

Annual Fall VAA Art Show Highlights Villages Artists

Local artists in The Villages showcased their work Saturday at Seabreeze Recreation Center.

By **PATRICIA STEELE**
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The Visual Art Association's fall show showcased an abundance of artistic variety and styles Saturday at Seabreeze Recreation Center.

The annual show lets artists share their work, while Villagers get to enjoy the range of local talent on display.

This year's show was moved from October to September, and for the first time it included a People's Choice Awards, said Nan Kohr, president of the VAA, of the Village of Caroline.

"It's still exciting for me to be a part of this show," said Kohr, an 11-year veteran with the organization. "It's the first show of the season, and we love sharing our work with the public."

The artists showcased their creativity in watercolor, pen and ink, acrylic, oils, and paper in three-dimensional pieces.

There were city scenes, country scenes, scenes created taken from The Villages, and works where artist's imagination and fancy took flight. Artists shared their photography, collages, pottery, sculptures, and jewelry.

And the public loved it.

Kohr estimated more than a thousand people would visit the show to see works by 61 artists.

Karen Ogan and her sister, Jackie Carlson, both of the Village of Charlotte, enjoyed their stroll through the rooms at Seabreeze Recreation Center.

"We've been to the VAA art



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Artist Leda Rabenold, left, of the Village of Mallory Square, talks with Karen Stoughton, of the Village of Labelle, during the Visual Arts Association's annual fall show at Seabreeze Recreation Center on Saturday.

show many of times, and I'm always pleased at the level of skill being shown here," Ogan said. "We're seldom looking for one thing, we just enjoy it all."

Sometimes they purchase a painting if it fits with their home decor, or sometimes something in clay or wood, but mainly they enjoy appreciating the variety and quality of work in the show, Carlson said.

Meeting the people is part of the fun for Edmund Louis Kytte, a painter from the Village of Sabal Chase. He likes being part of the show.

"There's a lot of people that come through here," Kytte said. "They're all smiling and having a good day. They enjoy the art, and I'm glad to be part of it. If I sell something, well that's good, too."

After a couple of hours of looking and shopping, Lisa Randolph of the Village of Fernandina, and her mother,

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The Visual Arts Association meets from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. the third Friday of the month at La Hacienda Recreation Center, 1200 Avenida Central. Usually there is a special program or demonstration. Meetings are open to any Villager interested in the visual arts.

Sandra Van Pelt, of the Village of Amelia, were heading to the car.

Van Pelt found a painting she loved, while Randolph found cards and a trivet she liked.

"This is my first time to attend the art show and I was totally impressed by the talent," Randolph said. "I'll be back."