasm and participation. As an organization, it was created for artists of all mediums and all levels of expertise.

As I think of this organization, I see many opportunities for personal growth, for learning and for developing friendships with other artists. These friendships may be with people working in your same medium who enjoy sharing their knowledge; or they may introduce you to a new way to express your creativity.

YVAA offers many ways to show off your creativity. We all work together to help each other grow and to develop in our chosen manner, whether we paint to sell or sculpt for peace of mind.

We're pleased you have chosen to join us and welcome.

Sincerely,
Meldra Driscoll, YVAA President

Benefits of Belonging to YVAA

These opportunities are available as part of your membership:

- Provide and receive advice and encouragement from other artists;
- Participate in several annual virtual shows on the YVAA website, submitting 1-3 pieces per show;
- Promote yourself by providing up to 5 pieces of your work that can be sold, if you wish, on the YVAA website. Change your display as often as you wish;
- Participate in YVAA-sponsored shows and sales throughout the year;
- Learn new techniques, mediums, how-to's through presentations prior to each monthly meeting;
- Participate in the Yakima Tour of Artists' Studios;
- Paint and explain your work to visitors at the Central Washington State Fair;



Susan Hahn (right) at Tour of Studios sale.

- Share your knowledge with members by presenting programs at the monthly meetings;
- List yourself on the YVAA website as an art instructor to hire;
- Modestly low annual dues;
- Reduced costs when sharing an order of art supplies on-line with other members;
- Access to selected and instructional materials through the Members Only section of the YVAA website;



Paul Henderson assisted by Lorie Morris during a presentation.

- Participate with others in plein air events;
- Stay up-to-date on the artistic happenings in the Yakima area;
- Have a vote on the club's direction so that it benefits you, the club, and the Yakima art community.

Meeting Information

Yakima Valley Artists Association meets the second Monday of each month at the Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Avenue, Yakima.

Presently, the meetings begin at 5:45 p.m. with a “show ‘n tell” social time in which members are encouraged to display their work and visit with others, while enjoying refreshments.

An educational presentation follows, which is then followed by the business meeting.



Meldra Driscoll assists guest, John Barany, during a presentation prior to a meeting.

Annual Dues

Dues are currently \$28 per year, paid at the beginning of each new year.

New members will receive a pro-rated dues benefit their first year.

Past Events

In the past few years since YVAA has re-organized, it has presented opportunities for members in plein air events (painting outdoors) at wineries and city parks.

Shows open to the public have been held at the Harman Center, Oak Hollow Custom Framing and Gallery, Moses Lake Museum and Art.

At the Central Washington State Fair, members have demonstrated their work while answering questions for the public.

Online, members participate in four virtual shows a year. The event starting during the Covid pandemic and continues to this day, offering interested members with a forum for selling their work, if they wish.

Several live shows are held throughout the year, including YVAA’s participation in the Yakima Tour of Studios.



Joan Eckman enjoys plein air painting at the Sportsman’s Park.

YVAA Committees

Currently, YVAA is operating with six committees and two ad-hoc or temporary committees. Members are welcomed to select a committee that they find most interesting and become involved in its activities.

- Membership & Hospitality:

Chair: Jack Cannon,
jackYVAA@hotmail.com

Welcomes new members, provides comfortable monthly meeting environment.

- Presentation:

Chair: Kris Knight
jknight9820@charter.net

Plans and arranges for the educational and entertaining programs at the beginning of each meeting.

- Virtual Shows:

Webmaster: Mike Mullen
mullenbothell@yahoo.com

YVAA offers 4 art shows per year for members on the YVAA website. This committee works with Mike to get the shows organized and displayed on the website.

- Social Media & Website:

Social Media Managers: Meldra Driscoll, AnaLi Gresham
Meldra.driscoll@gmail.com

Comprised of several people who gather and organize material to be placed on the YVAA website, Instagram and on Facebook.

- Live Shows:

Chair: Meldra Driscoll
Meldra.driscoll@gmail.com

Presents several opportunities throughout the year for members to display and sell their work to the public.

Two Temporary Committees

- Artists Tour of Studios:

Chair: Meldra Driscoll
Meldra.driscoll@gmail.com

Organizes the participation of YVAA in the Yakima Tour of Studios sponsored by Artebella Studios. Ticket sales and publicity of the event are included in its activities.

- By-Laws:

Chair: Mary Jepsen
jepsenm@charter.net

Re-visits the by-laws from time to time to suggest changes to coincide with the group's current activities and intentions. Suggested changes are voted on by the general membership.



Lou Towell shows off his work at the first membership show.

History of YVAA

Originally, YVAA was the Yakima Valley Society of Artists and was registered in 1970 as a non-profit with the Secretary of State. Membership dwindled in the 1990's until, in 2019, the organization was reformed into the Yakima Valley Artists Association. The first set of officers were Jack Cannon, president; Kate Bowditch, vice-president; Lynn Maiocco, secretary; and Mary Jepsen, Treasurer.

Shortly after the group re-organized, a website was developed by Mike Mullen who continues to manage the website to this day. Since its re-organization, the group has dropped its non-profit status and has become a club of artists, welcoming people of all levels of expertise in all mediums.



Linda Kirkpatrick painting at the fine arts display at the Central Washington State Fair.

With this group, the club has provided live shows and virtual shows, has participated in the Artebella Gallery-sponsored Yakima Tour of Studios since its conception, and developed a practice of providing



AnaLi Gresham (center) provides instruction on paper-making to Rosalyn McWatters (right) during a presentation preceding a meeting.

educational presentations prior to each monthly meeting.

All along, the club has offered the opportunity for live and virtual shows, to sell work or to just enjoy the comradery of fellow artists.

The Yakima Valley has an enormous amount of artistic talent... and with that in mind, the organization has a long and exciting future ahead of it.

What the YVAA Website Offers You

The website was organized in 2019 and continues to be updated by Mike Mullen.

The website *Home* page features the current and prior virtual show.

Members can showcase their shows and awards through the Accomplishments section under *Activities*. Also located in the *Activities* tab are calendars of YVAA activities and of the Yakima art community. Events that members have participated in have also been placed under the *Activities* tab.

The *Artists* tab provides an opportunity to display 3-5 pieces of your work for the public to see along with your “Artist’s Statement” and bio. The work may be sold from the website and there’s no commission. The pieces may be updated anytime.



Joan Eckman’s “Storm Watch” was accepted into the 2023 Larson Gallery’s Central Washington Artists’ Exhibit and featured on the YVAA website.

For all members, new and current, who wish to display their work on the website, jpg photographs may be sent to Mike attached to an email. Include the “Artist’s Statement,” bio, title of the works being sent, dimensions of each work, media used for the piece, and price, if for sale: mullenbothell@yahoo.com.

The current and past two virtual shows are listed under the *Art Shows* tab, along with photos of the YVAA’s participation in the Labor Day Tour of Studios.

Links takes you to other art organizations in the area.



Cheryl Bush displays several of her works that have appeared on the YVAA website.

Under the *Members Only* tab, learn how to watch for fraud as you sell your work online, or investigate Café, an international “call to artists.”

To catch up with the club’s past, the minutes are kept under the *More* tab. Contact information for board members is listed here along with a list and description of the YVAA committees.

The website was set up to serve your needs. Please contact board members if you have questions or have suggestions.

Board of Directors

President, Meldra Driscoll
meldra.driscoll@gmail.com
Vice-President, Kate Bowditch
kbowditch60@gmail.com
Secretary, Mary Jepsen
jepsenm@charter.net
Treasurer, Kathy Birdwell
birdkat18@yahoo.com
Kris Knight
jknight9820@charter.net
Jack Cannon
yvaajack@hotmail.com

Mission Statement

Yakima Valley Artists Association is an organization of and for artists that offers a supportive network, through the sharing of inspiration, knowledge and opportunity, so that artists throughout the Yakima Valley may continue to advance in artistic excellence and to promote their work throughout the community and beyond.



Leslie Yamada's "Multnoma on Ice", 24 x 36",
oil on canvas.