

By Jennifer Ethier

We are excited to be celebrating the 20th anniversary of VAC's inception. Please visit the VAC "History" tab and click on "History Overview" to read how VAC was conceived and became a DIC-sanctioned club. We strive to continue supporting relationships by providing a creative outlet, and I am grateful we have such a long history to draw on. Studies have shown that the keys to happiness are social interaction, friendships, and connections. One of the happiest people I know is someone from our founding group, our Historian, Dale Martin, who continues to participate as an active Board member.

I want to thank everyone who attended our Annual Meeting and helped us celebrate our 20 years with cake and a bit of bubbly. We had a brief business meeting, some very important recognitions, and thank you's and then moved right into our fireside chat, conducted by Marj Shymske, one of our past Presidents.

Our featured artist for the fireside chat was none other than me, your current and returning President. I have a long history in creative work but not in the fine art you see me doing now. I talk little about my past endeavors, which is why Marj thought our chat would be of interest. We discussed my clothing design business under the label "Jennifer Sly Kirk, Artclothes Inc." and the path I took as a single mother. I was fortunate to grow my business to a half million dollars a year through my presence in the Chicago Apparel Mart, over 50 small galleries, and boutiques. In addition, my clothes and designs were also featured in seven Nordstrom Stores in the Midwest and East Coast.

In October 2022, VAC had a record-breaking Quarterly Exhibit entitled "Reflections" with 75 pieces of art entered by Dataw artists. At the exhibit reception, photo books were on display, showing some of the early days of VAC. We ate, drank, and laughed together as we looked over our humble beginnings and planned for our exciting future. VAC ended 2022 with 388 members, more than in any previous year. We are very financially sound and looking to 2023 with excitement.

Thank you to our 2022 board and committee chairs for working together and making all of this happen:

President - Jennifer Ethier
Vice President - Marie Doyon
Secretary - Jennifer Flanagan
Treasurer - Michael Allen

Communications - Mary Marshall
Technology - Bill Riski
Exhibits - Anne Clements and Bill Tremitiere
Fine Arts - Susan Emons
Craft - Linda Stevens-Sloan
Mixed Media - Lynn Baker
Card Club - Dena Dardzinski and Pam Farris
Mud Slingers - Brooke Schuster and Janet Burra
Studio Tours - Becky Lougee
Photography - Harold Burnley
Art History & Appreciation - Kathy McShane
Historian - Dale Martin
Exhibit Reception - Pat McCauley Blumer

2022 Offerings

Instruction and Demos:

Calligraphy: Barbara Krakehl
From Clay to Art: Demo by Jerry DeVissor
Needle Felting: Linda Stevens-Sloan & Jennifer Ethier
Zentangle Method of Drawing: Barbara Krakehl
Handbuilding with Clay: 3 class series, Brooke Schuster & Janet Bura
Watercolor for beginners: Nancy Walnes
Nantucket Baskets: Jennifer Flanagan
Pet Portraits with Martha Quigley
Several Acrylic Painting classes with Camilla Pagliaroli
Epoxy Resin Pouring: Jeff Rugg
Painting with Paper (collage): Marie Doyon
Fun with Alcohol Inks: Susan Emons
Drawing with Emma Barnes
Watercolor with Jan Ross
Indigo Dyeing: Lori Thompson
Painted pumpkins: Liza Boyajian & Jennifer Ethier
Oil Painting open studio with Martha Quigley
Gingerbread House Decorating: Linda Stevens-Sloan & Jennifer Ethier
Ordinary to Extraordinary art collage event: Kathy McShane & Marj Shymske
Card Club Classes throughout the year, over 40 members; Dena Dardzinski & Pam Farris

I'd like to point out that all but four of those names are Dataw VAC members who donate their time and talents to us.

Four Quarterly Exhibits:

Still Life - January 17
Close Up - April 18
The Lowcountry - July 18
Reflections - October 17

Studio Tours with Becky Lougee:

Louis Bruce - Downtown Beaufort

Ly Benson - Frogmore

Art Appreciation:

West Side Story (movie in April)

Numerous articles and noteworthy shares by Kathy McShane. All of these are available on our website (BLOG / The Art Connection) for you to check out.

Sales Events:

Spring Fling: Organized by Dena Dardzinski

Mistletoe Market; organized by Marj Shymske & Kathy McShane

Promotional Event:

Carnival of Clubs: VAC table: Jennifer Ethier, Linda Stevens-Sloan, Barb Carakostas, Lynn Baker & Kathy McShane. Card Club Table where guests made a card to take: Dena Dardzinski and Pam Farris

Community Outreach:

Friends of Caroline's Cottage, Hospice House Barb Carakostas, Marjorie Shymske, Lynn Baker & Jennifer Ethier.

Most important was the generosity and open hearts of our Dataw artists who donated over 150 pieces of art to decorate the newly built Cottage. This is truly a beautiful space for families to gather around their loved ones and the art will bring comfort for years to come.

Plans for 2023

VAC has a fresh new look! Mary Marshall has created a wonderful new Logo for us. Watch for it as we incorporate it into our publications.



A trifold brochure is in the works. We will use this promotional handout for new residents and nonmembers who want to know more about what VAC offers.

Marie Doyon is doing a monthly interview series, "Celebrating Dataw Artists." Watch for it; you may be surprised to see what creative artist lives next door. You'll find these interviews on our website (BLOG / Celebrating Dataw's Artists).

Marie Doyon and Linda Steven-Sloan, with the help of Bill Riski, have created a new members survey. With your help, we hope to gain insight into what works best for our members, find willing teachers and volunteers, and learn how we should expand our offerings.

Upcoming Classes include:

Rug Hooking Demo

Beginning Knitting

An Acrylic Painting class Plus a Sip and Paint evening!

Many offerings from Card Club

Collage workshop

We are planning a Spring Show for April 1. "April Fools Folly" will feature decorated birdhouses (similar to the gingerbread houses). We encourage you to come and shop for Easter goodies, plants/herbs, jewelry, or fresh new art for you and your home. Please let us know if you would like to be a vendor.

More is coming: classes, workshops, tours, history, and demonstrations. Stay tuned to your email and our website calendar for details.

Thank you to those who serve on our board, committee chairs, volunteers, artists, and appreciators. You all help to make our Visual Arts Club a success. This is truly a team effort, and I appreciate your willingness to donate your time, expertise, and passion over this year.

We are excited about this New Year! Please consider joining us by teaching or sharing your talents, and becoming part of our team, helping bring the arts to Dataw and our community.