

September 2025

# VAS ART SPOTLIGHT

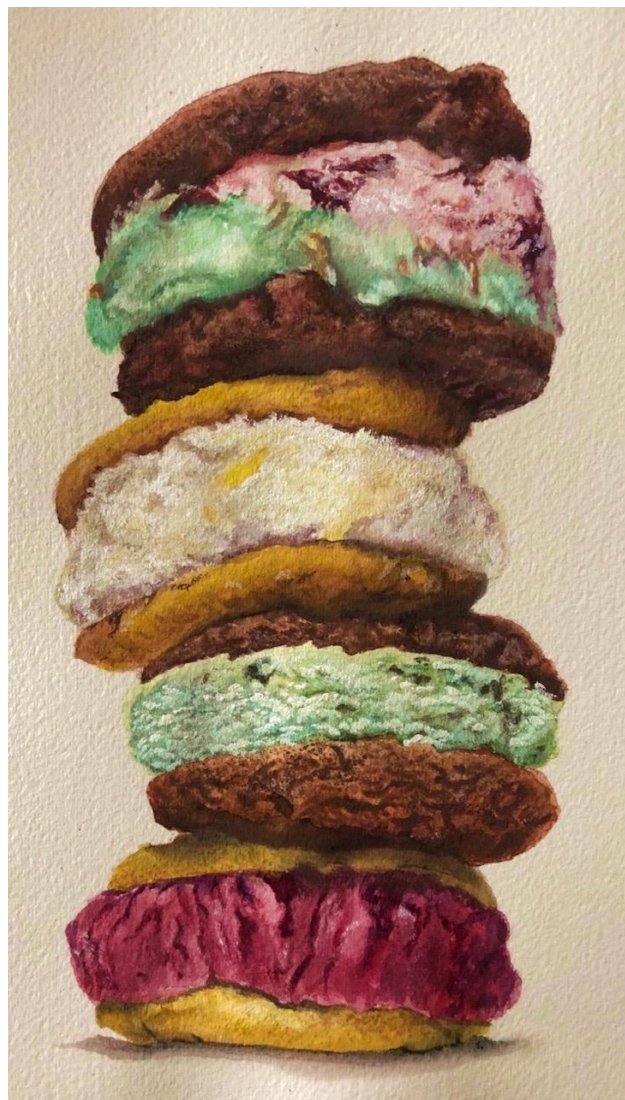
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## FEATURED ARTIST THIS MONTH IS *\*Vicki Richardson-Halsell\**

I am a wife, mother of two and grandmother of an 11-month old. As a Kansas City, MO girl, the KC Art Institute and a career at Hallmark Cards were my dreams. I made a point of doodling, drawing and painting at every turn. My Uncle Larry, a free lance artist, introduced me to fine art which continued

*L*ifelong artist, Kansas City native, living her dream through creative expression..

into middle & high school activities in Art Clubs and the KC Technical Center for Commercial Art. This opportunity exposed me to commercial arts. Although I still had my eye on the Hallmark Cards prize, I thought a career in designing music "Album Covers" could be a possibility! However, neither dream came to pass. My artistic talent took a back seat to athletics & dance (Uncle Larry taught me to dance as well!). After graduating from high school my athletic talent led to a college basketball



scholarship, which did not cover art supplies leading to a drop of the Fine Arts major for a major in Communication Arts & a stint as a university radio host while, get this, my dance talent led me to a 3-year career in the NFL as a dancer for my beloved KC Chiefs!! Throughout marriage, motherhood, and 2 children I worked as a Graphic Artist for 5 years, dabbled in photography, and worked part-time as a makeup artist/nail technician making up brides & models and painting designs on clients' nails, which enhanced my attention to detail. These days I'm finally living my dream as a "starving artist"!



Author: Vicki Richardson-Halsell

## IN OTHER NEWS....

### Spotlight schedule for 2025

Name	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Speaker	Jeannette	Wendy	Liv L	Party
Spotlight	Vicki R-H	Helen D	Liv L	Joel K

If you would like to get on our list to be a guest speaker and/or on the spotlight, please contact [me](#) or Jaimie Ladysh, our Demos/Workshop chair at [dwc@visualartsociety.org](mailto:dwc@visualartsociety.org). When sending us your stories for the spotlight, make sure please, they are **230-240 words..**

### Brazos Valley Gives – October 21

We're excited to once again take part in Brazos Valley Gives, a community-wide day of giving that supports local nonprofits. Early giving opens September 22, with the big giving day on October 21. Donations not only help the Visual Art Society directly but also give us a chance to win extra "golden ticket" prizes. Learn more or schedule your gift here:

- [https://www.brazosvalleygives.org/organization/Visual\\_Art\\_Society](https://www.brazosvalleygives.org/organization/Visual_Art_Society)
- <https://www.brazosvalleygives.org/>

### Holiday Wreath Auction – VAS is participating!

The Arts Center's Holiday Wreath Auction is back for 2025! VAS will enter a decorated 30-inch artificial fir wreath to showcase our creativity and mission. Wreaths from various organizations will be displayed in the Bradfield Gallery November 1–24, with all auction proceeds to go directly to the participating organizations. If you would like to help decorating the wreath, please email our [Jacqui](#) (treasurer), [Vicki](#) (member at large), or [Wendy](#) (president).

**Fall Plein Air Painting Schedule:** Our Publicity Chair, Mindy Austin, will be hosting / establishing a regular Tuesday (mornings) plein air painting schedule. More information to come, but if you are

interested and can't wait for more news, or if you just have questions, please contact Mindy at [publicity@visualartsociety.org](mailto:publicity@visualartsociety.org).

### First Fridays in Historic Downtown Bryan

There is a new application process; visit <https://www.destinationbryan.com/firstfriday/be-a-part-of-first-friday/> for information. [Love Downtown Local](#) has spaces for tents for \$45. Contact [lovedowntownlocal@gmail.com](mailto:lovedowntownlocal@gmail.com) for more info. The event goes on till 10 pm at night and you will need good lighting. Contact [Wendy](#) for questions.

### First Saturday Art Market at DeGallery

Every first Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at DeGallery Square (930 N Rosemary Dr, Bryan) for a lively outdoor art fair—rain or shine! Enjoy live jazz, kids' art activities, artist demos, and unique works from local art vendors. Artists and musicians are invited to participate in the market. Vendor spaces are \$30/day for a 10'x10' booth (**free for VAS and DEGA International Art Association members - a limited number of free tents are also available. Contact Dary if you need them**). For details or to sign up, go [HERE](#).

### 2026 Judged Spring Show – Call for Title Ideas

Mark your calendars! Our 2026 Judged Spring Show will run May 1–29, with a closing reception on May 29. This year's show will celebrate the story of America, and all submitted artwork should reflect the theme. Non-theme pieces may be accepted only if space allows. We're asking members to help us choose a title! Suggested options to be sent to Dary at [doctor.penion@gmail.com](mailto:doctor.penion@gmail.com).

### Live Model Sessions with Tim Vanya

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 16, join us every second Tuesday from 6–9 p.m. at DeGallery for live model drawing and painting. Instruction with Tim Vanya is available for \$15, or attend as an open studio session (without instruction) for \$10. Money will be collected at the door; cash is preferred. More details can be found on the DeGallery website [HERE](#).

### 3rd Annual Mental Health Art Contest

Roots Psychotherapy is hosting its 3rd Annual Mental Health Art Contest, free and open to artists of all ages! This contest celebrates local creativity while opening important conversations around mental health in the Brazos Valley. All contest details, entry forms, deadlines, and prizes can be found [HERE](#). Winners will be recognized at the Art Stories Showcase on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 PM, where their art and stories will be shared with the community.

### Boonville Days – October 18

Step back in time at Boonville Days, a free family festival celebrating Texas history! Enjoy re-enactors, pioneer skill demonstrations, *artisans*, live music, dancers, children's crafts, and hands-on educational activities. For details, call 979-776-2195 or email [events@brazosvalleymuseum.org](mailto:events@brazosvalleymuseum.org) & [demonstrator entry form HERE](#). Space is limited - sign up today! The day also features the Buffalo Stampede 5K & 1-Mile Fun Run and the annual Chuck Wagon Lunch with authentic 19th-century wagons. Don't miss the chance to explore Boonville Heritage Park, including a restored dog-trot cabin and replica town buildings.

**Join a Local Glass Artisans Group!** Elisa Marchand and Anna Lowary are getting a Glass Artisans group started here in the community! Anyone and everyone is welcome to join. If interested, please contact Anna Lowary email [amlowary@yahoo.com](mailto:amlowary@yahoo.com) | ph. (312) 213-4012)

**Design an Album Cover!** Zac Clifton, a country music singer-songwriter is looking for an artist to design his next album cover! Interested? Reach out to Zac at [zaccliftonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:zaccliftonmusic@gmail.com) or (832) 278-3422 with samples of your work.

### Add the Aggiedland Art Trail App to your Phone

1. Go to [aggiedlandarttrail.app](http://aggiedlandarttrail.app)
2. Sign Up (it's free)
3. Checkout, add your info and complete the order
4. You will receive the link to your mobile pass in the email.

5. Once you are logged into your pass in Chrome on your Android phone and you want to make it an app

on your phone, you must be in Chrome browser. You can follow the directions given in FAQs in the top banner.

- If you see the 3 dots on the top right side of your screen, proceed directly to Step 8.
6. Hold your finger on the 3 horizontal bars at the bottom right on your screen (don't click, hold). Up pops the Chrome info.
  7. Pick Open in Chrome Browser
  8. tap the 3 dots in the top right corner and look for "Add to Home screen"
  9. The app will be installed.

Note that you win awards for visiting the art featured on the Aggiedland Art Trail by accumulating points! !

### List of Community Galleries

[Benjamin Knox Gallery & Wine Bar](#)  
[Brazos Glassworks](#)  
[Cushing Memorial Library & Archives](#)  
[Degallery](#)  
[Forsyth Galleries](#)  
[INTERSECTIONS \(home of the Brazos Spinners & Weavers Guild\)](#)  
[J. Wayne Stark Galleries](#)  
[Perrine Winery](#)  
[Tavo Coffee Co.](#)  
[The Arts Center of Brazos Valley](#)  
[The Frame Gallery Downtown](#)  
[The Parker-Astin](#)

### Local Audience for your Art

**Display your art on VAS virtual gallery:** If you would like to have your art showcased in our virtual gallery, please fill out this [FORM](#) | **Display your art around town:** If you would like to have your art displayed in local businesses, fill out this [FORM](#). These local venues are always showing new art; be part of their rotation! | **Sell your art:** [First Saturday Art Market](#) held @ Degallery from 11am-4pm starting again in Sept.



## Workshops

[DEGALLERY](#) | [Wendy Keeney- Kennicutt Brazos Watercolor Retreats](#) | [Sabra Delyn Wilhelm DeLyn Atelier Fine Art & Teaching Studio](#) | [Lisa Miller Laughing Parrot Studio](#) | [Tim "Pops" Vanya T.W. Vanya Fine Art](#) | [Mary Skow \(watercolor\)](#) | [Chris Wilson](#) (watercolor) | [Jaimie Ladysh](#) Encaustic Photography & Encaustic Arts | [Robyn Glass](#) (drawing, watercolor, paper-cut, colored pencil) | If you teach, we will advertise your business. Contact Wendy at [president@visualartsociety.org](mailto:president@visualartsociety.org).

Note: Jaimie Ladysh has a workshop at Degallery on September 16-17, 10-5. It's Encaustics, Painting with Fire and Color.

## VAS member, Joel Kitchens has published a book

Great news—Joel Kitchens has finished his book! It will be available for purchase this December, but you can preorder now through TAMU Press.

[San Antonio and Its Missions. Three Centuries of History, Memory, and Heritage By Joel Daniel Kitchens](#). This book claims San Antonio's five Spanish Colonial-era missions are "sites of memory," as defined by French historian Pierre Nora. By that definition, the missions are an enduring, and deeply-rooted part of the city's heritage. As both sacred spaces, as well as being some of the top tourist attractions in the state, the missions continue to serve some of the original religious and educational functions that began three centuries ago on what was then a remote site on the frontier. In 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization recognized the missions' importance to Texas and beyond by awarding World Heritage Site status to these buildings. By taking a 'deep dive' into the primary sources, this project explores how and why the Spanish built the missions, what happened to the missions after the Spanish colonizers left, and how and why the missions came to weigh so heavily in the American imagination and identity (particularly after the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, and the arrival of the railroad in 1877 which connected San Antonio to the national web of iron and steel), even into the twenty-first century. The primary sources include Spanish Colonial documents, census data, travel narratives,

advertisements by railroad companies, tourist guides, and even the buildings themselves.

**If you have something you would like to be depicted in the monthly spotlight please contact me, Joana, at [secretary@visualartsociety.org](mailto:secretary@visualartsociety.org).**