

ARTS ADVOCATES JANUARY 18 LUNCHEON PROGRAM

The Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County:

\$26 Million to Local Arts Groups

Brian Hersh, CEO

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 NYC's Lincoln Center and our own Asolo Theater. His community connections, experience in arts education and previous national leadership roles provide an excellent foundation 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. Funding is provided through the Tourist Development Tax (Bed Tax), "State of the Arts" license plate fees and private donations.

Sarasota County's arts and culture not only add to the quality of life for residents but are a significant driver of the local economy, tourism and tax revenues. The Alliance magnifies these benefits with its mission to promote and advance our reputation as Florida's premiere arts destination.

Committed to supporting all arts and their positive effects on their creators and audiences, the Alliance

also works to facilitate access to art education throughout the county. By consolidating events and information from of all the county's varied art groups, the Alliance provides a valuable contribution to our own Arts Advocates efforts.

As we are a member of this supportive organization, come join us on January 18th to hear more about what the Alliance and Arts Advocates can accomplish!



Brian Hersh, CEO



Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 | 11am-1pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 Members, \$50 Nonmembers

REGISTER HERE.



TABLE OF CONTENTS January Luncheon Art Walks 8 February Luncheon 12 From Your President 2 Art Collection Seminar 9 AsoloRep/Koski Tour 13 3 13 Fundraising Campaign Bishop Museum Tour 9 Art Talk: Jamiel Law Leadership Team 4 Van Wezel Tours 10 Colored Pencils Workshop 14 5 11 Holiday Bazaar Recap 15 January Gallery Artist Art Talk: Viktor Mitic 6 16 **Underwater Photo Show** Pastels Workshop 11 Local Arts Calendar **Book Club** February Gallery Artist 12 Save the Dates 16

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Arts Advocates Members.

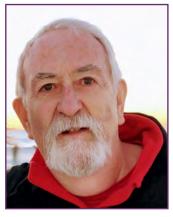
First, I would like to thank Stephenie Frasher, Liz Trostli and Jeannette Paladino for all their hard work and dedication in making our December 1st Holiday Bazaar so successful. Arts Advocates earned over \$800 from this event. I also want to thank all the other volunteers and participants that made this event so successful.

Secondly, I am proposing five initiatives for the new year:

- 1. Enhance transparency between Board members and Team Leaders
- 2. Diversify the range of activities held in the Gallery.
- 3. Explore future venues for the exhibition of our collection.
- 4. Develop strategies to involve more members in Arts Advocates activities.
- 5. Forge new partnerships with like-minded nonprofit organizations.

Because of our beautiful Gallery located in the Crossings at Siesta Key mall, we have been afforded the opportunity to collaborate with numerous other nonprofit organizations such as the Players Theatre, the Suncoast Black Arts Collaborative and most recently the Sarasota branch of the National League of American Pen Women. Recently we have been approached about collaborating with two other nonprofits that are also located in the mall, Treefort Productions and Rise Up. These current and future collaborations are a great start to fulfilling Initiative #5.

We have a full menu of upcoming programs for 2024. Please read our weekly Eblasts and monthly newsletters for information on our upcoming events, and be sure to visit our website to register for



Bill Rusling, President

those events that interest you.

I am looking forward to a new year of collaboration, transparency and increased visibility of Arts Advocates within our community.

With warmest regards to all,

Bill Rusling President, Arts Advocates



Annual Fundraising Campaign Update



ALMOST THERE!

Thanks to our generous members, we are well within reach of the \$65,000 annual fundraising goal.

There is still time to donate to the Arts Advocates campaign. You may make a donation either by check or through our website with your credit card. Your contribution will help preserve our historic art collection, award scholarships to local students pursuing careers in the arts and keep our members informed about the vast number of art-related opportunities available in our community.



Meet Your Leadership Team

Last in a Series

This is the sixth and final entry in a series that introduces 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.



Sharon Saatsoglou

I serve on the Board as the Corresponding Secretary. I love to frequent museums, especially the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC where I enjoy wandering through collections making the serendipitous discoveries. I am passionate about theatre and

film and usually manage to attend 1-2 performances a week. I so much enjoy being a part of Arts Advocates, where I have formed a connection to people who share my appreciation and love of art. It has been so gratifying to learn of the history of the Sarasota Art Colony and to be a part of preserving and educating the public about this rich legacy.



Rennie Carter

I serve as the newsletter editor and as a Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors. I was co-chair of the Program Committee for three years. My passion is musical theatre. I have been a fan of Van Gogh's since reading Dear Theo and subsequently visiting the Van

Gogh Museum in Amsterdam back in the '70s. I am on a quest to see as many of his original paintings as I can! Arts Advocates has introduced me to artists and arts organizations of all kinds. When I first joined Arts Advocates, my plan was to attend the luncheons and an occasional event. But getting involved has been fun and fulfilling in ways I never expected.



Sandy Williams

I currently serve as a writer on the Program Committee. Architecture is my personal passion but I'm intrigued with the abundance of art forms that Sarasota offers. Through working at the Arts Advocates Gallery I've developed a respect and pride in the myriad of

talented artists who have lived and worked in Sarasota. Our Gallery represents the finest collection of works by these artists in the State of Florida and it's a pleasure to introduce others to their work. Sarasota is fortunate to have our unique Arts Advocates collection on display and available to residents and visitors alike!



Barbara Fischer Long

I am a member of the Scholarship Committee and Committee. Program parents modeled and inspired a lifelong love and appreciation of the arts. My passions are ballet, music, theatre and visual art. One of the reasons my husband and I chose to

retire in Sarasota is the amazing arts opportunities. We attend performances of the Sarasota Ballet, Orchestra, Opera, Asolo Rep, WBTT and FST throughout the year. Highlights of my membership in Arts Advocates include meeting fascinating new friends and attending the stimulating programs each month. The opportunity to serve on the scholarship committee these past three years has been invigorating! It's inspiring to review the applicants' resumes, videos, and film and artwork samples.

JANUARY MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

MARIE-LOUISE MCHUGH: THE PEAR AND BEYOND

Born in Bienne, Switzerland, **Marie-Louise McHugh** moved to the USA at 28. Throughout her childhood, she greatly admired the works of Ferdinand Hodler, a well-known symbolistic Swiss painter of the 19th century. Symbolism always attracted her as she loves telling stories with her paintings. Arnold Böcklin, Gauguin and Balthus are three other painters who significantly developed her imagery.

Always involved in the art world, first as a collage artist, a photographer, and later as a painter, Marie-Louise's art continuously evolves as she explores new media and technologies. Still, her love and main body of work is oil paintings. She was involved in the arts scene in upstate NY and New York City, but since 2015 she has shared her time between New York and Florida.

Marie-Louise studied painting at the State University of Albany, NY. She started showing her work regionally in 1989, then joined galleries in New York City. The Phoenix Gallery was her home for many years. She has shown her work extensively in galleries, museums and universities in Northeastern US and Florida. Her paintings are part of corporate and private collections in the US, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

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

The pear, the female figure, and the coneflower became favorite subjects because she finds their shapes so expressive.

So far, Marie-Louise has created three books about notable paintings, drawings, and photographic projects: A Pear A Day - One Year of Drawings and Paintings of My Blog, Trees - A Photo Essay and The Queens: Project about My Women Friends. "Paire de Poires" is a documentary by George Ryon about her creative process.

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 2pm to 4pm. Meet the artist and enjoy her impressive body of work every Saturday in January from 2pm to 4pm. The show closes on Saturday, January 27.







Special Invitation for Arts Advocates Members!





Art Advocates members are invited to attend the meeting of The National League of American Pen Women, Inc., Sarasota Branch, on January 9th in the Arts Advocates Gallery from 11am to 12:30pm.

Their speaker is internationally known photographer Andy Deitsch, who will be showcasing underwater photos from around the world. He'll start locally in Sarasota and then take attendees on an amazing global journey.

In pursuit of his images, Andy has traveled to the far reaches of our planet including Indonesia, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Israel, Egypt, Australia, Tonga, Iceland, Greenland, the Philippines, the Galapagos Islands, Mexico and all over the Caribbean. Andy has won several photography competitions and his images have been published in magazines worldwide.

To reserve a space for this and other upcoming meetings of the Sarasota branch of the NLAPW, contact Wilma Davidson: wilma@wilmadavidson.com. There is no fee to attend.

To learn more about the Pen Women visit https://www.sarasotapenwomen.org/history.

Founded in 1897 in Washington, D.C., the National League of American Pen Women is the oldest multidiscipline arts organization for women in the United States. The NLAPW was founded as an alternative to the (then) all-male National Press Club by Marian Longfellow O'Donoghue, niece of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Today, NLAPW promotes and conducts literary, educational, and charitable activities in the fields of Letters, Art and Music.

Their archives chronical the legacy of illustrious members such as Vinnie Ream, Eleanor Roosevelt, Pearl Buck, Amy Beach, Georgia O'Keeffe, Grandma Moses, Erma Bombeck, Maya Angelou, Rosalyn Carter, Hillary Clinton, and Eudora Welty.

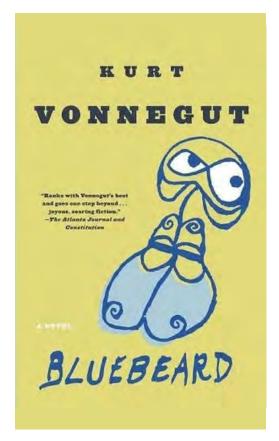
Excerpted from the NLAPW website.

Arts Advocates Book Club

KURT VONNEGUT'S BLUEBEARD

You are invited to join what should be a lively discussion about a book that was heavily influenced by the thoughts and life of a prominent member of the Sarasota Artist Colony.

The book is *Bluebeard* by the well-known and prolific author Kurt Vonnegut, who also wrote the likes of *Slaughterhouse 5* and *Cat's Cradle*. The Sarasota Colony artist was the abstract painter Syd Solomon.







Kurt Vonnegut

Syd Solomon

Vonnegut and Solomon were close friends, and Vonnegut frequently visited Solomon's homes on Siesta Key and Long Island. While in Sarasota in 1986 in the midst of writing *Bluebeard*, Vonnegut conducted an interview of Solomon in conjunction with an exhibition of Solomon's works at the Ringling. The interview was published in the precursor of *Sarasota Magazine* the following year. In 2000, Vonnegut wrote, alluding to his indebtedness to Solomon, that *Bluebeard* was "plagiarism on a grand scale." Vonnegut also said that Solomon was one of only two individuals that Vonnegut had ever heard that said anything about art that made any sense.

This book is sure to engender a fascinating discussion on what art and life are all about! This event is free, but registration is appreciated. You do not have to read the book to attend, but you certainly will get a lot more out of the discussion if you do!

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2024 | 1:30pm – 3pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: Free



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



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 Durloo 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



FDUCATIONAL 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 are 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







Behind the Curtain:EXPLORING THE VAN WEZEL FROM THE ART TO THE STAGE

JANUARY 22 & FEBRUARY 12 | 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, January 22

Monday, February 12

1:30-3pm

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Cost: \$15

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.

Viktor's artistic practice has evolved over time to include sculpture. These works are often comprised of upcycled materials covered with bronze, stainless steel, or electroplated 24-karat gold.

His paintings and sculptures are in private collections around the

world. Visit his website for more information: https://artorwar.viktormitic.com/

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









EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

LAYING 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







FFBRUARY MFMBFR ARTIST FXHIBIT

JANA MILLSTONE: "A CROOKED PATH"

Join us in February at the Arts Advocates Gallery for Jana Millstone's solo exhibition, "A Crooked Path."

We'll accompany her on her journey, with stops along the way, at otherworldly machine paintings, humorously subversive constructed paintings, odes to our fleeting natural world, and poetic textile works. She uses a variety of stylistic approaches to explore themes of power, inequity, and transition, both in the microcosm of family and as metaphor for society at large.

Jana's original artwork will be on display and available for purchase at the Arts Advocates Gallery every Saturday in February from 2 to 4pm, with an opening reception on February 3rd.



The Artist's Hand





Sheila and Me Forever

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

PUBLIC BROADCASTING: IMPRESSIVE PROGRAMMING FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Jake Hartvigsen WEDU Associate Director of Marketing & Community Partnerships

Where do we go to hear great performances, visit Mister Rogers' neighborhood or cook with Julia Child? PBS, of course! With a mission to educate and inspire, PBS's programming allows viewers of all ages and interests to connect, grow and be entertained.





WEDU, our local PBS affiliate serving Florida's west coast, has in recent years launched an extensive "At-Home Learning" collection, produced award-winning local storytelling and greatly expanded its content. As a result, WEDU saw its viewership jump an extraordinary 76% over the past few years and is now the nation's 14th largest PBS station.

While building community partnerships, Jake Hartvigsen has helped bring local arts content to our area through WEDU Arts Plus - weekly arts and culture programs devoted to a range of topics including pottery, theater, film, photography, dance, music, painting and more.

Join your fellow arts lovers to hear what Jake has to say at our February luncheon!

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 | 11am - 1pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 members/\$50 nonmembers



EDUCATIONAL TOUR

TOUR OF ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE AND THE KOSKI CENTER

Asolo Rep tours are an opportunity to witness professional-level theatrical design in the making. Through this tour you will learn the history of the Mertz Theatre and get a special behind-the-scenes look at the Koski Center.

The Koski Center includes rehearsal space and provides scenery and properties construction not only for Asolo Rep but also for the Sarasota Opera and Ballet, Tampa's Straz Center, Universal Studios, Broadway, television and film. Join us!

Date: Monday, February 19 | 9:30 – 11am Place: Meet at Asolo Repertory Theatre Lobby

5555 N. Tamiami Trail.

Koski Center is a 10-minute drive to 1009 Tallevast Road.

Cost: \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers







ART TALK

"DON'T BREATHE" — JAMIEL LAW **FINDS HIS VOICE**

Jamiel Law is an illustrator and creative problem solver based in Parrish, FL. He graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration from Ringling College of Art and Design. He currently works with BUCK as a designer while freelancing as an editorial and children's book illustrator. Jamiel's clients include the New York Times, The New Yorker, NBC News, Slate, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Bravery

Magazine, Equal Justice Initiative, The Guardian, Apple, HBO and Netflix. He is also working on his first children's book with Harper Collins.

The illustration at right is about the psychological notion of police presence in the African American community in the USA. It was first published as part of LSESU Amnesty International Society's annual human rights journal, A Climate of Change.

Date: Friday, February 23 | 4 – 6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: Free for members/\$5 nonmembers





EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

COLORED PENCILS BLOOMING ON BLACK PAPER

INSTRUCTOR: Alexandria Lillis

Florida is known for its kaleidoscope of colors and transcendent play of light.

Many artists, including the Highwaymen, found their inspiration in the Florida flora.



In this workshop you will learn to combine the stark drama of black paper with the brilliance of colored pencil. Through a detailed presentation of materials and approaches, students will work on their own piece with one-on-one support from the instructor, Alexandria Lillis. By the end of the day each student will have completed a full color work of art, gained an understanding of how to use colored pencils, and increased their awareness of design principles. All skill levels welcome.

The class fee of \$100 includes black paper. Other materials – Prismacolor pencils (set of 12 or more) and white eraser – can be purchased at Michael's, Art & Frame, Hobby Lobby and Amazon. The instructor will provide fresh flowers for drawing inspiration. Students are welcome to bring photos as well.

Date: Saturday, February 24 | 11am – 5pm (please bring brown bag lunch)

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery, The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: \$100





Cecile Moran, left, our December Gallery member artist, poses with Liz Trostli, co-director of the Arts Advocates Gallery, in front of one of Cecile's beautiful works featuring gold leaf painting.











The Arts Advocates Holiday Bazaar featured a wide variety of fun, colorful merchandise created by our members. They made wonderful one-of-a-kind gifts to be cherished for years to come! Arts Advocates netted over \$800 for sponsoring the event.







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:

The Sarasota Players

tick, tick...BOOM!

The Sarasota Ballet

Graziano Celebrated

Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota

Celebrating Chopin

Jazz Club of Sarasota

Jazz Thursday at SAM

Choral Artists of Sarasota

Choral Cinemagic!

save the dates

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

+ February 3

Jana Millstone Exhibit Opening | 2-4pm

+ February 12

Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm

+ February 15

February Luncheon | 11am-1pm

+ February 19

Asolo Rep/Koski Center Tour | 9:30-11am

February 23

Jamiel Law Art Talk | 4-6pm

February 24

Colored Pencils Workshop | 11am-5pm