

Arts Advocates Holiday Bazaar

Get into the spirit of the season with holiday music, wine and treats while you shop for unique holiday gifts – including jewelry, calendars, paintings, notecards and much more – created by Arts Advocates member artisans, including:

Chris Butcher | Lynn Coppinger | Stephenie Frasher & Janet Apfel | Betty Greenspan
Traci Kegerreis | Sandy Koolkin | Judy Levine | Marie-Louise McHugh | Gundrun Newman
Judy Pirkey | Helena Poto | Sami Tanelli | Elizabeth Trostli



New this year: Silent auctions for fabulous tote bags bearing an image of an art piece by member artists that have exhibited in our gallery. The artists, who will autograph their bags, are Chris Butcher, Alice Sundstrom, Philomena Marano, Tony Reinemann, Helena Poto, Cosette Kosiba, Liz Trostli, Marie-Louise McHugh and Meg Krakowiak.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO ARTS ADVOCATES LUNCHEON IN DECEMBER

January's luncheon will feature Brian Hersh, the new CEO of the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. See details on page 10.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Holiday Bazaar	1	January Gallery Artist	8	Pastels Workshop	12
From Your President	2	Book Club	8	Salon Recap	12
Fundraising Campaign	3	Art Walks	9	New Member Party Recap	13
Leadership Team	4	Art Collection Seminar	10	November Luncheon Recap	13
December Gallery Artist	5	January Luncheon	10	Local Arts Calendar	14
Where Are They Now?	6	Bishop Museum Tour	11	Save the Dates	14
Van Wezel Tours	7	Art Talk: Viktor Mitic	11		

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As your new President, I am poised to take on the new challenges that 2024 might bring. I am well aware of the dedicated hours that all of our volunteer Board, Team Leaders and Team Members have put in. In light of that, I think expressing gratitude becomes a crucial task when so many remarkable individuals have played pivotal roles in bringing about significant changes over the last year.

First, I want to thank Jeannette Paladino for her contributions to Arts Advocates during her tenure as Arts Advocates President, as well as Carol Schwartz for her contributions as President, May through October. Their accomplishments have enriched Arts Advocates.

I would also like to thank Donna Maytham for all her fundraising efforts, and her support of our other initiatives such as our luncheons, Salons and Gallery Art Talks. Many thanks to Stephenie Frasher for all her hard work in researching and leading our very successful Art Walks (along with Judy Levine and Nanette Crist) and Art Talks, as well as scheduling our Van Wezel Art Tours and Gallery events.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to my fellow Board Officers, Directors, Team Leaders, Team Members, Advisory Board Members and all other member and non-member volunteers for all their support and hard work during this past year. Their efforts have been the backbone of our collective achievements. I am grateful to Carol Darling for stepping up and taking on the position of Vice President.

To our entire membership, I extend my gratitude for your enthusiastic support of the positive changes that have been implemented over the last year. These changes have been embraced as innovative ways to raise funds for our initiatives without undue volunteer burdens on our members. Together, we have made remarkable strides forward.

We find ourselves in a new era with renewed energy, fresh leadership, and updated visions for the coming year. With collaborative efforts, new initiatives, and evolving leadership, Arts Advocates stands poised and ready to make even more significant contributions to our members and the arts community of Sarasota this coming year.

*With warmest regards to all,
Bill Rusling*



Bill Rusling, President



Annual Fundraising Campaign Update



Our annual fundraising campaign is underway! Please be as generous as you can; your support is essential to help underwrite our operating expenses and the many programs you enjoy.

Our goal is to raise \$65,000 so Arts Advocates may continue to preserve our historic art collection, award scholarships to local students pursuing careers in the arts, and connect members to the vast array of art resources – large and small – in our community.

We want to make it easy for you to donate! You can send a check in the mail or donate with a credit card online. You can also arrange for Arts Advocates to be a recipient of your IRA minimum distribution, your Donor Advised Fund, or stock transfers. Contact Donna Maytham, Fundraising Chair, at pavlova03@comcast.net for details on these giving options. Arts Advocates is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so your gift is tax deductible.

Arts Advocates is a unique resource for everyone who loves the arts! Thank you for your support!

Meet Your Leadership Team

Fifth in a Series

This series will introduce you to the Arts Advocates Leadership Team – a group of dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to foster the growth and vitality of our nonprofit organization. Each subject was asked to state his or her current role in the organization, reveal their personal passion in the arts, and describe how they've benefited from their involvement in Arts Advocates. Enjoy getting to know your fellow members! As you will see, their love of the arts is heartfelt and their special interests span across all the arts.



Jeannette Paladino

I'm Past President of Arts Advocates, having served as President from 2021-2023. It was a challenging but very rewarding experience engaging with others who share my passion for the arts. I am grateful that I met so many talented and interesting

members and speakers. Ballet is a particular love of mine, and I subscribe to most of the performing arts organizations in Sarasota. I'm also an avid duplicate bridge player. We have an outstanding collection of artworks by Sarasota Art Colony artists that makes Arts Advocates an essential part of the Sarasota community and I'm proud to support the organization.



Beverly Burger

I'm co-chair of the Hospitality team and a volunteer docent for Saturday gallery hours. The Arts Advocates Gallery exhibit of Sarasota Colony Artists' art works is an impressive collection. As a gallery docent it is a special experience to bring awareness of these artists'

lives and their art to our members, friends, families and gallery visitors. Involvement with Arts Advocates' many sponsored activities and events has shown me the dedication and perseverance of Sarasota's art organizations and venues that can inspire our artistic inclinations. Whether you're inspired to be a donor, attend a live performance or tour artist studios that led you to purchase your first painting, Arts Advocates is a connection to a world of art.



Teresa Kravitz

As the Educational Tour Team Leader, I find it satisfying to find interesting tours for people to enjoy and learn new things. I am looking forward to upcoming tours and adding some hands-on art experiences as well. Though I enjoy all the arts, my personal passion is for painting.

An art museum or gallery is one of my favorite places. I think art comes from a deep place in us and speaks to our humanity and soul. In my own experience when painting, I find it to be a peaceful means of self-expression. Glad to be part of Arts Advocates and supporting their mission.



Carol Hirschburg

I am currently the team leader for Grants and for the Designing Women Boutique's GroundWorks program. Since around age four, my major passion in the arts has been ballet. My older sister studied ballet, and I was entranced by the beautiful costumes she wore in her recital performances

as well as the music and the movement. I began lessons at age five and continued them for nine years. My interest has never waned, and I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to see many outstanding professional performances. I have been involved in a variety of non-profit organizations, but no others have been as satisfying on a personal level as Arts Advocates. It has been a pleasure to work with fellow volunteers because they are knowledgeable, dedicated to our mission, hardworking, respectful of each other and friendly. Everyone is welcome. Everyone's efforts are appreciated.

MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

CECILE MORAN

The Arts Advocates December Gallery Exhibition proudly showcases the work of Cecile Moran.

Raised in New England, Cecile studied at the Swain School of Design in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Boston University's College of Fine Art. There, she was influenced by the dynamic teaching of Romantic Surrealist artist Karl Fortess plus the Boston Expressionists, Reed Kay and Jack Kramer.

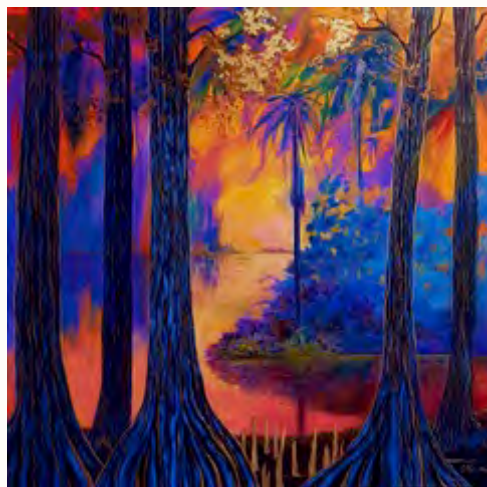
After graduation from Boston University, Cecile taught and studied in Madrid, Spain, for three years. The rich experience of living in Spain and travelling in Europe inspired her own art. Returning to the United States, she completed study for her Master of Arts Degree from California State University.

Influenced by the vibrancy of Mexican art, her painting began to reflect a strong use of color. She began to develop the painting technique she calls "Acrylic Resist," which she uses today. Her art is often imbued with the use of gold leaf, a process she learned from her father, a sign painter and calligrapher. She is the third generation to carry on the use of gold leaf in her work:

The use of gold in the embellishment of small areas has been part of the work I created as a calligrapher; I now apply this technique to larger surfaces in my painting. Working with batik as well as painting led me to the use of the "resist" technique. With acrylic paint I can create a resist painting on top of the first layer of paint. I then paint a layer of differing color on top and remove the layer of resist to reveal new color relationships. The Indians of the San Blas Islands created beautiful "Molas" using a reverse applique technique on fabric, similar to the effect my process creates with paint. Studying the interaction of color from this technique invigorated my creative process! The infusion of the gold leaf brings my paintings full circle.

Cecile's work is found in numerous collections in the United States and Spain and has been exhibited in Massachusetts, California, New York and Florida.

Cecile's opening reception is Saturday, December 2nd, from 2:00 to 4:00pm. The exhibit is open every Saturday from 2:00 to 4:00pm through December 30th. Come meet the artist and see samples of her extraordinary work!



Where Are They Now?

Dr. Alexandra Dee

Conductor, Music Director and Educator

This month we are featuring a 2007 scholarship recipient, Dr. Alexandra Dee. Dr. Dee is the Director of Orchestral Activities in the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University, Music Director of the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra and Conductor of the Appalachian Community Orchestra. Dr. Dee is a Sarasota native and a graduate of Pine View High School.

After high school, Alexandra completed a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Florida State University. She completed her Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, where she studied with Victor Yapolsky. She went on to be the Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and music director and conductor of Chicago's South Loop Symphony Orchestra. She also had the honor of serving as a cover conductor for the Joffrey Ballet, with whom she debuted in 2017 conducting the Chicago Philharmonic.

At the Asheville Community Orchestra, auditions are open to people thirteen years old and up, with no age limit at the top! She loves conducting the Community Orchestra because it brings together people of all ages. Other programs Dr. Dee promotes are specific to engaging children and families. After a performance, they have an "Instrument Petting Zoo," where children get the chance to see, touch, hear and sometimes even play different orchestra instruments.

The advice she gives to aspiring conductors/musicians is to be open to exposing yourself to as much music as you can. Go to concerts, even those that are not your favorites! Try to engage deeply with the music you are playing. The best advice she received was to become competent in the foundational skills and to have confidence in her personal skills as a musician.

Dr. Dee feels privileged to have grown up in a city like Sarasota that embraces the arts. Ken Bowermeister, her private music teacher and a conductor with the Sarasota Youth Orchestra, inspired her to take up conducting and pursue a career in music. *"He was a wonderful teacher who, among other things, inspired me by having fun with music!"*



Behind the Curtain:

EXPLORING THE VAN WEZEL FROM THE ART TO THE STAGE

DECEMBER 11 & JANUARY 22 | 1:30-3 PM

Take a guided tour of the paintings and sculptures owned by Arts Advocates on display at the Van Wezel. After that, step onto the stage where a Van Wezel guide will give you a peek behind the curtain and share stories and anecdotes about the colorful world of show business!

Tours begin in the main lobby and cost \$15 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the Van Wezel box office or by calling **(941) 263-6799**. Private group tours can be arranged by calling **(941) 955-7676**. Proceeds benefit Arts Advocates and the Van Wezel's education/outreach programs.

Dates: Monday, December 11
Monday, January 22
1:30-3 pm

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Cost: \$15



COMING IN JANUARY

JANUARY GALLERY ARTIST

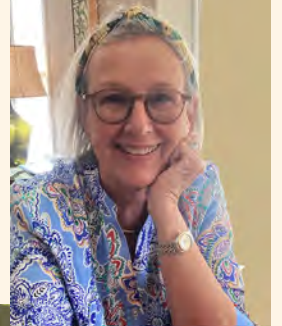
MARIE-LOUISE MCHUGH

Born in Switzerland, **Marie-Louise McHugh** moved to the USA at 28. She was always involved in the art world, first as a collage artist and photographer. But her love and main body of work is oil paintings.

Marie-Louise's painting style is contemporary realism. Her favorite medium is oil on canvas, but you will find some acrylic works, too. She also loves working on paper with gouache paints. In the recent past, she added digital paintings to her portfolio, which allow her to stay creative when she travels and doesn't have access to her studios.

She found that the shapes of the pear, the female figure, and the coneflower so expressive that they keep appearing in her work.

Marie-Louise McHugh will be exhibiting her work at the Art Advocates Gallery during the month of January 2024. The show, titled "Marie-Louise McHugh: The Pear and Beyond," opens on **Saturday, January 6, with a reception from 2:00 to 4:00pm**. Meet the artist and enjoy her impressive body of work every Saturday in January. The show closes on Saturday, January 27th.



BOOK CLUB

BLUEBEARD – Kurt Vonnegut Book with Link to Sarasota



Our next Book Club discussion will be **January 9, 2024, at 1:30pm in the Arts Advocates Gallery**. The book is *Bluebeard, the Autobiography of Rabo Karabekian* by Kurt Vonnegut.

Bluebeard is a novel told as a first-person narrative describing the last years of fictional abstract expressionist painter Rabo Karabekian. **The character is loosely based on Syd Solomon, who was a prominent member of the Sarasota Artist Colony.** Ed Eliasberg will lead the discussion.

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 | 1:30-3pm
Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key
Cost: Free

REGISTER HERE.



COMING IN JANUARY

ART WALKS

WALKING TOURS OF SARASOTA'S 24/7 MUSEUM

Sarasota is known for its art and culture. And while you might think that means sitting in a theater or exploring a museum, our city has a wealth of public art continuously on display in its parks, on its streets and even on its buildings. Lace up your walking shoes, grab a bottle of water and join Judy Levine, Nanette Crist and Stephenie Frasher for a 90-minute tour of some of our city's sculptures and murals. You'll learn about Sarasota's public art and the artists who created it, with some fun facts thrown in along the way.



Comments from people who've taken the tour:

"The three of you are a powerhouse of information. You play off each other like a symphony."

"Great collaborative presentation. Now I have a greater appreciation of public art."



Clockwise from top left: On The City Hall area tour you'll discover "Luma Cloud" by Ray King. The Gilbert Mural Initiative and this mural by Tim Jaeger are part of the Rosemary District tour. The FST area tour includes "Jumping Fish" by Jeffrey Laramore and the City's roundabout art program. Nanette Crist, Stephenie Frasher and Judy Levine with "Ernest and Ruth (Exuberant Pink)" by Hank Willis Thomas

Tour Options:

Florida Studio Theatre Area – Thursday, January 11, 10:30am–12pm

City Hall Area – Wednesday, January 17, 10:30am–12pm

Rosemary District – Thursday, January 25, 10:30am–12pm

Tour starting points will be sent to participants upon registration.

Group size: Minimum of 10; maximum of 20 (15 for Rosemary District tour)

Cost: \$28 for Art Advocates members/\$30 for non-members

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



COMING IN JANUARY

ARTS ADVOCATES ART COLLECTION SEMINAR

Learn about YOUR Arts Advocates Collection

On Tuesday, January 16th, join Mark Ormond (Curator of the Arts Advocates Collection), Stephenie Frasher, Barb Sander, Ann Durluo and Meg Krakowiak for an informal conversation about our collection of artworks, including paintings by renowned artists from the Sarasota Art Colony that you won't see anywhere else.

When was the last time you really looked at the historic works in the gallery and the new works we have acquired? Do you know the inspiring story behind our paintings by the Florida Highwaymen?

Take this opportunity to learn more about our extraordinary art collection and enjoy our "Museum in the Mall."

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 | 1:30 – 3:30pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: Free

REGISTER HERE.



JANUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

BRIAN HERSH, CEO

THE ARTS & CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

After a nationwide search, the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County recently appointed **Brian Hersh** as its new CEO. Brian has spent over 20 years in nonprofit arts including posts at New York City's Lincoln Center and our own Asolo Repertory Theater. His community connections, experience in arts education and previous national leadership roles provided an excellent match for advancing the county as a preeminent cultural area.

Privately established in 1986, the Alliance serves to ensure that our creative community continues to thrive, administering more than \$26 million in grants to area artists and arts groups. Arts Advocates is a member of this supportive organization and we're expecting a large turnout for Brian in January!

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11am – 1pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 members/\$50 nonmembers



REGISTER HERE.



COMING IN JANUARY

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

THE BISHOP MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND NATURE

We will tour the Bishop Museum which includes fossils, pottery and tools of early cultures as well as that of the Paleo-Indian culture. The second floor includes maritime as well as other artifacts from the Manatee River area and Tampa Bay, illustrating later settlement. Included in our tour is the Manatee rehab center, a planetarium show and the Mosaic Center. In addition, we will see an international photography exhibit of birds with award-winning photos.

There is parking in front of the museum as well as municipal parking across the street. Dining options afterwards include, but are not limited to: Pier 22, Oak & Stone (which also has a rooftop area with a wonderful view) and O'Bricks Irish Pub and Martini Bar. All are one block away on Old Main Street. There are also some small shops to browse in, as well as the Island Gallery at 456 Old Main Street with a variety of works, including some by Arts Advocates member artists!



Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 | 9:45am - 12:00noon
(Meet in lobby at 9:45am)

Place: The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature
201 Tenth Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34205

Cost: \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

REGISTER HERE.

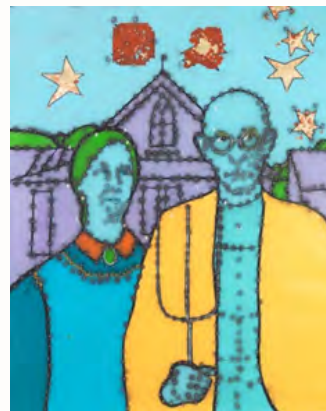


ART TALK

VIKTOR MITIC: "ART OR WAR AND SO MUCH MORE"

Viktor Mitic is a Serbian-born Canadian and American painter and sculptor. For the last ten years, Viktor has split his studio time between Toronto and Siesta Key.

Viktor is best known for some controversial styles of artwork, starting with his notable bullet painting series, Art or War. When creating these unique works, guns are as much a part of Viktor's process as paintbrushes, as he embellishes the images with bullet holes. Featuring iconic figures from JFK to Justin Bieber to the couple from "American Gothic," his bullet paintings highlight the absurdity and senselessness of gun violence.



Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 | 4 - 6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: Free for members/\$5 Registration Fee for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE.



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

PLAYING WITH PASTELS

INSTRUCTOR: COSETTE KOSIBA

This workshop is for anyone interested in pastels, whether for the first time or with previous experience. Learn about different types of surfaces that pastels can be applied onto, paper preparation, layering of color, mark making and how to protect your finished piece.

Materials: Please bring either a table easel or standing easel if you have one, plus drawing paper, photo reference, baby wipes, old towel, scissors, inexpensive paint brushes, plastic table cover, paper towels and a few plastic containers. Instructor will provide: Pre-cut pieces of Uart sandpaper, backing board, artist's tape, tracing paper, and a variety of soft pastels. There will be a still life set up for those who prefer not to work from a photo.

Minimum # of people: 4; Maximum # of people: 10.
Cutoff date to register: January 20, 2024

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 1pm – 5pm
Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key
Cost: \$45 plus \$10 payable to the teaching artist on day of class



[REGISTER HERE.](#)



A sold-out Salon held at the home of Leslie Butterfield included a tour of the house and a talk by renowned architect and founding member of the Sarasota School of Architecture, Carl Abbott.



A jovial crowd of new members, prospective members, Team Leaders and Board members talked about Arts Advocates' mission and its historic collection of Florida art at a New Member Meet & Greet Party on November 8th in the Gallery.



Judy Herman (left) was the lucky winner of the pastel painting "Vineyard in Portugal," donated by member artist Cosette Kosiba (right).



Our November luncheon featured a presentation by Kelli Maldonado (right), Executive Director of Mission & Impact for the Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation, and Cortez Crosby (left), Project Manager of the Paratus Group consulting firm, who explained their mission to create a "Building Brief" articulating the shared vision of all stakeholders to the architects of the Sarasota Performing Arts Center.

Local Arts Calendar

As a core element of its mission, Arts Advocates helps raise awareness of local arts organizations. Please support and enjoy these upcoming programs in our community. Click on the links for more information:

Florida Studio Theatre

[Little Shop of Horrors](#)

Asolo Rep

[Inherit the Wind](#)

The Hermitage

[A Blurred Line: A Visual and Theatrical Experience](#)

The Circus Arts Conservatory

[A Brave New Wonderland 2023](#)

Urbanite Theatre

[Judith](#)

save the dates

- + **December 1**
Holiday Bazaar | 12-4pm
- + **December 2**
Cecile Moran Exhibit Opening | 2-4pm
- + **December 11**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm
- + **January 6**
Marie-Louise McHugh Exhibit Opening | 2-4pm
- + **January 9**
Book Club | 1:30-3pm
- + **January 11**
FST Area Art Walk | 10:30am-12pm
- + **January 16**
Gallery Collection Seminar | 1:30-3:30pm
- + **January 17**
City Hall Area Art Walk | 10:30am-12pm
- + **January 18**
January Luncheon | 11am-1pm
- + **January 22**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm
- + **January 24**
Bishop Museum Tour | 9:45am-12pm
- + **January 25**
Rosemary District Art Walk | 10:30am-12pm
- + **January 26**
Viktor Mitic Art Talk | 4-6pm
- + **January 27**
Playing with Pastels Workshop | 1-5pm