The Visual Arts Center
Providing the best art classes, instructors and exhibit opportunities for members and visitors.

- 3 Art Galleries (20+ Exhibits Annually)
- Extensive Arts Library
- Artisan Gift Shop of Hand Crafted Items
- Instruction for All Skill Levels
- Art & Supply Store

Call (941) 633-8810 or go online at www.VisualArtCenter.org to register.

Classes Times:
- Weekday Mornings: 9:00 – 12:00
- Weekday Afternoons: 1:00 – 4:00
- Evenings: 6:00 – 9:00
- Saturdays: 10:00 – 1:00 & 1:00 – 4:00
- Personal & Group Classes available.

INSIDE

Instructor Biographies
Learn about our talented instructors

Class Descriptions
Find the class that is right for you

CLASSES

Draw & Paint
- Abstract
- Acrylic
- Black & White
- Charcoal
- Colored Pencils
- Egg Tempura
- Drawing
- Mixed Media
- Oil Painting
- Open Studio
- Pastels
- Scratchboard
- Watercolor
- Zentangle

Glass
- Fused Glass
- Stained Glass

Jewelry
- Casting
- Enameling
- Glass Fusing
- Silver & Copper
- Wire Wrapping

Pottery
- Big & Tall
- Hand Build
- Raku & Horse Hair
- Pottery Wheel

Sculpture
- Stone
- Apoxie Clay

Specialty Art
- Basket Weaving
- Doll Making
- Fiber Weaving
- Gelli Print
- Photography

Youth Classes
In 1961 a group of artists organized an outdoor art show and an astonishing 3,000 people came. These artists began to organize and the Visual Arts Center was built in phases as money was raised. The doors officially opened in 1989.

Today, the Visual Arts Center (VAC) provides the finest art classes, instructors and exhibit opportunities for members and visitors. Courses are designed for all ages and skill levels and the VAC offers classes and workshops throughout the year in a wide variety of visual art media. Basic art supplies for oil, watercolor, acrylics, drawing and pottery, plus premade class kits, are available for sale along with VAC logo items, snacks and member rental storage lockers.

The Visual Arts Center is located at the Corner of Maud Street and Marion Avenue, across from Fishermen’s Village in Downtown Punta Gorda. VAC Galleries, are always free and open to the public. Come visit and see for yourself why the Visual Art Center is truly a community gathering place.
CLASS DATES & TIMES
Class day of the week and times suggested for each instructor are according to their preferred teaching schedule, however, the schedule does change from time to time based on classroom availability. Classes generally begin every four to six weeks. Visit the website www.VisualArtCenter.org for current list of scheduled classes.

WORKSHOPS
The Visual Arts Center offers Workshops in addition to classes taught by our Instructors or Visiting Instructors. Workshops offer a concentrated focus of one to four consecutive days of instruction and creativity. Visit the website to see the current list of Workshops.

MASTER WORKSHOP SERIES
Several nationally recognized artists present workshops each year. These workshop artists, selected by a committee of instructors and accomplished artists, represent new techniques or highly recognized expertise. Visit the website to see the current list of Master Workshops.

CREATE AND PAINT EVENING SOCIALS
FUN WITH ART+ WINE – Each month we feature Art as a social event. Create your own piece of art in a 2-hour fun group workshop.
- Paint on Canvass, with Marki Raposa
- Paint on Anything BUT Canvas, with Marki Raposa
- Glass Etching with Belinda Duclos
- AND MORE . . .

INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP PRIVATE LESSONS
Personalized and private group classes are available for groups of 5 or more at the regular class rate. Individual lessons are available on an hourly basis.

YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS
Classes just for Teens in Pottery, Jewelry or art Exploration. Summer Camp Programs for ages 8 to 18.
Meet Our Instructors

Instructors listed alphabetically in brochure
Page numbers listed below

DRAWING & PAINTING

5 . . . Jim Beech
6 . . . Linda Benson
8 . . . Nancy Colby
10 . . . Gerry DeWitt
12 . . . Margaret Egli
13 . . . Zoe’ Hale
17 . . . Christine Keyworth
18 . . . Catherine Lucas
19 . . . Rosalie Mack
20 . . . Don Melander
24 . . . Robert Pavon
25 . . . Laura Pommier
26 . . . Patty Presseller
27 . . . Marquelynn Raposa
32 . . . Sheryl Unwin
35 . . . Beverly Yankwitt

GLASS

9 . . . Belinda Duclos
11 . . . Janie Duke
21 . . . Cynthia Newcomb
Meet Our Instructors

JEWELRY
  7 . . . Dianne Brooks
  9 . . . Belinda Duclos
  17 . . . Christine Keyworth
  28 . . . Diana Reinhard
  33 . . . Nancy VanTassell

MAKING DOLLS
  16 . . . Mary Jollett

PHOTOGRAPHY
  30 . . . Clyde Sweatt

POTTERY
  15 . . . Howard Hartke
  31 . . . Steve Strunk

PRINTING
  34 Pamela Wilson (Gelli)

SCULPTURE
  14 . . . Wayne Harshberger (Stone)
  29 . . . Susan Shore (Clay)

WEAVING
  22 . . . Naomi Paquette (Baskets)
  23 . . . Suzanne Patton (Fiber)
JIM BEECH

Jim studied at the Philadelphia Museum College of Art, the School of Visual Arts in New York City, the Burlington Cultural Center, Burlington, Ontario and Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Jim’s background is primarily in graphic design and marketing. Jim is a member of the Visual Arts Center, the Charlotte County Arts and Humanities Council, a signature member of the Florida Watercolor Society, an associate member of the Suncoast Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society. Jim’s work can be seen in the Sea Grape Gallery, the Visual Arts Center and the FGCU campus in Punta Gorda.

WATERCOLOR BASICS

Each class will start with a critique followed by a demonstration which will include basic art concepts, techniques and basic fundamentals. There will also be a review of drawing, color and design. Supply List available online and Art Supplies available at VAC Art & Supply Store.

6 Week Sessions - 10 Spaces per Class

Intermediate / Advanced:
Wednesday, 9am-12pm
LINDA BENSON                           DRAWING & PAINTING

Linda trained at the Art Institute of Chicago and the American Academy of Art. Her 40-year career as a commercial artist and illustrator included working as an artist for the Chicago Tribune and as a graphic designer and manger for various Florida newspapers on the mainland and Key West. Linda enjoys painting on her boat studio, the Artist Xpress, a 46-foot Chris Craft. Linda’s hands on teaching technique allows you to create along with her in the classroom.

INTRODUCTION TO ART - BEGINNER

Explore 4 styles of art – Watercolor, Acrylic, Oils & Pastels. A class for the absolute beginner. Each week will focus on a different style of art. Class supply list online. Art Class Supply Kits available for purchase in the VAC Art & Supply Store.

4 Week Sessions, 18 Spaces per Class
Saturday, 10am-1pm

WATERCOLOR

Enjoy being creative with transparent watercolors and learn something new or refresh your skills. You will learn brush techniques, color theory, gradients and composition. Class supply list online. Art Class Supply Kits available for purchase in the VAC Art & Supply Store.

6 Week Sessions
18 Spaces per Class
Intermediate / Advanced: Monday, 9am-12pm
Beginners / Intermediate: Monday, 1pm-4pm
DIANNE BROOKS

Dianne discovered her love for creating silver jewelry after a 30-year corporate career. Her favorite medium is silver, but she has branched out to lapidary intarsia, glass fusing, enameling, precious metal, clay and wire. Dianne expands her skills each year at William Holland School of Lapidary arts in Georgia as well as the Florida Society of Goldsmiths, where she is a member.

FOLD FORMING & HYDRAULIC PRESS
Explore the elasticity of metal. Fold, hammer, roll and stretch copper sheets to make different shapes and textures. $35 Material Fee.
6 Week Sessions – 10 Spaces per Class
Wednesday, 6pm – 9pm

ENAMELING FOR JEWELRY
Learn the basics of enameling, safety, tools, materials, kiln firing, metal preparation and enamel application methods with a variety of design techniques. Beyond Basic - Learn advanced techniques: champlevé, plique-a-jour, cloisonné on copper or silver, beads, foil, enamel on PMC. $45 Material Fee.
6 Week Sessions – 15 Spaces per Class
All Levels: Thursday, 9am – 12pm
Beyond Basics: Thursday, 1pm – 4pm

CHAIN MAILLE – ALL Levels
Learn to make beautiful patterns and variations using the age old art of Chain Maille. Learn a different bracelet pattern each week, one link at a time. Chain Maille can be used in many ways to create beautiful, unique jewelry. $60 Material Fee. Tool list online.
6 Week Sessions – 15 Spaces per Class
Wednesday, 1pm - 4pm
NANCY COLBY

Nancy’s natural artistic ability has allowed her to continually achieve top honors as an artist, including, Best Pet Portrait Artist as voted by Sarasota Pet Magazine three times. Nancy is known for her life like paintings of flora, animals and wildlife. She is often told her paintings are so real that you can almost pet the fur! Inspired by the love of all things related to animals, she expresses that love in all of her work, which includes watercolors, prints and illustrations.

IT’S ONLY PAPER! WATERCOLOR

Bring the skill you have weather it’s some or none! You’ll fit in. The class focus is on you and your specific needs with instruction and direction tailored to each individual. Instruction includes both individual and group demonstrations and critiques. Two levels, Beginners & Advanced. Supply kits and art supplies available at VAC Art Supply Store.

4 Week Sessions – 18 Spaces per Class
Intermediate to Advanced: Wednesday or Thursday, 9am-12pm
Beginners to Intermediate: Wednesday or Thursday, 1pm-4pm
BELINDA DUCLOS        JEWELRY & STAINED GLASS

Falling in love with Native American jewelry, Belinda began creating her own over 15 years ago. In addition, she discovered her love of stained glass colors and textures and is always excited to create a new piece. She now shares her enthusiasm for both by teaching others at the VAC.

STAINED GLASS – No Experience
Learn the complete process of traditional stained glass design and make a simple sun catcher using the copper foil method within the first two classes, then choose your next project from a vast library of pattern books. Materials & tools provided. $20 Material Fee.
6 Weeks - 10 Spaces
Wednesday or Thursday, 1pm-4pm

SILVER & COPPER JEWELRY - No Experience
Learn to create jewelry using mixed metals in our metal studio equipped with the most popular tools for many metal manipulation methods. You will solder, etch, texture, drill, form, rivet, cut saw, stamp, color, cast and more, as you acquire skills. Learn to use the acetylene torch, rolling mill, bench shear, drill press, hydraulic press, buffer, bench sander, stamps, mandrels, hand tools with safe tool handling techniques. Tool kits provided -- or bring your own. Stones and metals are available for purchase. $10 Lab Fee.
6 Weeks – 10 Spaces per Class
Thursday, 6pm-9pm
Friday, 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm
Saturday, 10am-1pm

GLASS ETCHING
Monthly Workshop
Wednesday 6pm-8pm
Meet Our Instructors

GERRY DEWITT

Gerry DeWitt is a multimedia artist who found her passion for art after a career as an accountant and raising her three children. She has explored the world, including, most of the US, Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Mexico and Central America, leading her on a trip of personal discovery and growth through art. She is a certified Zentangle teacher and enjoys working with all ages and skill levels.

ZENTANGLE

Zentangle is an inspired art method that is easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. It is non-representational and unplanned so you can focus on each stroke and not worry about the result. Learn the Method of Zentangle in 8 steps. Draw intricate patterns using ink on paper and learn shading techniques to create dimensional work, while having fun.

6 Weeks - 12 Spaces, Wednesday, 9pm-12pm
Janie Duke is a Southwest Florida fused glass artist specializing in a unique French approach to creative glass making that allows for subtle gradations of color. She produces her own designs from her Glass Duchess Studio in Port Charlotte. Her works can be found throughout the US, Canada and parts of Europe. She considers her work representative of the Earth, Sky and Oceans striving for serenity and a calming effect on the viewer.

**INTRODUCTION TO WORKING WITH GLASS - Beginners**

This beginning glass class is for those who have never worked in glass before. Make a small bowl or plate. Learn the basics: types of glass; tools; how to cut glass; design and form; what glass does as it warms in the kiln and how it affects your finished piece. Supply List online. Class Supply Kit available for purchase in VAC Art & Supply Store. Material Fee $40.

*Students must wear closed-toe shoes to class.*

**4 Week Sessions – 10 Spaces per Class, Monday, 1pm-4pm**

**GLASS SPECIALTY TECHNIQUES – Intermediate & Advanced**

Now that you know the basics, experiment with a new fused glass technique each session. Folding, forming, braiding and more. Must have taken Introductory Class before this class. Supply List online. Bring your glass tools. Tools available for purchase in VAC Art & Supply Store. Material Fee $60.

*Students must wear closed-toe shoes to class.*

**6 Week Sessions – 10 Spaces per Class, Monday, 1pm-4pm**
Meet Our Instructors

MARGARET EGLI

Margaret studied graphic and fine art at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. She spent forty years in Switzerland where she painted Plein Air throughout Europe. She has participated in exhibitions, created commissioned lithographs of small towns for their governments and rendered many commissioned portraits for heads of state. Margaret and her husband retired to Florida in 2000.

**OIL NEO-IMPRESSIONISM – Beginners (All Levels Welcome)**

Learn the easy steps to oil painting in the Neo-Impressionism style. Techniques to create on a flat surface, three dimensions, distance, depth, light, and shadow. Your canvas can become a fascinating colorful impression. You will learn how to handle your paints, mix your own colors, to store them, and how to use reflected light to your advantage.

**6 Week Sessions – 15 Spaces per Class**
Wednesday, 9am-12pm
Zoe’ Hale earned her BFA from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in Fashion Design and enjoyed a long, successful career as a fashion designer, illustrator, graphic artist and interior designer. She moved to LA and worked as a Set Costumer and Costume Designer. In Hollywood she worked at several studios, including Paramount, Universal, Sony, Warner Brothers and Disney Productions. Her oil paintings are known for the appearance of movement and luminous, opalescent light qualities. Hers art was represented at the Pacific Design Center, LA Art Connection, Courtyard Collection, and more.

**OIL PAINTING – Beginners (All Levels Welcome)**

Oil is a medium well known for its versatile, luminous and forgiving qualities. It is one of the oldest mediums in art history. Beginners in this class will start, step by step, applying oils in thin and transparent layers working up to thick/opaque layers. Students will paint a simple garden scene or from their own photo reference. Experienced oil painters are welcome to join this class with their own supplies, photo reference or composition. Supply List online. Class Supply Kit or art supplies may be purchased at the VAC Art & Supply Store.

**4 Week Sessions – 18 Spaces per Class**

Friday, 9am-12pm
WAYNE HARSHBERGER

Wayne Harshberger is a retired stone mason turned stone sculpture artist with 25 plus years of experience. He began carving in wood, but quickly transitioned to stone because of his lifelong career relationship with stone. He enjoys watching a piece of stone come to life as a piece of art. Wayne sells his work through art shows and festivals and has won awards for his master craftsmanship, including, “Best in Show 2016” in Englewood and “Award of Distinction” at Ann Marie Art League.

STONE SCULPTURE – No Experience

Learn the basic steps of stone carving and have fun creating your own stone sculpture. Discover how to use sculpting tools, metal files to shape an abstract form and sanding techniques. Instructor rents the tools and sells supplies directly to students, including a stone blank and granite base. Stones may be purchased from inventory provided by the instructor as student progresses. A new stone may be purchased for each session, typically in the $30 to $80 per stone price range.

Tool Rental Fee: $20.00      Selected Stones: $30+

4 Week Session – 12 Spaces
Wednesday or Thursday, 6pm-9pm
HOWARD HARTKE

Howard has been “in the mud” for 15 years. Never giving a thought to clay, he was a photographer and abstract artist. While at the University of Buffalo and running a successful photography business, he wandered into the UB pottery studio, sat down at the wheel and that was it—he was hooked! Howard has had the opportunity to throw with many Master Potters.

HANDBUILD & WHEEL POTTERY (All Levels)

Two pottery-making techniques are working with the pottery wheel and hand building. Learn to create innovative pieces using either method or blending them together. Designed for the beginner as well as those enhancing their skills. Create bowls, vases, and other stoneware. Material Fee: $56 - includes 25 lbs. of clay, use of glazes and kiln time. Basic pottery tools are available for $15.

6 Weeks - 10 Spaces, Wednesday, 1pm-4pm & 6pm-9pm

BIG & TALL – MAKING LARGE VESSELS - Experienced Potters

After mastering the basics of centering, pulling and shaping, explore the art of throwing larger out of round pots and other projects of the potter’s choice. Advanced glaze techniques are included. $56 Material Fee includes 25 lbs. of clay, use of glazes and kiln time. Basic pottery tools are available for $15.

6 Weeks - 10 Spaces, Thursday, 9pm-12pm & 1pm-4pm

RAKU & HORSE HAIR - Experienced Potters

After mastering the basics of wheel and hand building, learn the ancient techniques of Raku and Horse Hair creating unique works and beautiful pieces of art. $56 Material Fee includes 25 lbs. of clay, use of glazes and kiln time. Basic pottery tools are available for $15.

6 Weeks - 10 Spaces, Tuesday, 1pm-4pm & 6pm-9pm
MARY JOLLET

Mary Jollett has been a soft sculpture doll artist for more than a decade, making more than 200 dolls. She likes to work in cloth with needle-sculpted faces, as well as, paper, clay and Sculpey modeling compounds. Best known for her mermaids, she creates tree top angels, clowns, fortunetellers, patriotic dolls, elves and caricatures. You can find her dolls in the Visual Art Center Gift Shop. Mary has won numerous awards, is a member of the Visual Art Center, and of the South West Florida Fine Craft Guild.

CREATIVE DOLL ARTISTRY: CLOTH

An introduction to creative doll artistry and skill development in all cloth creation. You will learn the skills needed to design and create 3 dimensional figures; practice needle and thread fabric sculpting techniques for face, ears, and hands; and basic techniques for dolls up to 24”.

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces
Wednesday, 9am – 12pm

CREATIVE DOLL ARTISTRY: POLYMER & PAPER CLAY

Create an original figure with polymer and paper clay. This course is for students with some experience in sculpting faces and hands in any media. Techniques include additive sculpting using paper clay and/or polymer clay, finishes, simple joints, costuming, and more.

Some Face Sculpting Experience Required

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces
Wednesday, 1pm – 4pm
CHRISTINE KEYWORTH  PAINTING & JEWELRY

Christine grew up in Michigan and moved to Florida in January of 1977 with her husband and son. Her mother, who was quite the crafty lady, taught her to knit and sew, and not to be afraid to fail at something she was just learning. Christine even made her own school clothes, including a dress for the senior prom. Christine can paint, throw stoneware pottery, weave rattan baskets, knit, crochet, weave rag rugs, jewelry beading and wire crafting.

3D MIXED MEDIA – All Levels
Explore the world of mixed media. Create pieces of texture, color and imagination. Mix secret ingredients to transform a flat canvas into a 3D work of Art. Supply List online. $10 Material Fee.

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces, Friday, 1pm – 4pm

LET IT FLOW – Poured Paint – All Levels
Learn how to pour, swipe and tilt acrylic paints to create unique creations. Explore a variety of pouring techniques: puddle pour, the swipe, dirty pour, dirty flip, cup pour and tree rings. Supply List online. Material Fee: $15

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces, Saturday, 10am – 1pm

JEWELRY WITH POLYMER CLAY – All Levels
Explore the art of making jewelry and ring dishes out of polymer clay. Create focal beads, pendants, earrings and brooches with a focus on surface design and alcohol inks. Supply List available online: Instructor can provide supplies for a $35 material fee.

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces, Thursday, 1pm – 4pm
Catherine Lucas

Born into a traveling military family, Catherine experienced awe-inspiring art from many different cultures motivating her to start drawing and continues to inspire her art. Catherine’s education includes a BFA from Hofstra University (NY), an MFA from the New York Academy of Art, Graduate School of Figurative Art (NYC), plus long-term study with Anthony Ryder at the Ryder Studio School in Santa Fe focusing on portraits and figure drawing. Catherine exhibits her work in Florida, New York, and New Mexico.

How to Paint Like the Old Masters

Class guides you through the process of developing a painting using the traditional techniques of indirect painting. Begin with a drawing, transfer to a canvas and develop into a monochromatic under painting. Apply thin layers of paint and glazes to achieve the luminosity and depth of the old masters. Work from your own still life setup with objects of your choosing. Supply List online.

6 Weeks - 12 Spaces per Class
Tuesday, 9am-12pm

Egg Tempera

Egg tempera is beautifully suited for a broad range of painting styles from highly realistic to more decorative and stylized. It dates back to the ancient Egyptians, unsurpassed in luminosity. It can be worked very broadly in washes or achieve the most minute detail. Since egg tempura dries quickly, dozens of glaze layers and scumbles can be applied in a day. Traditional and contemporary techniques with a wide variety of effects. Work from a still life set up or images of your choosing. Supply List online.

6 Weeks - 12 Spaces per Class, Tuesday, 1pm-4pm
Rosalie Mack

A true Florida “native,” Rosalie was born and raised in Bradenton, FL. She worked as a fashion illustrator while she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts. She began teaching art in Charlotte County in 1982 and recently retired from Charlotte High School where she taught Advanced Placement Drawing, Drawing and Painting, and Art History & Appreciation. As an artist, Rosalie loves drawing in all mediums and has a passion for art history!

**Drawing Skills & Techniques**
A variety of 4 week sessions, each with a unique focus on a different aspect, media or technique. Supply Lists online. Supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

- **Develop Your Drawing Skills:** Drawing fundamentals in black & white, plus color.
- **All Media Studio:** Shapes, space, color and composition.
- **Getting Started with Pastels** – A focus on pastel drawing.
- **Colored Pencil** – Techniques for colored pencils.
- **Dare to Draw** – Studio class with personal instruction.
- **Drawing Florida in Color** – Sunsets, beaches, boats, wildlife, harbors, flowers, local flavor and more
- **Specialized Drawing Skills Development** – Color pencil, perspective, faces & figures.

4 Week Sessions – 14 Spaces *(class schedules varies)*
Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday 9am – 12pm & 1pm-4pm

**Appreciating Art**
A lecture series and adventure through time in Art. Each session devoted to one specific time period using multi-media presentations, fun-loving discussions and discoveries with amazing impressionists, post impressionists, and 20th century creatives.

4 Week Sessions – 14 Spaces, Wednesday, 1pm-4pm
DON MELANDER

Don has studied with internationally renowned teachers such as Tony Couch, Robert Wade and Cheng-Khee Chee. Don paints charming and delicate watercolors and renders pencil drawings in a realistic style. The winner of multiple awards, Don has enjoyed the opportunity to teach both locally and nationally. He is a member of the Florida Watercolor Society, Southwest Florida Watercolor Society Signature Member, Sea Grape Gallery and the Minnesota Arrowhead Art Club.

WATERCOLOR BASICS (All Levels)

Landscapes in watercolors simplified. Scenes are depicted through identifiable shapes, strong values, composition and color. Don paints in a realistic style. His paintings often contain a building, barn, lighthouse, boat or other common man-made objects with the goal of preserving individuality. Each session begins with demonstrations and discussions on theory followed by participants painting with individual help and instruction. Beginners are always welcome. Supply List online. Class supply kits and art supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

4 Week Sessions – 16 Spaces per Class
Tuesday, 9am-12pm
Tuesday, 1pm-4pm
CYNTHIA NEWCOMB

Cynthia Newcomb is a glass artist with a Southwest Florida glass studio in her home in Punta Gorda Isles. After a career as a floral design studio owner in Connecticut, she transferred her passion for flora and nature into creating unique designs with glass and sharing her knowledge with others. She began creating utilitarian pieces and now is gravitating towards wall and free standing art.

INTRODUCTION TO GLASS FUSING - Beginners

Learn the fundamentals and an elementary knowledge of kiln formed glass, including, fusing, terminology, principles, equipment and materials. Gain an understanding of how warm glass forms and behaves while creating your own beautiful fused and slumped pieces. Supply List online. Class Supply Kit available for purchase in VAC Art & Supply Store. Material Fee $40, includes start-up glass and kiln time.

4 Week Sessions – 10 Spaces per Class
Friday, 1pm-4pm

FUSED GLASS PLUS – Intermediate & Advanced

Now that you know the basics, experiment and learn advanced glass fusing techniques for partial and full fused glass art work. Must have taken Introduction to Fused Glass before enrolling in this class. Material Fee $40, includes start-up glass and kiln time.

4 Week Sessions – 10 Spaces per Class
Friday, 9pm-12pm
NAOMI PAQUETTE

Naomi, better known as Nony, has lived in Florida since 1992 when she moved from New England after a professional career with DTS as a point of sales system trainer and programmer. She also owned a salon on Boca Grande. Art is her passion, and when a particular form of art catches her attention, she focuses on it until she masters it. She has taught Colored Pencil, Watercolor Batiking and Basket Weaving in Southwest Florida art centers for the past 12 years. She is self-taught in weaving and enjoys sharing what she has learned with others in a FUN way. Supply List online.

BASKET WEAVING

Learn to make a basket and basket making techniques: laying and truing a base, upsetting stakes, stop and start weaving, twining, cutting, tucking, riming and lashing. These basics lay a foundation to create a variety of baskets. Materials fee of $20. Supply List online.

4 Week Session – 10 Spaces
Thursday, 9am-12pm
SUZANNE PATTON

Suzanne describes herself as an eclectic artist. Trained as an art teacher, she was exposed to all disciplines of art. She has been weaving and working with fiber art for more than 40 years. She is a weaver, dyer and spinner. She works with big looms, giant looms, harness looms and more. Suzanne added the Rigid Heddle Loom when she was traveling because it takes up little space, costs less than most looms and is fun.

INTRODUCTION TO WEAVING – Beginner

Learn the basics of weaving with yarn, weaving terminology and how to use the Rigid Heddle Loom with a 10 dent reed. Make a plain weave scarf with twisted fringe and experiment with your own personal weaving project. Lots of specialty techniques, hand manipulation designs, finishes and fun.

4 Week Session – 10 Spases
Thursday, 9am-12pm
ROBERT PAVON

Robert Pavon was born in Havana, Cuba. The classical art of realism from the renaissance influences his art with a focus on portraiture, figure, and still life, as well as his time in the United States Marine Corps, serving 13 years in the infantry, both at home and abroad. After receiving his Associate in Arts from Edison College, he studied at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). He received a Bachelor in Art in 2014. Robert has received many awards, including the FGCU Art Award. Robert teaches at the Visual Arts Center in regular classes and multi-day workshops.

CHARCOAL DRAWING

New to art or ever wanted to learn how to get started? Charcoal drawing was the first art form as early man would use it to depict the world around them on cave walls. It is the fundamental first step in a painting, or a beautiful work by itself. Small class with individual attention. A focus on portrait drawing and techniques. Supply List Online. Supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

10 Spaces
Tuesday, 9am - 12pm – All Levels – 12 weeks
Tuesday, 1pm – 4pm – Beginner – 4 weeks

PORTRAITS IN PASTEL - Workshop

For the artist that has always wanted to learn color and portraiture, pastels are a great medium requiring very little setup time and producing beautiful effects. You will cover the mixing of colors for neutralizing effects, and other color basics.

2 Day Workshop, 9am-4pm (Date TBD)
LAURA POMMIER

Laura is originally from the Midwest and recently moved to Florida. She received her BFA in fine arts from Murray State University in Kentucky and her MA from Indiana State University in Painting. Since 2005, Laura has taught many art classes and workshops in portraits, figures, pastels, plein air, flowers and more. Her award-winning artwork has been displayed in many exhibits as well as featured in several solo shows. Her specialty is painting and drawing with an emphasis on portraits and figurative art.

**OIL PORTRAIT PAINTING - Beginner**

Introduction and demonstrating all aspects that goes into making a successful portrait, from how to mix and use oil paint to basic techniques. You will gradually progress into creating volume, expression and a true likeness. Supply List online. Oil Supply Kit and other art supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

6 Sessions – 12 Spaces, Friday, 1 – 4 pm
PATTI PRESSELLER  PAINTING & COLLAGE

Patti was born into a New Orleans household and community of talented artists. Artists tutored her in needle, graphic, signage painting and most recently, acrylic painting. Assemblage and collage provide her inspiration, allowing found articles to “discover” each other and guide her as she works. She enjoys drifting back and forth among different media, as the spirit moves her, and often has several projects in process at the same time. Patty teaches Acrylic Painting and Collage at the Visual Arts Center.

ACRYLIC PAINTING – Beginner

Don’t know which end of the brush to use? It doesn’t matter…use both ends. Have fun exploring media, substrates and tools while you develop skills using acrylic paint. Supply List Online. Class Supply Kit and other art supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces, Friday, 9am - 12pm

COLLAGE – Beginner

Use simple materials and a proven technique geared towards success and further exploration of the medium. Supply List online. Supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

4 Sessions – 10 Spaces, Thursday, 9am – 12pm
Meet Our Instructors

MARQUELYNN (MARKI) RAPOSA  PAINTING

Marki is a graphic designer, art instructor, previous gallery owner and recipient of numerous awards for her fine art paintings. She received her master’s degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. She arranges private art parties through her company, “Let’s Get Splashed”. Painting parties include acrylic painting on canvass, bags, wood and wine glasses. She also teaches pet portraits from a photo.

CREATE & PAINT WITH CANVAS or ANYTHING BUT CANVAS
WINE & ART EVENING SOCIAL

If you have never painted before and want to explore a taste of art, or if you are a master painter and want to enjoy a night of art and fun, join our wine and art evening adventure. Sessions generally begin with a glass of wine at 6:00 pm and end before 9:00 pm with a finished piece of art. Great for friends, couples, relatives, or by yourself – A great way to spend the evening and express yourself.

1 Session, Wednesday, 6pm-8pm
By Appointment for Groups
DIANA REINHARD

Diana, a retired science teacher, has turned her knowledge of stones and her love of teaching into jewelry making. Her interest in art began 25+ years ago as she developed a high school course in horticulture integrated with art and science. Working with artists in the Baltimore area, she learned to create “wearable art” using paper or cloth. Upon retiring, Diana moved to Port Charlotte and created wearable art as fundraisers for clubs and organizations. Diana has utilized her teaching skills to instruct others in the techniques of creating paper, cloth and wire wrapped jewelry.

**WIRE WRAPPING**

Learn the basics of jewelry wire wrapping. Topics include tools, all about wire, what is the difference between a stone and a cabochon, measuring, creating a design, where to shop for supplies, helpful hints, and the ever popular “what to do when things go wrong.” Supply list available online. Basic wire wrap kit available for purchase ($25) at first class from instructor.

6 Week Session – 15 Spaces
Monday, 9am-12pm: Beginners

4 Week Session – 10 Spaces
Monday, 1pm-4pm: Advanced

**KUMIHIMO – All Levels**

Japanese for “gathered threads”, Kumihimo is the Japanese form of braid-making. Cords and ribbons are made by interlacing strands. Learn new techniques each week. Previous wire wrapping knowledge is helpful. Supply list available at registration. Basic kit available for purchase ($25) from instructor.

4 Week Session – 10 Spaces
Advanced: Monday, 1pm-4pm
Susan had creative parents and siblings, and started her art career in middle school with paper mache ducks. Recently, her efforts have been centered on sculpture and creating a new method for sculpting 3D art forms. In 2002, Susan discovered Apoxie Sculpt, a self-hardening polymer clay that she combines with her unique method of creating armatures out of floral wire and the Sunday newspaper. Susan is the author of “Adventures in Sculpting,” and teaches classes to create animals, jewelry, flowers, and other abstract items, as well as any other art form her students want to create.

**APOXIE SCULPTURE**

Learn how to sculpt over wire frame, on wood or canvas using 2-part Apoxie clay. It is non-toxic, waterproof and can be drilled, sanded and painted. In addition, you learn how to repair your treasures. Using a 3-step process you can create decorative objects of all kinds including flowers, vases, wall hangings, birds, bowls, fishes, small animals and large animals. Easy & fun. Supply List online. Material fee of $37 paid to Instructor

**6 Week Session – 10 Spaces**

Monday, 9am-12pm
CLYDE SWEATT

Clyde developed an interest in photography as a teen growing up in New York City. He began by studying commercial photography at the New York Institute of Photography where he became skilled at using equipment from 35mm to 8x10 view cameras, as well as studio and dark room techniques. Clyde developed his photographic skills through product, portrait and wedding photography. The majority of his work is of a photo journalistic nature, focusing on street scenes in New York City, as well as landscapes.

BEYOND THE SNAPSHOT

You may have purchased or been given an expensive new digital camera and are surprised that you are not taking noticeably “better” pictures. Learn to use your camera more effectively and the skills that will allow you to produce more creative and pleasing pictures. Take pictures and discuss with the class the techniques you used. Bring your camera with you.

4 Weeks: 10 Spaces
Thursday, 6pm-9pm

PICTURING PUNTA GORDA

A series of study/work sessions for intermediate to advanced photographers working creatively in a group to photograph the Punta Gorda area’s unique characteristics. Class meets at various locations with assignments using principles and techniques taught in Beyond the Snapshot. Work individually or collaborate with others. Discussion to follow fieldwork. The goal is to create a photo exhibit, “Picturing Punta Gorda”.

4 Weeks: 10 Spaces
Saturday, 10am-1pm
STEVE STRUNK

Steve Strunk and his family moved to Punta Gorda from Washington D.C. 19 years ago. He attended Prince George’s College in Maryland, and has a degree in Broadcasting. He was first introduced to pottery through the Visual Arts Center Pottery Studio and found his passion. Over the next 7 years, he developed his skills and advanced techniques under master pottery instructors. Today, he is an award winning potter and his works can be found in the Visual Arts Center Gift Shop.

WHEEL POTTERY - No prior experience

Learn the art and technique of wheel thrown pottery. The class is designed for the beginner as well as those that have been challenged by the potter’s wheel. A focus on mastering the basics of centering, pulling and shaping. Learn to create bowls, vases, and other functional stoneware pottery pieces. Material Fee: $56 - includes 25 lbs. of clay, use of glazes and kiln time. Basic pottery tools are available for $15.

6 Weeks - 10 Spaces
Thursday, 6pm – 9pm
Saturday, 10am-1pm
SHERYL UNWIN

Sheryl is originally from Massachusetts and now lives with her husband in North Port, Florida. She began her formal art education at the Art Institute of Boston and later pursued a career in the commercial print industry as a graphic designer. Since moving to Florida, Sheryl has worked as a freelance graphic designer, as well as a portrait and wildlife artist. She has a passion for animals and nature from the largest of wildlife creatures to the smallest of domestic pets. This passion is represented in many of her scratchboard, graphite, color pencil, or pen and ink drawings.

SCRATCHBOARD – All Levels

An introduction into the world of scratchboard. Scratchboard is an illustrative technique using sharp knives and tools for engraving into a thin layer of white China clay coated with dark, often black India ink. You will be given samples and learn the different types of boards, the range of techniques and variety of different tools for etching your image. We will also explore the different mediums that can be used for colorizing your scratchboard drawing.

6 Weeks- 10 Spaces
Wednesday – 9am-12pm
NANCY VAN TASSELL  

Nancy grew up in Poughkeepsie, New York and today, lives with her husband Steve in Rotunda West, in Charlotte County, Florida. She loves designing high fashion jewelry and teaching others to make their own unique creations. Nancy can often be found showing her creations through her business “Draped in Jewelry” which she founded in 2004. You can find Nancy’s creations at art fairs around Southwest Florida and in the Visual Arts Center Gift Shop.

Wire Woven Jewelry - No prior experience
Learn the basics, tips, tricks and best practices of weaving wire to design your own necklace, earrings & more. A focus on consistent weaves, how to fix mistakes and to achieve symmetry in your designs. This class will provide students with a strong foundation from which they can begin creating their own original jewelry designs.

$30 Material Fee.

6 Weeks- 10 Spaces
Wednesday, 9am – 12pm
Meet Our Instructors

PAMELA WILSON

Pam’s passion for painting started at college in California. She moved with her husband to Vermont and discovered she wanted to continue painting. She had an opportunity to study with talented artists in watercolor and oils. Soon thereafter, she began to teach children and adults, both at an art gallery and in her home studio. A few years ago, after moving to Florida, her interest in art got more serious and she began trying different mediums. Oils and mixed media became her passion. Her newest interest is Gelli plate printing and she loves to share her knowledge with others.

GELLI PRINTING - No prior experience

Gelli plate printing is a mixed medium mono printing without the press. Have fun experimenting with color, texture and design. In no time, you will have amazing prints. Perfect for greeting cards, envelopes, pictures, and more. Create your own personal journal.

4 Weeks- 8 Spaces
Saturday, 10am - 1pm
BEVERLY YANKWITT       PAINTING

Beverly moved to Southwest Florida from West Virginia with her husband, Ralph, and two children in 1985. Upon retirement from Merrill Lynch in 2012, she has been pursuing her true love . . . ART. Beverly is a member of Sea Grape Gallery, the Florida Watercolor Society, the International Society of Experimental Artists and a past president of the Board of Directors for the Arts & Humanities Council of Charlotte County. Her art has been accepted in many juried shows including the 2014 National Art Exhibition held at the Visual Arts Center. She works in oils and mixed media and especially enjoys abstract art in mixed media.

ABSTRACT PAINTING – ALL LEVELS

Students are encouraged to develop their own style of painting. Work on your own designs with a focus on composition and design principles. Contemporary and more difficult approaches to abstract art are featured, as well as artwork critiques with class participation. Supply List available online. Art supplies available in VAC Art & Supply Store.

4 Week Sessions - 16 Spaces
Wednesday, 9am-12pm
Wednesday, 1pm-4pm
Activities organized for VAC Members . . . by VAC Members. Join other VAC Artists in specialty group activities in the artistic areas and mediums you enjoy most.

**Artists in Action**  
*Meets Saturdays from 10am to 12pm*  
VAC Member artists come together each week to paint, learn and support each other with friendship and constructive advice. All painters at all levels are welcome. ($2 per week)

**Common Threads** (Fiber Arts Group)  
*Meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 12:30pm during Season.*  
VAC Members with a passion for creating art with fiber get together to share ideas and inspire each other -- knit, weave, spin, sew and felt.

**Critique Night** – During Season  
*Meets the 1st Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm during Season.*  
VAC Member artist enthusiasts learn and share new ways to critique their artwork. ($5 per session)

**Life Drawing Studio**  
*Meets every Tuesday from 6:30pm to 9pm during Season.*  
Join other VAC Member Artists for figure work, including nude poses with live models. Must be 18 or older. ($10 per session)

**Plein Air Painting**  
*Meets every Monday at 8:30am*  
VAC Members of Peace River Painters get together weekly at various locations around Southwest Florida. Join the annual Quick Draw (January) and show your work in the Plein Air Exhibits at the VAC.

**Portrait Studio**  
*Meets every Thursday from 9am to 12pm*  
Join other VAC Member Artists and work on your portrait skills in any medium with live models. ($5 per session)

For more information . . .  
www.VisualArtCenter.org
The VAC does not receive government tax revenue. Your donations, sponsorships and advertising help keep the cost of programs low, provide summer camp for youth, and cover operating costs to keep our doors open and Exhibits free to everyone.

How Can You Help?

- Become a Member
- Make a Donation
- Match Funds with the Giving Challenge or Giving Tuesday
- Sponsor a Child for Summer Camp
- Sponsor an Exhibit or Event
- Advertise in our Programs
- Become a Volunteer
- Shop In our Gift Gallery and Art & Supply Store
- Rent our Facility for your Event
- Leave a Legacy with the VAC Endowment Trust

VAC Endowment Trust (VAC ET)

Provides long term financial management of donated funds to support the future of the Visual Arts Center.

- Ensures stability and growth, so the VAC’s resources can meet the needs of tomorrow.
- Works with you to carry out your wishes through lump sums or donations over time.
- Give Cash, IRA’s, Stocks & Bonds, Real Estate and/or Corporate Matching Funds

*Leave a Legacy: Insure the future of art. for generations to come!*
COME EXPLORE THE ARTS . . .

GET INSPIRED . . . GET CREATIVE

Register in person or by phone (941) 639-8810
Visit Website for class details - www.VisualArtCenter.org

SAVE . . . WITH A VAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Take 2 classes and your membership pays for itself!
$ 25 Youth Membership
$ 60 Individual Membership
$ 90 Family Membership
$150 Individual Membership + NARM Membership

North American Reciprocal Museum = Free Admission
1,000+ Art & Cultural Centers across North America

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Visual Arts Center is a non-profit center for the entire community.

EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY - Always Free Admission . . .
Plus . . . Original Art for Sale in 3 Exhibit Halls

LIBRARY - 3,000+ Art Books, Periodicals & DVDs

GIFT GALLERY - Unique Creations by Local Artists

ART & SUPPLY STORE – Art Supplies & Class Kits

HOURS: Monday-Friday 9-4, Saturday 10-2
Location: In Punta Gorda across from Fishermen’s Village
210 MAUD STREET | PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950