



May 2017 Newsletter

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From the Artist Registry Desk:

Spring is blossoming and the fruits of our labor are being seen around Florida. Several VSA Florida Registry artists and organizations we partner with are being recognized for their achievements and for their respective talents. You can catch a glimpse of some of those throughout this issue of Apropos.

March also saw us kick-off a new webinar series for adult artists with disabilities. We want this to be an ongoing series offering you information to hone your artistic skills and interests. Let us hear from you on the

topics you are interested in and what time of day you would be more likely to attend a webinar.

Don't forget to let me know of any recent accomplishments you've had such as receiving an award, having a great performance, speaking on a panel or anything else you feel may be newsworthy. Email me at srokas.vsafl@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Lisa Deneka VSA Florida Artist

Ms. Deneka received a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art with a concentration in cinematography from the University of South Florida in 1994. After completing a four month NYC residency in documentary filmmaking, she spent seven years in New Mexico studying Fiber, Folk and American Art of the Southwest. Ms. Deneka went on to work as Assistant Technical Director for the Taos Art Association and Community Theatre in Taos. R.C Gorman and Frida Kahlo became strong influences for her at that time as her career in the Theatre industry continued.

After returning to the Tampa area, Lisa was selected as a guest art teacher at Creative Clay Cultural Center in St. Petersburg and by the following year, she taught art to grades kindergarten through middle school. She began developing mixed media art and was in a month long juried exhibition, Art in Black and White, at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. Subsequently, following a sudden string of severe accidents, injuries, diseases and illnesses, Ms. Deneka became disabled.

At this point, 100% of her time and effort artistically began her start as an emerging visual artist. She began working exclusively on her career as a mixed media visual artist coining her process as MiXeD MeDiA MaYheM. In 2012, she exhibited a three-dimensional altar entitled "Ode to Frida" as part of a juried series "Art After Dark's Dia de Los Muertos" at



the Tampa Museum of Art and since then her work has premiered in several juried exhibitions at The Tampa Museum of Art, The Amelia Arena, the Carrollwood Cultural Center and several other private galleries and festivals. More recently, she was selected as a grand finalist for the Gasparilla music festival poster competition with her work, "Ukulele Dreams."

Lisa shares her thoughts and perspective on the impact of art on the world around her. "Creating art for me is a great means of personal expression, storytelling, therapy & activism. Art is my voice and sometimes I talk a lot!" She starts with acrylic, water color, charcoal or oil pastel then incorporates recycled materials, her own poetry, found text & other mediums to create texture and imagery. "I am satisfied and my job as an artist is complete when my art evokes thought, conversation or controversy! "

Calls for Artists

State Opens Grant Program to Individual Artists



The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA), after suspending their Artist Fellowship program, has announced it is opening its Specific Cultural Project grant category to individual artists.

Professional artists residing in Florida may apply for up to \$25,000 for artist-driven projects with specific purposes. The project must have a public benefit and enhance the State through the creation or presentation of the creative work. Eligible projects will support the Division's mission to advance, support, and promote arts and culture to strengthen the economy and quality of life for all Floridians (see below).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AT A GLANCE:

- The artists' projects can be in all artistic disciplines, genres, and styles.
- This is a matching grant. Funds must be matched, with no more than 25% of the budget with in-kind.
- Collaboration with other artists, organizations, and community members is encouraged. However, one lead artist must serve as the primary contact and fiscal agent for the grant.
- Individual Artist project grants are designed for artists at varying career levels.

Deadline for completed applications is June 1, 2017

ELIGIBILITY:

- Be a professional creative artist
- Be a Florida resident for at least one year prior to the application deadline and maintain residency in Florida through the project
- Be 18 years of age or older by the application deadline
- Not be enrolled in degree or certificate program
- Project dates: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

[READ THE FULL GRANT GUIDELINES and APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS](#)

This article is only a brief summary of the program, eligibility and other aspects of the DCA program. You must visit the DCA website and program documents for a complete description and understanding of how to apply.

[FWC Launches 75 Years Wild Photo Contest](#)

Join the photo contest celebrating 75 years of Florida's Wildlife Management Areas! The Florida Fish and

Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is launching its 75 Years Wild Photo Contest encouraging people to explore the natural beauty of Florida's Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system.

Across the state, the nearly 6-million acre WMA system is conserving fish and wildlife populations and offering outdoor recreation for the public, including fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing. On the WMAs, the public also has access to nationally recognized trails for paddling, hiking and bird watching.

Join the WMAs' 75th anniversary celebration and discover these areas' diversity of wildlife and habitats while taking WMA photos for the 75 Years Wild photo contest. Just remember to respect wildlife by not getting too close to or disturbing birds or other animals you encounter.

The photo contest has four themes, based on the seasons.

The photo contest grand-prize winner will receive a GoPro camera, and other prizes will be awarded to semi-finalists.

DEADLINE: Dec. 1, 2017

TO ENTER:

- Visit the FWC's Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MyFWC](https://www.facebook.com/MyFWC), look for a photo contest Facebook post, and then post your photo in the Comments section.
- Photos also can be entered via an Instagram account by tagging #WMAzing.
- For those who don't use social media, send an email to ShareVisit@MyFWC.com.

MORE INFO & RULES: [MyFWC.com/WMA 75](https://www.MyFWC.com/WMA75).
There you also will find more on the WMA 75th

anniversary celebration, including the calendar of upcoming events and "how to find a WMA near you."

DeLand Fall Festival of the Arts

The DeLand Fall Festival of the Arts invites artists to apply for their juried fine art show, celebrating its 25th year.

Over \$55,000 is available in judging and purchase awards. Fine art exhibits presented by the juried artists, food trucks, beer tent, music, and youth activities draw a crowd of more than 50,000 patrons over the two-day festival.

Fees for application submission and booth apply. Check information online for details.

Awards

Awards will be given based on the judges' scoring of each artist's body-of-work as displayed in the booth.

- Best of Show 1 @ \$4,000
- 2D Judge's Choice 1 @ \$2,500
- 3D Judge's Choice 1 @ \$2,500
- Award of Excellence 2 @ \$1,500
- Award of Distinction 4 @ \$1,000
- Award of Merit 5 @ \$750
- Award of Recognition 6 @ \$500
- Honorable Mention 8 @ \$300

DEADLINE: September 8, 2017

TO APPLY: <https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=5533>

MORE INFO: artists@delandfallfestival.com

Eckerd College-Lewis House Showcases VSA Florida Exhibition

Eleven VSA Florida Visual Artists have over thirty pieces of artwork on exhibition at Lewis House, located on the beautiful waterfront campus of Eckerd College. Featured in the "Creativity is Boundless" exhibition is Jack Beverland (Mr. B), Pamela Davis, Doris Bonaparte, Lisa Deneka, Lora Duguay, Izzy Gonzales, Cheryl KinderKnecht, Susan Kubes, Ed LaChall, Eric Nelson, and Margaret Zabor.

Lewis House is the meeting place and core for the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC). They have flourished for more than 33 years as a unique community for lifelong learners, offering unmatched opportunities for peer led intellectual stimulation, physical activities and social interaction for more than 300 members.

Academy members have many opportunities to involve themselves in the visual arts. The Art's Council is very active in the Tampa Bay and Florida arts community, and builds close ties with other arts organizations. ASPEC Academy Arts Council co-chair Ann Rascoe, and curator Bette Dolinsky, have been instrumental in bringing this VSA Florida exhibition to fruition.

Throughout the year the Visual Art's Council plans an active and varied schedule of events and activities. This includes a weekly "Arts Review" often including featured and visiting artists, talking about their techniques, inspiration, and personal experiences as an artist.

The "Creativity is Boundless" exhibition will be in place until June 2, 2017, with a meet the artist reception planned for May 18th. Invitations will be issued at a later date.

Here's a sneak peek of a few of the pieces.



Doris Bonaparte



Margaret Zabor

Cheryl
Kinderknecht

VSA Florida Debuts Artists with Disabilities Webinar Series

On March 22nd, VSA Florida debuted its webinar series for adult artists with disabilities. The series is designed to bring educational information on techniques, projecting a professional image, staying motivated, marketing yourself, and more.

These free webinars will offer a new opportunity to artists statewide to enhance their skills as an artist. Some topics may be geared more toward visual artists while others may appeal more to the performing artist or musician.

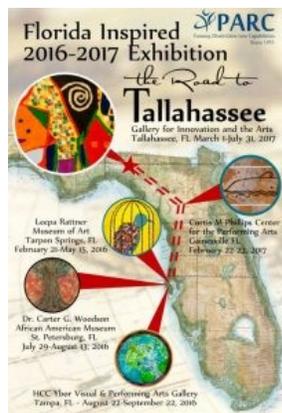
The March webinar, "Polishing Your Artistic Image" addressed understanding the importance of your Artist Statement, resume/CV, business card, and website. Tips for developing these items, as well as photographing and shipping your art, was provided. This webinar was led by Dee Miller, VSA Florida Director of Education and a very successful working artist. This webinar has been archived on the VSA Florida website at <https://vsafll.org/content/webinars>.

On April 28, the next webinar, "Exploring Today's Marketing Frontier: Online Strategies and Social Media for Artists", featured St. Petersburg artist Lora Duguay and VSA Florida Social Media Coordinator, Phyllis Guthman. The focus of the April webinar is finding your inspiration, types of social media, and use of online strategies to market your artistic talents.

Future webinars under consideration include framing and packaging your work, factors in pricing your work or artistic talent, looking for grants and more. Please send your suggestions on topics to srokas.vsafl@gmail.com. We are testing out what days of the week and times of day work best. Please send me an email and let me know. These webinars are designed with you in mind...so give me a piece of your mind and let me know your ideas.

Artists with Disabilities Showcased Throughout Florida

Florida Inspired 2016-2017



A project of the Inspired Artist Studios @ PARC in St. Petersburg, this inaugural traveling exhibition is a showcase of work featuring more than 30 unique pieces of art created by 24 emerging artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities along with an interactive piece called "Big Whale".

The goal of the interactive piece called "The Big Whale", an original drawing by artist Alex J., is to capture ideas and expand the conversation about diverse abilities and experiences that unite us all.

The exhibition started its journey at the Leepa-Ratner Museum of Art in Tarpon Springs in February 2016, and culminates its exhibition schedule in a show running March 1-June 30, 2017, in Tallahassee at the Gallery for Innovation and Design Installation.

VSA Florida teaching artist, Tyler Staggs, has tutored the Inspired artists in additional techniques useful in preparing their artwork for this yearlong exhibition.

2017 Florida State Fair

This annual state extravaganza, held in Hillsborough County February 9-20, expanded their arts division to include art demonstrations and a new award category for artists with disabilities.

VSA Florida Artist, Jack Beverland, better known as Mr. B, was one of 25 artists demonstrating their individual artistic techniques. Mr. B works as a folk artist using a variety of materials to build his pieces. Using this technique, he was able to engage the public and have the audience participate in the creation of what he calls a "one of a kind" community collaboration piece, which was able to be displayed at the Fair.



Not only was one of our VSA Florida artists represented in the demonstration venue, but VSA Florida Artist, Margaret Zabor produced a second-place award winner in the Seniors Category for her mixed media painting, "Succulent with Stones". Congratulations Margaret!!



"Succulent with Stones"

FSU Hosts "Honest Visions" Exhibition

This unique exhibition exposed breadth and depth of artists with Autism during its show at the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, February 8 - March 26, 2017.

"Honest Visions" brings together diverse works that are unique yet joined by common threads of authenticity, sincerity, and intimate personal declarations. Through drawing and painting, music and sculpture, seven Florida artists with Autism honestly express affection, dreams, and keen insights without filters.

"Honest Visions" artists include VSA Florida award-winning artists, Bailey Houghton and Madison Hongyee, who use distinctive line drawings to express enigmatic narratives.

Joining Bailey and Madison are flute-maker and musician Paul McAuliffe who crafts Native American style instruments, visual artists Mathieu Fredrickson and Crystal Scott, Isiah Taylor who recycles found materials into detailed aeronautical sculptures, and poet and painter Mikaela Sheldt. The works represent a wide range of artistic expression as different as the many faces of Autism, but joined with the common thread of authenticity.



Love in America, 2016,

Curators Susan Baldino, VSA Florida Regional Program Coordinator, and Allison Leatzow from the FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, assembled works of seven Florida artists that reveal candid emotions and insights in drawing, painting, musical craft, poetry, and sculpture.

One of the highlights of the show is Sheldt's large-scale portraits

mixed media on rag
paper, 4 x 8 ft.

and poems that depict a fleeting
yet intense love affair.

USF AccessiBull Marks Its Fifth Annual Resource Fair



Under a clear, sunny sky on March 31st, the annual USF AccessiBull Resource Fair hosted community vendors, a challenge course, entertainment, and VSA Florida artists and musicians to raise awareness of resources and challenges encountered by USF students and persons with disabilities. The event was organized and hosted by the USF Students with Disabilities Services Office.



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