

MISSION STATEMENT

The Vail Valley Art Guild is dedicated to enriching lives by promoting and fostering artistic growth by building awareness of the visual arts in Eagle County. We do this by:

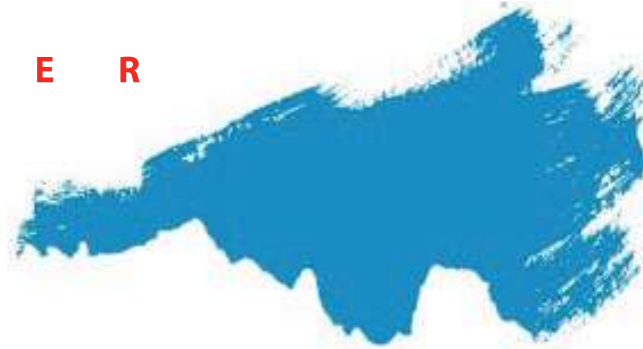
Connecting local visual artists to an artistic community through exhibitions, gallery opportunities, local projects, membership meetings and workshops.

Supporting visual arts education for our youth, seniors and underserved.

Spotlighting artistic talent in the Vail Valley.

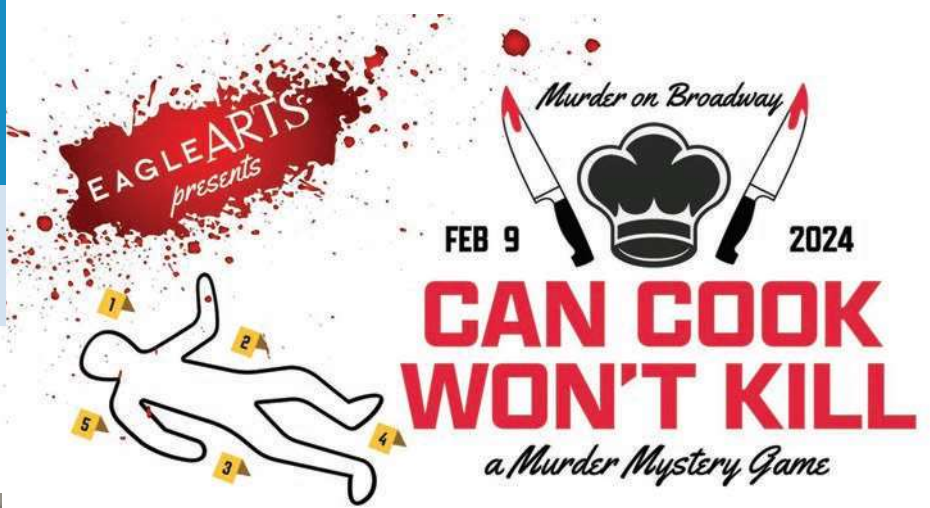
Vail Valley Art Guild is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

[www.vvagco.org](http://www.vvagco.org)



VAIL VALLEY ART GUILD

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH VISUAL ARTS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 9!

The annual EagleARTS Murder on Broadway event will take place on Friday, February 9th and the VVAG Eagle Gallery will be hosting one of the "Whodunnit" scenes for participants. Visit [www.eaglearts.org](http://www.eaglearts.org) to order your tickets today!

Guests listen to suspects' alibis, ask questions, and try to figure out who killed Al Fresco – the manager of a new Michelin Star restaurant.

After you've compiled the clues and decided whodunnit, join us at 2nd Street Tavern for food and drinks while waiting to hear from Inspector Rita Cookbook if you caught the right suspect. One drink ticket is provided, with additional drinks available for purchase.

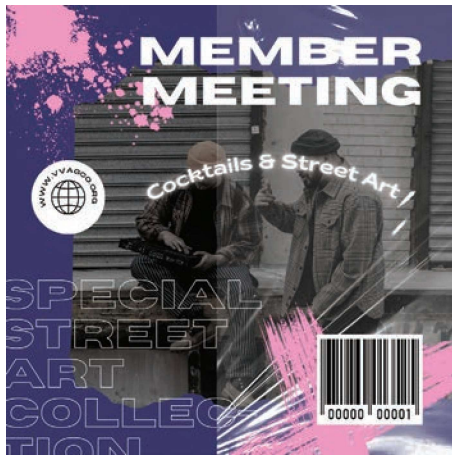
The VVAG gallery is located at 108 W. 2nd Street in Eagle, across the street from Roam restaurant.



February Second Friday 2/9/24 | Eagle In conjunction with EagleARTS Murder on Broadway event.

March Second Friday 3/8/24 | Eagle Gallery 5-8 PM

# FABULOUS FEBRUARY MEMBER OPPORTUNITY | Monday, February 5, 2024 | 4-6 pm



## Come see a truly unique, private collection of Street Art, including

**work by Banksy.** "Michael Rushmore's interest in street art was originally ignited by random exposure to controversial images on the brick walls of East London. Unfiltered ideas presented in sometimes illegal work were exciting and current. This interest was further powered by a daily conversation on the topic, or walk down an alley, with the local expert who lived upstairs. Over a period of years, Mike's collection grew to include work by about 40 artists ranging from unknown vandals to those in carefully curated museums, including Swoon, Os Gemeos, JR, Fairey, Banksy and Haring." – excerpt by Katie Coakley, "Vail Symposium presents Banksy & Beyond: The Rise of Street Art" – *Vail Daily*, August 14, 2017

Cocktails and light appetizers will be provided by the host. Parking is limited so people are encouraged to carpool if possible.

**Address and parking information will be given in a confirmation email once you RSVP.** The last day to RSVP is February 1st as the host will require a count of how many people are attending, so please RSVP as soon as possible. <https://www.vvagco.org/upcoming-events>

COMING SOON

## Mini WORKSHOPS!

... at the Eagle Gallery. Small, 4-hour Saturday classes on various mediums and techniques for beginners or to polish up on old skills. More information to come, so stay tuned...

... breaking news!

VVAG is thrilled to announce the opening of a new guild gallery space in Avon in partnership with the Town of Avon!

We have a lot to do to get it ready for operation. There will be exhibit space AND room to hold classes.

... will keep you posted

## Charter Gallery Artwalk with Tara Novak, Chris Sena & Jessica Wright



Please join us to celebrate art, artists, and The Charter's generous support of the Vail Valley Art Guild's local visual arts community. On January 16, VVAG held its first successful Art Walk of the new year.

Future Charter Gallery Artwalks:

**February 20<sup>th</sup> & March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Free apps & drinks from 4-5pm

## ARTIST MEMBER MEETINGS

will be held at our new Avon gallery location in the Seasons at Avon building across from the Town Hall.

Social: 5 p.m. Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to share.

Please check: [vvagco.org/events](http://vvagco.org/events) for up-to-date information on all activities as locations/dates are subject to change.

## PHOTOGRAPHY MEETINGS

Photography meetings are held the last Thursday of every month at CMC: Room 249  
6:30 pm fellowship / 7:00 pm meeting

# VVAG is excited to announce **3** scheduled 2024 workshops!

[www.vvagco.org/artist-workshops](http://www.vvagco.org/artist-workshops) | *more workshops to come and will be posted on on the VVAG website as they are added!*



Tues. June 25 to Thurs. June 27

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Avon Gallery

Fees for Members and Non-Members: posted online Feb. 1

**Joan Fullerton – Paint Yourself Free**

Expand Your Imagination with Joan Fullerton in this 3-day abstract plus collage building workshop where you will work with acrylics, various tools, mediums etc.! All levels from beginner to advanced are welcome to explore working with acrylics, mixed media and collage building.

*I create intuitively, wondering where the painting will take me. Making random marks with pencils and charcoal, dripping paint, lifting out, and painting over, I build up layers until the visual elements command attention, offer something new, and until the images feel alive. I want my art to surprise me.*

*The intuitive voice is a whisper based on "what if" rather than rules or learned concepts. When I paint, I don't rely on preconceived notions of where I want to end up. It is as if I am singing a song while writing it. When I completely "let go," something beyond myself writes that song.*

Joan Fullerton is an acclaimed international artist/educator devoted to uplifting others with art. She is an expert creativity coach who inspires uninhibited humor, the ability to trust your impulses, and to play like a child. A non-judgmental approach to artmaking expands students' confidence, enabling genuine, expressive paintings. Her fine-art career of 50+ years has produced hundreds of poetic images hanging in museums and private collections worldwide. Featured in several television interviews, painting blogs, magazine articles, and books, including the #1 bestseller *Radical Self Love*, Fullerton is also the author of "Paint Yourself Free," an online art experience. [www.joanfullerton.com](http://www.joanfullerton.com)



Thurs. July 18 to Fri. July 19

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Avon Gallery

Fees for Members and Non-Members: posted online Feb. 1

**Kim Casebeer – Painting Movement in Clouds**

Clouds and skies have their own attributes. Join us for this 2-day workshop with Kim Casebeer! Advanced beginner to advanced artists are welcome to explore working with oil and pastel mediums.

Kim Casebeer is a Kansas native, who is a well known landscape painter and highly sought after instructor. She is a Master Signature Member of American Women Artists, a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America and the Oil Painters of America. [www.kimcasebeer.com](http://www.kimcasebeer.com)



Fri. August 2 to Sat. August 3

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Avon Gallery

Fees for Members and Non-Members: posted online Feb. 1

**Lorenzo Chavez – Bring Life to Your Landscape Paintings**

Learn to visualize the landscape in unique and exciting new ways while also honoring the traditions of the past. Join us for this 2-day workshop with Lorenzo Chavez! Advanced beginner to advanced artists are welcome to explore working with oil and pastel mediums.

*My art reflects my deep passion for the landscape of the American West. I want the emotion I feel to come through in the surface textures of the art. The colors, textures and light of the western landscape inspire and guide my work. It is the simple glimpses into nature that move me to create. Wallace Stegner said it in brevity of words, "A few cottonwoods, the gurgle of water in a creek or ditch, can have as profound effect on me as the grandest view."*

Lorenzo Chavez's art reflects his deep passion for the American West. Lorenzo is a renowned fine art instructor and artist who has taught numerous workshops across the U.S. He is represented by many prestigious fine art galleries including private and corporate collectors, both nationally and internationally. Lorenzo participates in numerous fine arts events including exhibits and show openings including his solo exhibit "A Road less Traveled" drawing inspiration from the undisturbed colors of nature. [www.lorenzochavez.com](http://www.lorenzochavez.com)

**Avon Gallery**, 137 Benchmark Rd., Suite C2, Avon, CO 81620 – (in the Seasons at Avon building)

When you sign up, please be sure to read the policies regarding cancellation carefully before submitting your payment.

Reminder: VVAG Members receive member pricing on all workshops; please choose VVAG Member ticket price when checking out!

#### Materials List:

Materials needed for workshops will be provided at a later date once it becomes available.

If you have questions about the workshop or the materials list, please call 970-471-0853. [www.vvagco.org/artist-workshops](http://www.vvagco.org/artist-workshops)

VAIL VALLEY ART GUILD / [www.vvagco.org](http://www.vvagco.org) / [service@vvagco.org](mailto:service@vvagco.org)

## GUILD MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The *Vail Daily* is showcasing area artists in a series called "Meet Your Artist" to learn more about those who create and what inspires them. If you are an area artist and would like to be featured in the series, email Tricia Swenson: [tswenson@vaildaily.com](mailto:tswenson@vaildaily.com).

In early January, **Chris Sena** was interviewed by the newspaper and discussed her connection with art beginning at an early age through adulthood, with both photography and painting.



Chris Sena



Also, former VVAG president **Andrew Pranger** submitted an opinion piece in the Valley Voices column of the *Vail Daily* where he outlined the state of the arts in the valley, current opportunities for local artists, and

how the local art scene impacts the community at large and appeal to visitors.

Congratulations go to VVAG members **Amy Dose, Pamela Olson** and **Tara Novak** who were chosen this past fall as part of the Top Five Visual Artists in the Vail Daily Best of Vail Valley 2022-2023 Readers Choice for Best Visual Artist.

Check out the full interviews, opinion piece, and other member highlights: <https://www.vvago.org/post/members-in-the-news>



Margo Thomas

December's "Meet Your Artist" column spotlighted VVAG member **Margo Thomas**. The interview explored Margo's genesis as an artist and those who have influenced her creative endeavors.

**Rick Spitzer**, photographer and the glue that holds VVAG's photographers section together, was interviewed by the *Vail Daily* in December as well. Check out Rick's answer to the timely question posed to him about the advancement of AI in today's photography!



Rick Spitzer

Photographer **Raj Manickam** presented a fusion of fine art photography and traditional Indian cuisine on January 19 at Larissa Wild Fine Art in Gypsum.

**The Art of Raj Manickam**

STATE OF THE SPICES is a body of work by fine arts photographer Raj Manickam. The collection of photographs and mixed media artwork investigates the diaspora of spices from their indigenous grounds to worldwide spaces.

**Larissa Wild Fine Art**

Larissa Wild Fine Art integrates various aspects of the art world, encompassing a gallery space, appraisal services, consultancy and more. It serves as a dynamic space that actively supports creativity in all its forms.

**Happy Valley Kitchen**

Elevate your senses with the exquisite tastes of India, curated buffet-style by Happy Valley Kitchen. Join us for an enchanting evening where the Spice Route converges with artistic expression to ignite your appetite.

# Library Shows

In collaboration with the **Avon Public Library** will feature works by VVAG artist **Tara Novak**. The solo exhibit, "Bigger than Us," will be open to the public throughout February, with **artist's reception on Feb. 7, 4-6 pm**.

*The snow covered glades of winter invite peace and tranquility, a quiet beauty that is incredible to experience. Stop, listen, and take in the glittering snow, serenity and radiance.. Mother Nature's magnificence, power, and inevitable transformation keep us in awe and respectfully humbled; She is bigger than all of us.... Acrylics, gold leaf, venetian plaster, and reactive iron rust patina capture the essence of organic reactions, textures, and erosions of our ever-changing landscapes.*



VVAG member **Raymond Bleesz** had a solo exhibit: "Portraits Near & Afar—1976 to Present" at the Avon Public Library during December.

Raymond Bleesz shown with **Joe Berry Christian Cowboy, Prague, OK 1987**

**Clint Eastwood, 1978**

**Bily Gibbons, The Reverend, ZZ Top, 2021**



In December, in collaboration with the Vail Public Library, guild member **Traci O'Connor** presented a photography exhibit called "Views from the Ascent," a contemporary view of Colorado wildflowers.



# MORE SHOWS



During the month of November, Vail Valley Art Guild artists who attended the Snow-White Art Workshops in Quillan, France and Algiceras, Spain, held an exhibit of their work at the Vail Library. Mike Snow was the art instructor and Timothy White was the photographer and gourmet chef. Artists displaying their work: **Heather Barrie, Lynn Feiger, Becky Kiser, Chris Sena, Patti Dixon, Melissa Nelson and Willow Murphy.**

An exhibit of local landscapes and wildlife was installed at the Vail Valley Jet Center in December.



## DECEMBER ORNAMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The VVAG's public outreach program took on a new challenge in December partnering with the La Vida Foundation's Tema Mi Mano program, which provides an after school evening and dinner for kids 5-11 years old once a week. We were invited to add an after dinner art project suitable for the kids, their siblings and parents in three locations serving more than 80 folks of all ages. VVAG president

**Melissa Nelson** had previously hosted a Christmas ball acrylic pouring for Pastor Josue who heads this organization and wanted others to give it a try. As the event moved from Eagle Villas to Edwards Interfaith Chapel to Gypsum Elementary School, VVAG volunteers grew in numbers. We added a fun family memento card with fingerprinted holiday lights surrounding the family name encased in a frame to the acrylic pouring. **Raymond Bleesz** then took family holiday portraits with their art projects. It was difficult to tell who had more fun – the families or the volunteers – but we are looking forward to our next project with this group!



Tema Mi Mano ladies with our VVAG volunteers at the Gypsum Elementary School project – photo by Raymond Bleesz. The card says "Tema Mi Mano" reading down. The concept was to take each letter of the family's last name and list a quality of the family reading across. Family members worked together to brainstorm each quality, in Spanish, English or both.



### Become a VVAG Member

Become a member now, or renew your membership, to be eligible for entering your works into shows! Check out membership and donor levels. [www.vvagco.org](http://www.vvagco.org)



### Public Library Exhibits

Space is available for exhibiting artists at the public libraries in Gypsum, Avon, and Vail throughout the year. Individual members (or teamed up with a second member) are encouraged to present their works in the community rooms of the respective libraries. Please contact **Chris Sena** if you are interested: [cgsema5@gmail.com](mailto:cgsema5@gmail.com)

# VAIL VALLEY ART GUILD PHOTOGSNEWS

For news about upcoming photography "special assignments" or events, please contact Rick Spitzer // [spitzerr@comcast.net](mailto:spitzerr@comcast.net)

At the end of 2023 photographers were asked: "This time of year there are all kinds of lists. Best song, best sports story, best... So how about we do the same? Post two of your best/favorite shots of the year. Not 1, not 3, or 4+. Just two." .... and these are the outstanding submissions!

Alan Finney



Bobcat Kitten



Morocco

Carole Schragen



Our 1st Halloween

Cathleen McKinzie



Crystal Lake at Dawn



Silverton, CO

John Sheppard



Snowy Mt. Elbert



Wildridge with Beaver Creek

Katie Dolan



Duck Dynasty



Happy Howlidays

Ken Pollock



Polar Bear 9628



Spitzbergen 3133

Chris Sena



Cordoba, Spain



Malaga, Spain

Kristen Garry



Flower in Vail



Sunset Elk Herd

Michelle Cawood



Aspen Grove Grand Mesa

Komodo Clown Anemonefish 11



**Raj Manickam**

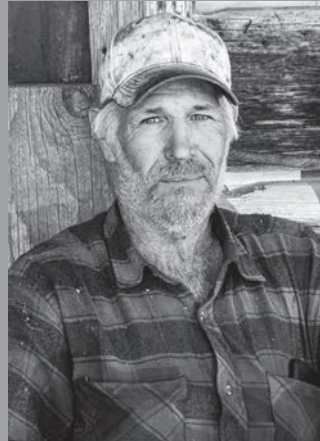


*Meaningful Conversations*



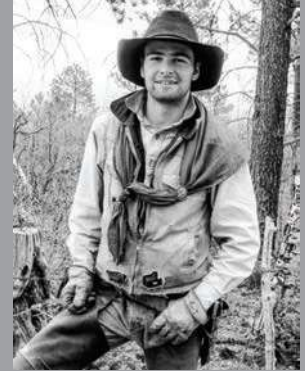
*September Morn*

**Raymond Blesz**



*Kevin the Coon Hunter*

**Tucker Fence Mender**



**Rick Spitzer**



*Bighorn 017*



*Red Fox 009*

**Russ Meyer**



*Lion with Cubs*



*Lions*



*Marmot*

**Sherry Dorward**



*Sphinx Moth*

**Steve Pope**



*Sand Dunes West of the Nile*



*Staircase Shot in Istanbul*

**Tom Thompson**



*Bighorn Love*



*Sand Wash Warrior*

**Traci O'Conner**



*Otter with Attitude*



*Red Fox*