



## COMMITTEE REPORTS, YEAR END 2023

VAC Annual Meeting January 15, 2024

### Membership Chair, Kathy Kelenski

Membership ended 2023 with 411 members (49 new members and 362 renewed January 2023).

I completed the automatic renewals for 2024 for all our members (not including 29 members who have moved or declined for some reason).

A total of 294 households were billed as follows:

81 @ \$30

213 @\$20

Total billing \$6690

- \$294 (\$1 per household service charge which VAC absorbs)

Total revenue expected from DIC \$6396. They will issue a check Friday, December 29 which I will pick up, verify, then give to Lisa Talley

5 members joined VAC in late November or in early December so were counted as 2023 and 2024 members but were only charged once.

Assuming no other members decline to renew after receiving their DIC bills next week our membership for January 2024 starts at 383 (including two new members for 2024).

### Art History and Appreciation Chair, Kathleen McShane

Year End 2023 Report of the Art History and Appreciation Chair

When Covid began to prevent public gatherings of VAC members, I started writing and distributing illustrated pieces on various art related topics, covering different artists and mediums. Our members seemed to enjoy them (and I enjoyed doing them), so I have continued to do so even though the isolation of the pandemic has ended.

The first piece of 2023 (January) featured artwork that showcased winter scenes...great to look at, no shoveling required.

Next (February), I focused on two iconic landmarks in Paris, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower. The piece illustrated how different artists can so uniquely portray the same architectural marvel.

March was Women's History Month. In its honor, I asked VAC members to choose their favorite woman artist. The choices were diverse, ranging from Artemisia Gentileschi, an Italian Baroque painter, to contemporary artists including Alice Neel and Helen Frankenthaler. The results of my "survey" were reported along with a resume of each artist's life and work and some examples of their work.

At the beginning of May, I was getting ready to leave on a long-anticipated trip to Spain, during which I planned to see works of the Spanish artist, Salvador Dalí, so I decided to leave VAC members with a bit of background on and some artwork of this maybe crazy maybe genius artist.

From my trip to Spain, I gained a new appreciation for Spanish artists. The result was a piece (July) on some of the Spanish artists I had not covered, including Goya, El Greco, Velazquez, Sorrola, Gris and Miró.

Yarn Bombing was August's topic. Women's street art, akin to graffiti, but with textiles.

In August, my husband and I were privileged to spend a week in one of the great art cities of our country, Philadelphia. My September offering hopefully tempted our members to visit some of the fabulous museums there, and maybe, like we did, check out some of the 4,400 murals found around the city.

November was Native American Heritage Month. My contribution for this month was to identify some of the great places in this country to experience Native American art and to give our members a flavor of what they might see at these various museums.

My last piece for 2023 featured Art for Christmas, including some Old Masters and their extraordinary nativity scenes, folk art from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Norman Rockefeller, of course, and some Hallmark art from some unlikely sources (Dalí, Picasso).

In addition to these pieces, I shared a number of items that were provided to me by members: mannequins turned into art, Liza Lou's kitchen, worst art restorations ever, the extraordinary work of Turkish artist, Deniz Sagdic, who turns waste materials into art, and the work of Conor Culver combines photography and digital design to create amazing surrealistic works of art.

### Communications Chair, Mary Marshall & Bill Riski Webmaster

Promoted markets/fests including Spring Fling, Octoberfest Artist's Market and Mistletoe Market

Announced twelve months of Card Club classes/open studio

Classes:

Acrylic Painting, Camilla Pagliaroli, May 9

Alcohol Ink featuring Julie Schroeder, April 20

Watercolor Pop Up, Biddie Fox, August 1  
Spoonbills, Camilla Pagliaroli, January 31  
Come Collage with Me, Marie Doyon, Jun 27  
Fall Leaves Watercolor, Biddie Fox, November 14  
Intro to Alcohol Ink, Liza Boyajian, April 13  
Intro to Rug Hooking, Judy, Brown, January 21  
Knitting 101, Sonia Fails & Michelle Seal, February 4  
Knitting 102, Learn to Knit a Hat. Michelle Seal, September 23 and October 7  
Acrylics Class and Demo, Linda Banfalvi, March 4  
Monochromatic Pointillism, Alexis Schrimpf, October 12  
Pastel Painting, Mindy Smyth, June 6  
Pet Portraits, Emily Mahoney, October 17  
Pumpkin Painting, Liza Boyajian and Emily Mahoney, October 7  
Shell Art Workshop, Sandra Mitchell, August 3  
Sip & Paint, Camilla Pagliaroli, February 25  
Valentine Collage, Marie, Doyon, February 7  
Watercolor Beyond the Basics, Linda Stevens-Sloan, October 28 and 29  
Watercolor Painting, Biddie Fox, September 12  
Zentangle, Barbara Krakehl, April 27

#### Exhibits:

What a Wonderful World, January

Unforgettable, April

Anything Goes, July

My Favorite Song – Artist's Choice, October

Bill Riski facilitated the online registration of 247 art pieces for the four Art Exhibits, illustrating the diverse talents within our community and giving artists the recognition they deserve.

Celebrating Dataw Artists (Marie Doyon and Bill Riski):

Highlighted eight Dataw artists including Barb Carakostas, Bill Sloan, Dale Martin, Dick Golobic, Mudslingers (Brook Schuster, Terri Jodoin, Janet Bura, Donna Walker, Jeannie Herring, Maribel Mitnick, Patty, Santalla), Tricia Garner, Mary Ann Berger, Bill Tremitiere.

Kathy McShane's series, "The Art Connection," continued with eight new articles this year, building on the foundation laid in August 2020.

Looking closer at the community's needs, a member survey was analyzed and reported in early 2023 providing feedback that is invaluable in shaping VAC's future initiatives.

During 2023, 37 event flyers rotated through the Upcoming Events section of the Home page and 293 calendar entries were posted throughout the year.

Bill Riski was responsible for making online presence more user-friendly and cost-effective. The VAC website was migrated from the existing host to Host Gator, which trimmed annual maintenance costs by \$640 – a welcomed budgetary relief.

To give the website a more distinctive identity, the domain address was changed to "Dataw.Art." This small change reflects VAC's commitment to showcasing the artistic talent on Dataw and makes the website name easier to remember. The website currently averages approximately 800 page views per month, indicating a growing interest in the art and culture VAC is promoting.

### *Historian Chair, Dale Martin*

Beyond presence at board meetings, Dale collected and promoted the "Legacy" Art exhibit for the Annual Meeting

### *Art Education, Marie Doyon & Linda Stevens Sloan*

As part of their 20th anniversary celebration, VAC wanted to recognize artists who live right here in our midst, some of whom were instrumental in establishing this wonderful organization. So far we have featured the following artists, with more to come-so stay tuned. All articles are available on the Dataw website, Dataw.art, in case you missed one:

- William Sloan
- Dale Martin
- Dick Golobic
- Tricia Gardner
- Bill Tremitiere
- Barbara Carakostas
- Mary Ann Berger
- "The Mudslingers" (Brooke Schuster, Janet Bura, Terri Jodoin, Donna Walker, Maribel Mitnick, Jeannine Herring, Patty Santalla)

### *Exhibit Chair Report, Anne Clements and Bill Tremitiere*

VAC had four exhibits in 2023, all inspired by song titles:

January 16 – April 15, 2023 "What a Wonderful World"

April 17 – July 15, 2023 "Unforgettable"

July 17 – October 14, 2023 "Anything Goes"

October 16 – January 13, 2024 "Artists' Song of Choice"

#### January Highlights, "What a Wonderful World":

- 48 pieces displayed
- Juror: Frank Anson, wood craftsman
- Two categories for awards: photography, all other media
- Opening reception was held on January 16, 2023, hosted by Patty VanSant, Lisa Talley, Liza Boyajian
- A total of 153 ballots were cast for "People's Choice" at the reception
- Five pieces of art were sold
- \$350.00 collected at intake

#### April Highlights, "Unforgettable":

- 47 pieces displayed
- Juror: Allison Chambers, abstract painter
- Two categories for awards: photography, all other media
- Opening reception was held on April 17, 2023, hosted by Lyn Wilson and Marie Doyon
- A total of 90 ballots were cast for "People's Choice"
- Six pieces of art were sold
- \$310.00 collected at intake

#### July Highlights, "Anything Goes"

- 91 pieces displayed (record to date)
- Juror: No juror - summer break
- Opening reception, Monday, July 17, 2023, hosted by Susan Emons and Anne Clements
- A total of 107 ballots were cast for "People's Choice" (record to date)
- Eight pieces of art were sold
- \$500.00 collected at intake

#### October Highlights, "My Favorite Song: Artist's Choice"

- 48 pieces displayed
- Juror: Vickie Jourdan, abstract painter
- Two categories for awards: photography, all other media
- Opening reception, Monday, October 16, 2023, hosted by Laurie Wells and Susan Zienowicz
- A total of 87 ballots were cast for "People's Choice"

- Nine pieces of art were sold (record to date)
  - \$310.00 collected at intake
- The VAC board accepted the following themes, again based on song titles, for 2024:

2024 Exhibit Titles: January; “Memories”, April; “It’s Not Easy Being Green”, July; “Anything Goes”...again, October; “America the Beautiful”

Noteworthy:

- We took a “summer break” in July and did not have a juror. Until 2022, fewer artists showed their work in the July exhibits. This trend changed in 2022 with the exhibit “The Lowcountry” with 75 pieces displayed. The most pieces of art ever were sold at this exhibit as well. This was eclipsed by the July 2023 exhibit “Anything Goes” with 91 pieces.
- Bill and I sent emails to all those who had participated in the July exhibit, inquiring if they entered because of the open theme or because it was a non-juried exhibit. The overwhelming response was the open theme. The open theme prompted many people to enter four pieces.
- The regulations for the Community Center state the prohibition of the use of tape on the walls. Bill Tremitiere contacted both Kevin Ennis and Ted Bartlett and explained the importance of using the tape for the integrity of the exhibits. He explained that painters’ tape does not damage the walls. It was agreed by all parties that VAC can continue using painters’ tape.
- There has been an ongoing discussion of having three categories instead of two for the juror to award. Currently, we have the two categories: Photography and All Other Media. We often have several three-dimensional entries; other times, not many pieces are entered in this category to warrant giving an award. Bill and I will make the decision to add this third category in any particular exhibit as warranted.
- The fees for the exhibits are currently \$10.00 for one or two pieces of art and \$20.00 for three or four pieces. In April, the fees will be adjusted to \$10.00 for the first piece of art and \$5.00 for each additional piece for no more than four entries.

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Below is a list of our dedicated volunteers who consistently make it all happen and to whom we cannot thank enough for their time, talent and willingness to help:

- Mary Marshall: publications and announcements
- Bill Riski: IT, registration compilation, general all-round “can-do” guy
- Lynn Baker, Barb Carakostas, Christine Devine, Marie Doyon, Jennifer Ethier, Jacqueline Jones, Linda Stevens Sloan, Anne Williams, Lyn Wilson: art intake, hanging/displaying of all art
- Melanie Gentile and Andy Smith: photographers for VAC archives
- Patty VanSant, Lisa Talley, Liza Boyajian, Lyn Wilson, Marie Doyon, Susan Emons, Anne Clements, Laurie Wells and Susan Zienowicz 2023 reception hosts
- Bill Tremitiere: printing of all labels, procurement of jurors, another general all-round “can-do” guy

### Mudslingers 2023 Brooke Shuster

The mudslingers had a pretty productive year. With 15 members and a beginning mentorship program, we were able to participate in the 2023 Mistletoe Market with some success. Our group is diverse, and we all enjoy our own pursuits in clay. With the price of clay and glazes increasing, we chose to use our proceeds from the market to allow us to purchase more supplies and tools to increase our skills and productivity. As a group we have been enjoying a monthly dinner together to give us more time to share friendship and ideas. We welcome others who are interested in clay to check in with us on Fridays from 10 to 3 in the art room.

Brooke Schuster

Note: The fees went up: \$200 for 6 months or \$400 for the year.

This is still a deal compared to other facility offerings and pricing.

### Card Club Dena Dardzinski and Pam Farris

Please see attached report.

## Mixed Media Lynn Baker

Mixed Members=13, annual dues =\$20.00

- January - Liza taught marbling papers technique; Adopt a School bookmarks project- 350 hand-painted bookmarks donated to SHES book fair.
- February - Members agreed to design cradle boards to sell at the VAC's Fools' Folly event in April.
- March - Barb taught class on mark making to create collage fodder; Members agreed to make cradle boards to donate to the FOCH to place in the patients' rooms.
- April - VAC Fools' Folly
- May - Local artist Penny Beesley's Port Royal studio tour.
- June - Lynn taught session on using leaves to make monoprints on the gelli plate.  
(Summer break = July, August)
- September & October - Purchased & distributed 48 paper wine bottle totes for members to decorate and sell at the Mistletoe Market.
- November - Mistletoe Mkt - MM sold 47 bags and donated a percent of proceeds to EE gift fund, CC gift basket and SHES donation.
- December - Three members hung the ceramic hearts at FOCH; Made gift basket to give to CC staff and to Dataw maintenance staff.

## Presidents report Jennifer Ethier

### **Mistletoe Market**

19 of the 34 vendors participating completed the evaluation.

Reports were very complimentary, loved the venue, and gave almost all 5's.

Additional comments:

- Table sizes (the club had a shortage of larger tables, we will need to secure more tables)
- Several mentioned better advertising (more frequent email reminders days before the show), one mentioned having a "vendor spotlight email" leading up to the show
- Put a sign at clubhouse drive
- Open / advertise the event to the public

Roughly 350 +/- attended, based on ballots that were handed out at the door for GB House Voting.

### **Gingerbread House Votes**



304 votes were cast for the 6 houses entered. (Only 2 entries from our general membership, the other 4 were board members or committee chairs who stepped up to make it happen.)

Thank you!

- We have decided as popular as this is for attendees, we can not continue without general membership participation.

- Participants were announced in an email along with the winner. The names were announced as recorded on the entry forms.

### **VAC Annual Meeting**

Our speakers for the Annual Meeting in January will be from USCB, presenting the opportunities they offer for continued art education.

E. Joanna Angell, MFA  
Associate Professor of Art  
Director, Sea Islands Center Gallery

Kim Keats  
Program Coordinator for Studio Art

### **Final notes:**

Thank you so much to all who have made this another successful year of art for our VAC members. Together we make a good team and I look forward to serving out this last year as President with your continued support.