

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM

The New Sarasota Performing Arts Center

Your Questions Answered!

Are differing reports causing you to wonder what exactly is planned for Sarasota's Bayfront Park?

For many months there has been a great deal of information in the media about the Van Wezel, the new Sarasota Orchestra music center and the new Sarasota Performing Arts Center on the bayfront. Some reports are inconsistent and lead to thoughtful questions. The Sarasota Performing Arts Center Foundation wants to clear the confusion, share initial plans, and explain what lies ahead. Members of their staff will be with Arts Advocates on November 16th to discuss all the details!

The City of Sarasota is exploring how to preserve and repurpose the Van Wezel, which is not to compete with the new facility. The Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation's mission is to "create and sustain a vibrant performing arts campus, advance education and enrich communities through the power of the arts." Previously known as the Van Wezel Foundation, it has partnered with the Hall since 1987 to serve the community, including more than 35,000 students and their families. The Foundation is leading the effort to build a new Sarasota Performing Arts Center, a public-private partnership with the city, in collaboration with the Bay Park Conservancy AND the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.



Our speakers are Kelli Maldonado of the Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation and Cortez Crosby, a consultant from the Paratus Group which is working with the Foundation.

Join your fellow Arts Advocates at the Sarasota Yacht Club for a delicious lunch on November 16th and GET THE FACTS on this important topic.

Date: November 16, 11am-1pm

Place: Sarasota Yacht Club

Cost: \$45 Members, \$50 Nonmembers

REGISTER HERE.



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Let's get engaged...

Our members are grateful for the wonderful experiences Arts Advocates brings to their lives, and they are generous with their time and talent to keep the wheels rolling and the organization growing.

We always need volunteers – docents, committee members, team leaders. If you want to figure out how YOUR time and talent can best be used to help out, please contact me at president@artsadvocates.org. Learn how you can get engaged.

We always need new members to bring in new ideas and stimulate our growth. Please join me and our Board members on **Wednesday, November 8th, from 4pm to 6pm at the Gallery** to welcome some of our new members! And bring a friend who might be interested in joining.

And of course we need money to continue to finance our mission. Please consider donating generously to our year-end fundraising campaign.

You will be supporting our many outstanding programs and projects, including:

- the inspiring luncheon programs that raise awareness of and celebrate local arts organizations
- enlightening Art Talks, Walking Tours, and Educational Tours not readily available to the public, as well as Salons showcasing private art collections
- our historic permanent art collection featuring key works of the Sarasota Art Colony
- scholarships for deserving local students pursuing careers in the arts



Carole Schwartz, President

We are here to engage, enrich and educate you, to connect you to the many facets of our rich artistic community. But we can't do it without your generosity! See page 3 to learn how to donate.

Carole

2023 Fundraising Campaign

Our annual fundraising campaign is underway! By now members have received information regarding this year's campaign. 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!

DONATE HERE



Meet Your Leadership Team

Fourth 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.



Patricia Taylor

I am on the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. My art interest has been focused on mid-twentieth century abstract expressionism and figurative painting, especially from the Bay Area artists where my collection began. In addition, I very much enjoy

the other fine arts expressed through theatre, music and ballet. Through the Gallery's art and speakers provided by Arts Advocates I have been introduced to the vast culture and talent within Sarasota. I have been privileged to meet many talented and interesting people through the group.



Carol Darling

I co-chair the Hospitality Team and am a volunteer host for Saturday gallery hours. My personal interest in the arts is art history and Florida artists. The foresight that the founders of the organization had in recognizing the significance of the Sarasota Art Colony artists is

a legacy that could have been lost forever. Florida female artists need more visibility and I hope that someday Arts Advocates secures a painting by the only female Highwayman, Mary Ann Carroll – one of the 26 original Highwaymen. Arts Advocates provides opportunities to interact with like-minded people who appreciate and support the arts in its various forms. Meeting people at the luncheons and other events has enriched me, for which I am grateful. Speakers at luncheons and art talks provide a deeper knowledge of the local arts scene of which I had only limited knowledge.



Bill Rusling

Currently I am Vice President of the Arts Advocates Board of Directors. I am also responsible for hanging the artwork of exhibiting members in the Gallery. I am very interested in performance arts; I am currently the Vice Chair of the Players Theatre Board of

Directors. I have been involved with them since 2012 as a volunteer building sets. I am also very involved in the visual arts, having been married to an artist for 23 years. My major interest in visual arts is nature photography. I have photographed nature subjects in Costa Rica, Peru, Brazil, Austria, Spain, Portugal and the US. Being involved in the arts community and specifically with Arts Advocates has allowed me to meet other people who are equally passionate about the arts, and who are also passionate about being good stewards of the Sarasota Art Colony artwork that we have been entrusted with.



Laura Feder

I am a Team Leader in charge of Salons. I grew up dancing in my mother's dance studio; it's an integral part of my life, something I've always come back to over the years. It makes me feel most connected to my body and mind. Through my involvement with Arts

Advocates over the years, I've met a wonderful community of like-minded friends and acquaintances. I look forward to the informative and topical luncheon programs and the intimate gallery meetings with local artists. And of course, the salons!

MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT

HONORING OUR VETERAN ARTISTS

The Arts Advocates November Gallery Exhibition showcases the work of four of our member Veterans. The opening reception is Saturday, November 4th, from 2 to 4 pm. The exhibit is open every Saturday from 2 to 4 through November 25th. Please don't miss this extraordinary exhibit!



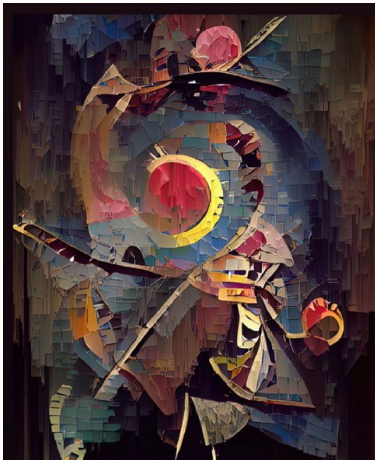
DIANA DE AVILA

Diana de Avila was training to become a combat military police officer in the U.S. Army when she suffered a traumatic brain injury in a motorcycle accident. Years later, her gift for fractal art emerged following a relapse of her existing multiple sclerosis. She has a rare condition known as Acquired Savant Syndrome, in which a person suddenly exhibits a remarkable talent.

Despite a lack of formal training, Diana has created over 2000 digital art pieces rooted in fractal geometry, drawing inspiration from the convergence of quantum physics, chaos theory, and divine order.

She found her artistic community within the movement known as "Techspressionism." Here, she continuously pushes the boundaries of her digital art and explores innovative methods of creation. Diana is a Signature member of the National Association of Women Artists (NAWA) and a member of the American League of American Pen Women (NLAPW). She is also a part of the Sarasota artist collective called SArtQ.

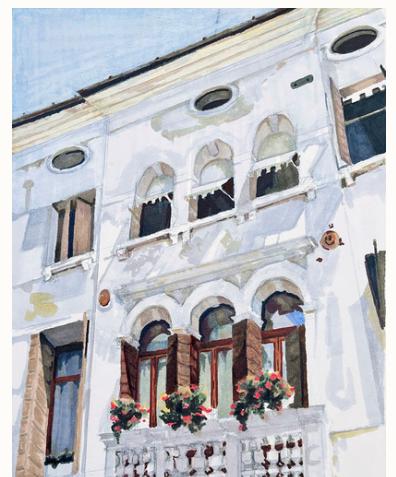
Diana is the subject and co-author of the award-winning book, *Soldier, Sister, Savant*, in which she shares her artistic journey. Diana and her co-author Wilma Davidson recently secured a publishing contract for their children's book set to be released next summer.



JESSICA HARTMAN

Jessica Hartman's dream of being a student at Ringling College has finally come true. Jessica's previous arts education came primarily from her high school classes at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. Her plan to go from there to Ringling had to be set aside due to a family emergency. Instead, she attended community college and then enlisted in the US Navy where she spent nine years as an air traffic controller.

In addition to her studies, Jessica's life today includes three children and a husband who was a fellow Navy air traffic controller. Her goal is to work for a major animation company upon graduation.



MEMBER ARTIST EXHIBIT, CONTINUED

HONORING OUR VETERAN ARTISTS

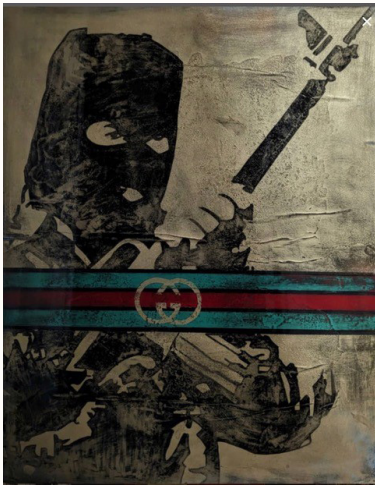


JOHN QUIGLEY

John Quigley joined the Army after 9/11, where he served in the infantry with multiple combat deployments working with Special Operations and Marine Regimental Combat Teams. After deployment, he worked as a combatatives and small arms instructor. Once discharged, John transitioned to private military contracting where he performed security for government officials, high ranking military officers, and diplomats from around the world. Art has always been part of his life, but he never considered it as a career path until he was unable to return to military contracting due to an injury.

John is in his third year at Ringling College of Art & Design as an Illustration major with an emphasis on Visual Development. He uses mixed media techniques to bring together his love of photography, painting, and the thrill of finding new ways to use overlooked materials.

Upon graduation, he hopes to have a career in storyboarding and concept design for a major studio.



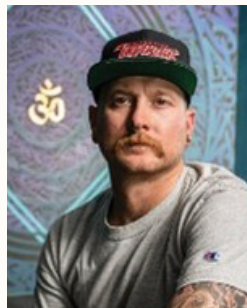
MARK WISEMAN

Mark Wiseman, a Sarasota native, is enrolled in the Graphic Design program at Ringling College of Art and Design.

Mark's art style is a blend of graffiti and calligraphy known as calligraffiti. Calligraffiti is a worldwide phenomenon that began appearing in streets and has increasingly migrated into galleries around the planet. It's a visual language that has roots in ancient and contemporary alphabet forms that range from Arabic to the Latino fonts found on the walls of East Los Angeles.

He served eight years in the Marine Corps and did three overseas tours, where he was exposed to street and business signs written in Arabic and classical languages like Sanskrit. "It looked like brushstrokes," he says, "and because I couldn't read it, it was abstract art for me." After serving in the military, Wiseman experienced post-traumatic stress disorder. He found a way out through art therapy. "I cannot sit and paint," he says. "I like to flow, use my body—like a dance with the wall."

Mark has participated in the PINC festival in the Rosemary district and recently the Paint Memphis festival. His latest show was at Art Ovation Hotel. He hopes to own his own sign shop and bring more murals to the local area.



Art Talk: HONORING OUR VETERAN ARTISTS

PURSUING DREAMS AFTER A MILITARY CAREER

NOVEMBER 10 | 4-6 PM

We are privileged to honor Arts Advocates members and US military veterans Jennifer Hartman, John Quigley and Mark Wiseman. All three are now pursuing careers in art.

John Quigley has been creating art for as long as he can remember. He is currently a third year student at Ringling with a major in illustration. Quigley said he always wanted to be a professional artist, "But I didn't know how to get there. My time in the Army gave me the confidence and financial backing to help me make my way to Ringling." John is open to whatever the future holds, whether it be working as a concept artist for military or CIA projects, designing haunted houses at Universal Studios or owning an art gallery.

Mark Wiseman was an outdoorsy kid who was also drawn to art. "I went to a private art class," Mark said, "But I wanted to be outside. I wanted to get hurt, break bones and get dirty." Mark served in the Marines for eight years in places like Afghanistan, where he saw signs written in Arabic and Sanskrit. While he knew the writing was language, to him it looked like abstract art. Mark enrolled at Ringling after he left the military but realized he was more interested in getting real world experience. Today he creates calligraffiti, a style that is a mix of graffiti and calligraphy. He creates works under the name Fndmentls.

Jessica Hartman's dream of attending Ringling College of Art & Design has finally come true. Jessica's previous arts education came primarily from high school classes. Her plan to attend Ringling was set aside due to a family emergency. Instead, she attended community college and then enlisted in the Navy. She spent nine years working as an air traffic controller. Today Jessica juggles her studies with her family – three children and a husband who was a fellow Navy air traffic controller. Her goal is to work for a major animation company.

Join us as we talk with these very different artists who share the distinction of having served their country.



Above Left: John Quigley,
Above Right: Mark Wiseman,
Left: Jessica Hartman

Date: Friday, November 10 4-6pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery,
The Crossings at Siesta Key

Cost: \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

REGISTER HERE.



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

NOVEMBER 13 & DECEMBER 11 | 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: November 13
December 11
1:30-3 pm

Place: Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Cost: \$15



JOIN THE TEAM!

Are you interested in volunteering with Arts Advocates but don't want to make a big commitment? We've got the perfect job for you! Become a guide for our art tours at the Van Wezel.

Once each month we share the Arts Advocates' collection at the Van Wezel with the public during a 45-minute tour. New guides will have the opportunity to shadow an experienced docent before jumping in on their own. You are welcome, however, to structure your tour to talk about the works that most interest you.

We only ask for a commitment of three tours a year from our guides – but don't be surprised if you want to do more after you see the response the tour gets from visitors. Each art tour is followed by a backstage tour led by a Van Wezel representative, which you are welcome to attend.

Our collection is an important part of the Sarasota and Florida art scene. Please consider joining us in sharing this artistic heritage with the public. For more information, contact Stephenie Frasher at memberengagement@artsadvocates.org

HAVE FUN WHILE YOU SHOP!

Arts Advocates Holiday Bazaar

DECEMBER 1 | 12-4PM

Join Arts Advocates for a **FREE** Holiday Bazaar in our Gallery! Enjoy holiday music, wine and treats while you shop for unique holiday gifts including paintings, jewelry and home goods created by Arts Advocates member artisans. Meet and mingle with other members and guests while you enjoy wine and nibbles.

The following artisans have signed up to show their wares. (If you are an Arts Advocates member artist interested in selling at the bazaar, please email [Stephenie Frasher at memberengagement@artsadvocates.org](mailto:StephenieFrasher@memberengagement@artsadvocates.org).)

Judy Levine: One-of-a-kind jewelry made with antique beads, amulets, hand blown glass beads, gemstones, and more

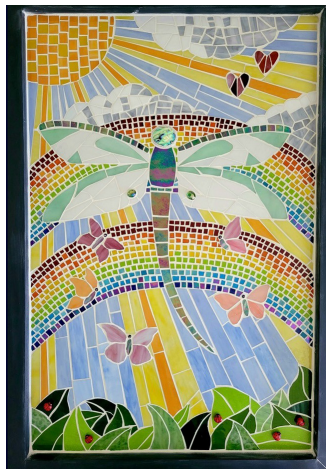
Chris Butcher: Pieces from her series, "The Bird People," which remakes famous paintings by whimsically transforming all the people into birds

Stephenie Frasher and Janet Apfel: Polymer clay earrings and necklaces

Elizabeth Trostli: Royal Pet Portraits – bunnies, kittens and puppies dressed in historical costumes – available as notecards, prints and calendars, plus small digital paintings from her "Gallerie of Masques" and "Show of Hands" collections

In addition, there will be offerings from **Lynn Coppinger** (paintings), **Sandy Koolkin** (acrylic pours), **Traci Keferreis** (mosaics), **Helena Poto** (T-shirts and cards) and **Marie-Louise McHugh** (calendars and notecards).

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

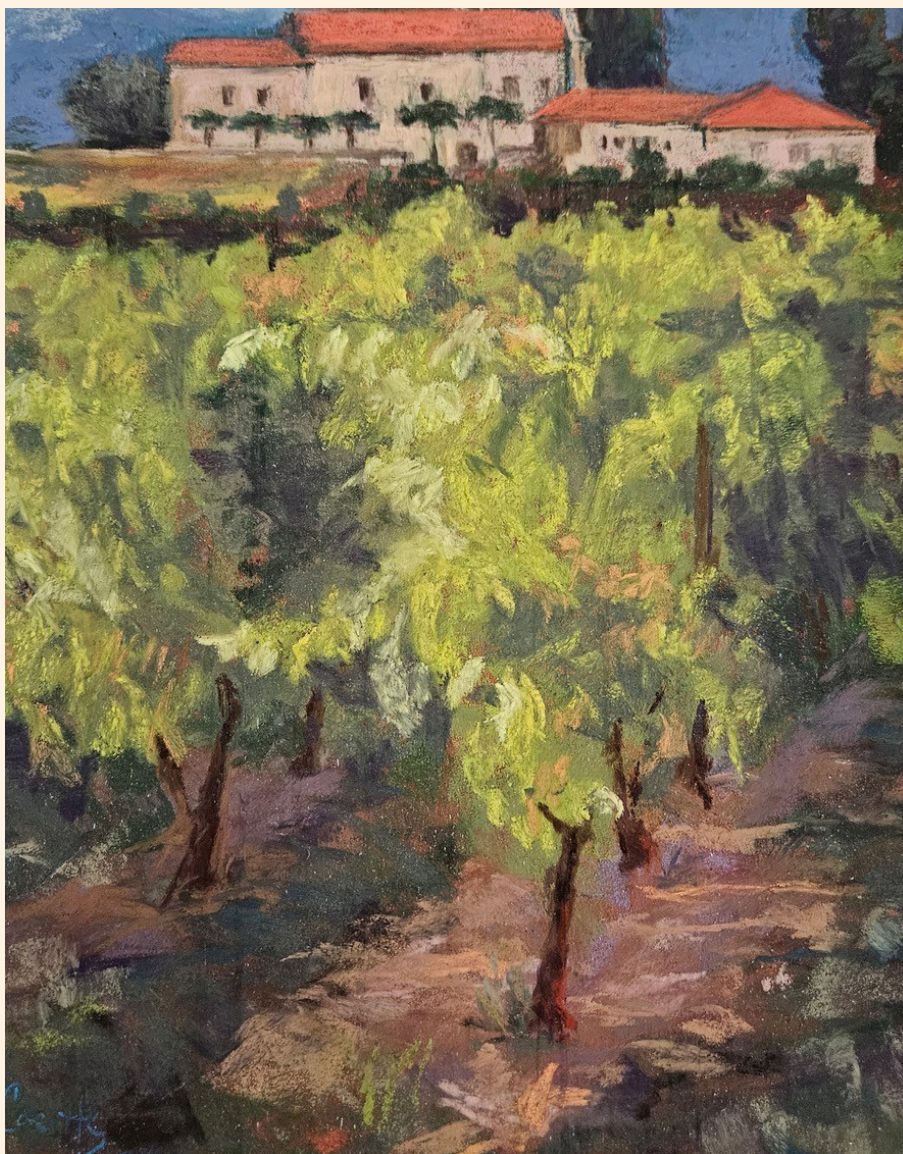


Don't miss out! Mark your calendar for December 1st and head to the Arts Advocates Gallery in The Crossings at Siesta Key mall on Tamiami Trail (entrance by Connors Restaurant). This event is FREE.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON RAFFLE PRIZE

Our raffle prize this month is this beautiful painting titled “*Vineyard in Portugal*,” donated by the artist, Cosette Kosiba. You must be present at the November 16th luncheon to enter the raffle.

REGISTER HERE.



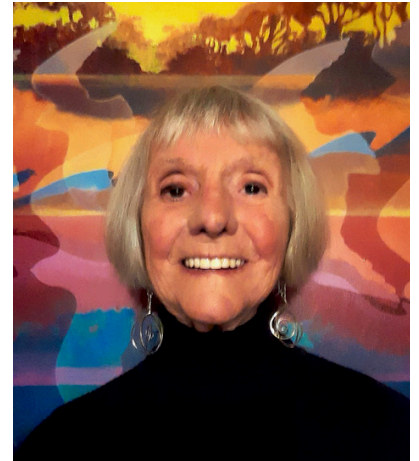
DECEMBER GALLERY ARTIST

CECILE MORAN

Cecile Moran's art education earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts degrees. She then taught and studied in Madrid for three years. The rich experience of living in Spain and travelling in Europe, especially seeing the colorful work of Gauguin and the Expressionists, inspired her own art.

Upon returning to the states, Cecile found inspiration in the vibrancy of Mexican art. Her painting began to reflect a strong use of color. She also developed a painting technique inspired by the traditional textile art of the San Blas Indians of Panama. In addition, her art is often imbued with the use of gold leaf, a process that she learned from her father.

The art of Cecile Moran will be on display in the Arts Advocates Gallery on Saturdays in December. Watch for details in next month's newsletter!



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. Watch for details in the December issue of the newsletter.

Leymis Bolaños Wilmott,
Co-Founder and Artistic Director
of Sarasota Contemporary Dance,
gave an exhilarating and emotional
presentation at our October luncheon.
She introduced herself with a sampling
of her choreography, and moved the
audience with her determination to
share the joy of dancing with people
of all physical conditions.



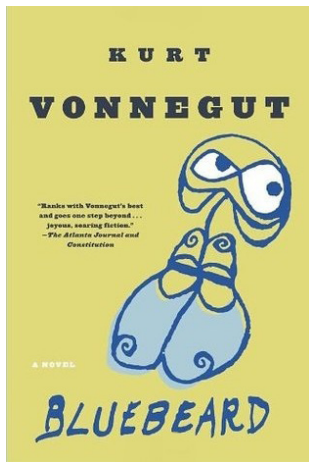
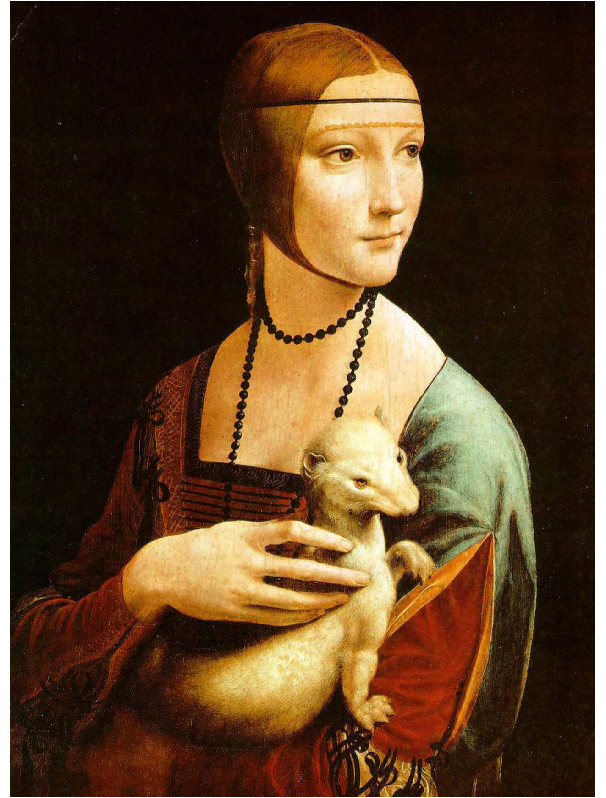
Sheree Pertile (center) was the
lucky winner of “Chanel Number
5,” a painting by member artist
Lynn Coppinger (left), who
donated the piece. On the right is
Liz Trostli, co-director of the Arts
Advocates Gallery.

BOOK CLUB

Our October Book Club discussion was hosted by Carole Schwartz, who presented a PowerPoint highlighting the dual timeline of *The Night Portrait: A Novel of World War II and DaVinci's Italy* by Laura Morelli. Discussion centered around several themes of the book:

- DaVinci's portrait of *Lady with an Ermine* and its effect on two powerful men;
- the role of the Monuments Men in saving art during WWII;
- the prejudice encountered by the two main female characters in both the 15th and 20th Centuries and how each responded; and
- the human cost to rescue art stolen by the Nazis.

All agreed it was an excellent, thought-provoking book.



Our next Book Club 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. It is a novel told as a first-person narrative and describes the late years of fictional abstract expressionist painter Rabo Karabekian, loosely based on Syd Solomon. Ed Eliasberg will lead the discussion.

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 / 1:30pm

Place: Arts Advocates Gallery,
The Crossings at Siesta Key



Recent Art Talks



Tragedy to Gift

In a September Art Talk at the Gallery, Diana de Avila (left) described her journey of becoming an artistic savant after suffering a traumatic brain injury. Her rare condition is called Acquired Savant Syndrome. She was joined by Wilma Davis (right) who co-authored their book *Soldier, Sister, Savant*. Some of Diana's art is on display this month in the Gallery.



"Anomie" by Diana de Avila



Visualizing Social Issues

Award-winning artist Patricia Anderson-Turner described her passion for social justice, which is embodied in her mixed-media artworks. Nanette Crist (left) moderated the discussion last month in the Gallery.



Patricia stands next to her work
"Refugees Risking the Seas."

A graphic for the 'Local Arts Calendar' featuring a purple and teal abstract shape, a calendar icon, and various geometric symbols like circles, crosses, and dots.

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:

Sarasota Ballet

[Conflicted Beauty](#)

Sarasota Opera

[The Music of Giacomo Puccini](#)

Asolo Rep

[Crazy For You](#)

Sarasota Orchestra

[Masterworks: The Scottish](#)

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

[Once on This Island](#)

save the dates

- + **November 4**
Veterans Exhibit Opening | 2-4pm
- + **November 7**
Salon: SOLD OUT
- + **November 8**
Meet & Greet New Members | 4-6pm
- + **November 10**
Art Talk: Veterans' Art Careers | 4-6pm
- + **November 13**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm
- + **November 16**
Luncheon: Sarasota Performing
Arts Hall Update | 11am-1pm
- + **December 1**
Holiday Bazaar | 12-4pm
- + **December 11**
Van Wezel Tour | 1:30-3pm