

# *Lasting Impressions*

FALL, 2020



HISTORICAL CHARM.  
NATURAL BEAUTY.

*Extraordinary Living*

# Featured Club Within the Club: Visual Arts Club



## Featured Club:

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Art is a great communication skill that can be used to express yourself. With the ongoing pandemic, communication has become more of a challenge due to social distancing being the new normal. Through it all, Dataw Island's Visual Arts Club (VAC) has continued to challenge themselves to stay on track with their goals that they had set for the year. VAC's mission is to encourage artistic expression and further knowledge and appreciation of the arts. To accomplish these goals, VAC offers opportunities for members to create and display artwork in variety of media, participate in workshops and classes designed for both beginners and advanced students, and deepen their appreciation of art and art history.

The pandemic and the accompanying social distancing have challenged the club's ability to achieve their goals this year. However, as a club, they have stepped up to that challenge. At the outset of the lockdown, all of VAC's in-person classes, workshops, and special events had to be canceled, which left many of the Visual Arts Club members feeling isolated and finding it difficult to focus. But gradually, they figured out ways to not only stay creative but work together while still observing the necessary health precautions. Their Open Studio, Mixed Media, Clay, and Card Club groups figured out they could collaborate via Zoom, paint together en plein air, and meet in small groups with social distancing.

As one of their members, Anne Clements, put it, "This connecting and sharing kept us a little more focused on our art, but even more importantly, it renewed our emotional connection with each other which all of us had missed desperately."

In addition to the activities of the smaller groups, they organized several online challenges designed to help their members stay creative while spending more time at home.

The first challenge, “*Art in the Time of Confinement*,” asked the members to take a famous painting and recreate it using whatever materials they had to hand. They had close to 25 creative interpretations. As a juror, Barb Carakostas, put it, “As we learn to cope with the social restrictions and the boredom of our “COVID Confinement,” it is evident that when the going gets tough, Dataw residents get creative.”



The original painting (left) and the winning interpretation (right) by Lynn Baker, entitled “*Survival in the Time of Confinement*.”

For the next challenge they turned to literature, reaching

out to the entire Dataw community to tell them, in the form of a haiku, what they were most looking forward to doing when they could resume normal activities. They compiled the 45 entries into an electronic booklet entitled “*Life after Lockdown*” and distributed it to the island to enjoy. As you might imagine, many of the poems dealt with being able to hug family, travel, and once again gather with friends.



Next up was “*The View From My Window*,” which asked members to capture the scene from their window, be it real or imaginary, with or without the window frame in any medium they chose. Here’s one example of the submissions, “*Dataw Marina*” by Marie Doyon.



Their *Art of Communication* challenge randomly matched up pairs of Dataw residents to find what unique connection they had. Here’s what was found:

1. Nobody noticed a particularly unique connection with the person he or she was matched up with.
2. The experiences of Dataw Island residents in their prior lives were more unique and diverse than you might think.
3. Participants had a good time getting to know someone they had never met before or knew only slightly.

The winners of this challenge perfected the Art of Communication. They submitted a detailed list of the things they found in common, including favorite foods, films, and sports to a pet peeve.



Believing in the adage "idle hands are the devil's playground," members of the VAC's Dataw Photography Club have engaged in two programs in the past several months that have kept their imaginations and shutters working hard. Titled "*Summer Shots*" and "*Summer Shots 2*," members have been challenged to create shots that fit into assigned categories. An example category in the "*Summer Shots 2*" program is heat - which is not easy to capture in a photo. To entice participation, gift certificates for the Morgan River Grill were randomly awarded to members who entered photos. Even though club members have been geographically

dispersed, participation only requires internet access. To the left is an excellent example of a "*Summer Shots 2*" photo by Bill Riski (top left).

VAC's current challenge is to submit a photo of something that looks like something else. They have posted all the entries on the VAC website and are asking the Dataw community to vote for their favorite. Here's one chosen at random to illustrate the challenge. This one is called "*Illusions of A Night Sky*" by Bev Newman (bottom right). It is the windshield of her car as she drove through the car wash.

In addition to the challenges, VAC has been providing members with online resources designed to stir their creativity and enhance their knowledge of artworks, artists, and art history. Some resources were links to virtual exhibits, lists of novels and films about art and artists, and TV series that focus on museums and famous artworks. They owe thanks to the many VAC members who have shared a wide range of enlightening and entertaining resources.

VAC is hopeful for a return to normal by the fall, but is prepared to adapt as need be. They may not be able to host a reception for the next quarterly art exhibit, but their *Patterns* exhibit will be hung for residents to enjoy. They are looking forward to hosting a Fall Festival and their annual Holiday Boutique, taking all safety precautions required to keep their friends and neighbors safe as they enjoy these events.

