

June 2023 -May 2024
VAST MEMBERS HANDBOOK

MISSION: ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTING TO CREATE AND CELEBRATE VISUAL ARTS!

VAST MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Free monthly Member Meetings of Presentations/Demos by Artists:

On **the first Wednesday of the month** from September to May (occasional different dates due to holidays) **members meet from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** in the Patterson Appleton Arts Center, 400 E. Hickory, Denton, TX. (Guest fee: \$5) For updates, check our VAST Facebook page.

VAST Meetings Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

December 6 – General Meeting / TBA

January 3 – General Meeting / Lecture - Terry Browder

February 7 – General Meeting / Lecture - Mixed Media -Darla Bostick

March 6 – General Meeting / Lecture - Gail Delgar

April 3 – General Meeting / Lecture - Sketchbook Art - Dalynn Montgomery

May 1 - General Meeting / Lecture -TBA

****Second VAST workshop dates are currently pending****

Free monthly entry to the Mini-Show and 2023-24's "Creative Stretch":

Member artwork competitions with gift certificate prizes for First Place. Mini-show not held in April and May. **See further details under VAST Exhibits.**

FREE VAST "VISION" E-Newsletter:

Find VAST current events, **area art events and competitions, art news, members in the news, art everything (!) in VISION** - sent to members' emails monthly September through May and as needed in the summer. Look for VISION in your email **the** week before the monthly meeting. The deadline to submit materials (which are welcomed!) is by **midnight the TENTH of the month** for the upcoming publication; send info to **VISION@VASTArts.org**.

Members in the News in VISION: VAST celebrates the honors and achievements of its members in VISION and on our social media sites - acceptance into juried awards exhibitions outside of VAST, receipt of awards from competitions, educational accomplishments, and community recognitions. Send your own accomplishments to **VISION@VASTArts.org** . Information submitted is subject to editing. VAST is honored to celebrate with you!

Contacting the VISION Editor: If you don't find VISION in your emails at all, contact **VISION@VASTArts.org** to sort out the problem.

Free Advertising in VISION: Members may **advertise** their own personal art-related workshops, open studio times, items for sale, etc. in VISION. "Business-card sized ads" are published for free up to two times per member per VAST year; these ads are subject to approval and editing. Send your copy to **VISION@VASTArts.org**.

Free Local Revolving VAST Exhibitions:

Exhibitions have traditionally been in Denton area businesses/community buildings that permit the safe exhibition of members' art works. Past locations have included Emily Fowler Central Library, Denton, the Denton Senior Center, and cooperating businesses. Members are responsible for insurance on their own work and for hanging or placing it following the direction of the manager or owner of the space. The length of time of the exhibit is dependent upon the location's desires. Please contact the **VAST President** to place your name on the waiting list.

Member Art Supply Discounts (on full priced items):

Members receive a wallet card to print out that identifies your current VAST membership for **Asel Art Supply** (20% discount, Dallas locations) and **Voertman's** – (20% discount, Denton location by UNT)

FREE "VADO" - "VISUAL ARTISTS DAY OUT!":

VAST members meet **every Thursday** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center classroom for a non-instructed session. Artists create in their media of choice in company with other artists - laughs, comments, stories, art help, and lunch break (at nearby restaurants) if you want are included! If you are interested, please email **Fran Shurtleff** at **VADO@VASTArts.org** and ask to be added to her VADO reminder email list for a gentle weekly reminder (sometimes the PAAC's classroom may be unavailable).

VAST Sponsored Artist Workshops:

VAST holds workshops (in person and/or virtually) throughout the year. Members' **suggestions for workshops are welcomed by the Vice President Programming (VASTArtsVPPPrograms@VASTArts.org)**. VASTWorkshops are **offered to MEMBERS first**, and then to the public. Members workshop fees are **discounted**. Watch for announcements about workshops in the e-newsletter VISION, on VAST's website, and social media.

Critique Group for Members: VAST sponsors a critique group for 12 artists with the goal of providing participants opportunity for professional development. Critiques are personalized and designed to help an artist working at **any level**. Participants bring two pieces of art in **any media** for critique.

VAST chooses the Critique Presenter, who is either a professional artist/art educator/private art teacher with professional experience. Critiques are to be informative and educational. Participants benefit not only from their own critique, but from the critiques of other's artwork as well. For those **new** to the idea of critique, the **first session can be free as an observer only**.

Critique meets monthly, September – May (omitting December). The fee is \$120 payable to VAST in two installments due in September and January. VAST Members can also be included on a **substitute list**. When space is available, substitutes pay VAST \$15 per session. Please email **Critique@VASTArts.org** with questions or for more information.

Free Artist Supply Exchange:

At monthly meetings there will be a designated area for artists to bring supplies, tools, books – anything 'art related' - that the artist would like to pass along. Everyone is invited to give/take as desired. Anything left over will be kept for the next month, given away, or tossed if no one can use the materials.

REMEMBER - the best “free” benefits that VAST has to offer are:

- Meeting and making friends with Denton area artists
- Learning new artistic material
- Learn by doing - help VAST hang its exhibits, volunteer to provide exhibit assistance on intake and pick-up days, volunteer computer skills to assist in tracking entries and payments for exhibits; there is a whole world of “behind the scenes work” in every art organization, program, museum!
- Never be bored - share your talents as well as your organizational skills by being a leader in this local group and spread the LOVE OF ART around!

E A R T H without A R T is just “E H!”

VAST MEMBER INFORMATION

VAST Operating Year: The VAST year runs from **June 1 through May 31**. Dues collection for the upcoming year begins **March 1**.

Website: Type **VASStarts.org** into your internet browser.

Facebook Page: Open your personal Facebook account and search for “Visual Arts Society of Texas” to view VAST’s open-to-the-public page. You can also “Follow” and “Like” the page and postings to the page will appear in your feed.

Instagram: Open your Instagram account and search for “**vastartsinsta**” to view the Instagram page open-to-the-public. Follow the page and/or like the posts.

VAST Post Office Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1281, Denton, Texas, 76202.

Financially Supporting VAST Exhibits, Programming and our Fundraiser:

Over the years VAST has received community financial support from local businesses who have paid to sponsor a “month” of our annual fund-raising **Desk Calendar** (thank you, thank you, Calendar sponsors!). Members are offered the first chance to purchase these VAST Desk Calendars when they are ready in the early fall. They make great gifts. **Help VAST by supporting the sales of the Desk Calendar by buying for yourself, family, and friends!**

Financial Sponsorships of cash and in-kind materials for awards for our annual art exhibits are donated by local businesses, community groups, individuals, and **lastly (and mostly!) by YOU, our members!** Please consider being a financial sponsor of our exhibits - especially the **Members Exhibition** and the **175 Mile Exhibition**.

For more information and to participate in the award structure of VAST exhibits, please **email or speak to our Exhibit Vice President or our VAST President.**

VAST supports ALL VISUAL ARTS – 2D and 3D - painting, drawing, photography, glass/stained glass, fiber art, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, metal . .

VAST SPONSORED EXHIBITS

VAST's Juried Calendar Competition:

VAST produces an annual desk calendar featuring juried work by our members as its **only fundraiser**. Entries of calendar art are limited to VAST Members only. Beginning March 1, watch for the Calendar “prospectus” on our website and social media; entry to the juried competition is free if your membership is renewed before May 31! The Desk Calendars, popular holiday gifts, and can be purchased at the VAST in-person meetings **early in the fall**.

Members Exhibition:

VAST sponsors this **annual event** to offer its members (only!) an opportunity to enter their work in a juried exhibition that showcases **VAST artwork**. The exhibit provides an excellent venue for the North Texas community to appreciate the high quality and diverse nature of art produced by area VAST artists. Watch the newsletter and website for information on the date/location/deadline-for-entry. The prospectus will also be emailed to members in a timely manner. The 2023 Members Exhibition will open on Wednesday September 5, 2023. Look for the prospectus in July 2023.

175-Mile Visual Arts Exhibition:

This regional juried exhibition is open to **all artists** (VAST members and non-members) of visual media (2D and 3D) who reside within a 175 mile radius of Denton. Members' entries receive a **discount** on the entry fee. Watch the newsletter and website for information. The prospectus will be emailed to members in a timely manner. Information to the general public is shared through social media, flyers, emails, and to local news outlets. The 17th Annual 175-Mile Visual Arts Exhibition will open Friday December 8, 2023. Look for the prospectus in November 2023.

FREE Monthly VAST Meetings' Mini-Shows and Artist of the Month/Year

Competition: VAST members are encouraged to bring ONE piece of their art to the monthly meetings for a member's choice competition. The first place winner, chosen by members present voting, will be the VAST Artist of the Month.

The Artist of the Month will receive a \$25 Jerry's Artarama gift certificate and automatically be entered in May's Artist of the Year competition. We ask Artists of the Month to refrain from entering the remaining Mini-shows as a competitor, but they are welcome to enter additional artworks for comments or critiques.

The Mini-show will not be held during April (High School Competition time) or May (when members will choose among the Artists of the Month for the VAST Artist of the Year)

FREE - Monthly Members' Meetings presents "A NEW Show in Town for 2022-23 VAST Year" - CREATIVE STRETCH:

CREATIVE STRETCH Details: Each month a **separate competition** will be held that has a theme. This year we'll be creatively exploring the following:

December 6	6X6	Create a piece that is PRECISELY 6" by 6" square. If the artwork is smaller, the piece must be mounted on card/frame to 6x6. NO FRAMES/PIECES ALLOWED THAT EXCEED 6X6 INCHES. (Thank you)
January 3	Heat/Fire	Use a heat source – oven, iron, flame, etc. – to create or enhance the artwork in some manner.
February 7	"Games People Play"	Use an old game board or game pieces to recycle into a piece of artwork.
March 6	Oriental Techniques	Incorporate traditional Oriental or Japanese techniques (such as momigami, kirigami, origami, shibori, etc.) to create the art.
April 3	Fiber	Manipulate fiber or fabric in an uncommon way.
May 1	Yarn & Glue	Create a piece using only these two materials. A stand, frame, canvas, or paper is also allowed.

If this seems overwhelming, focus on only one or two stretches that you believe will be fun and challenging for you, and take your time preparing something to share with the group. Another challenge: Participate in one more Creative Stretch than you did last year!

Creative Stretch winners will receive \$15 Jerry's Artarama gift certificate. Artists are welcome to enter their Creative Stretch pieces in a mini-show in a different month.

VAST OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:

President:

Kimberly Karl - VASTArtsPresident@VastArts.org

Vice President Programs:

Carolyn Johnson (2022-2025) - VASTArtsVPPPrograms@VASTArts.org

Vice President Exhibitions:

Gail Cope (2021-2024) - VASTArtsVPExhibits@VASTArts.org

Secretary:

Ellen Frenkel (2022-2025) - VASTArtsSecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dan DeHart (2022-2025) - VASTArtsTreasurer@gmail.com

Directors:

Deb DeHart - (2022-2025)

Patrick Fairchild - (2023-2026)

Ange Ford - (2023-2025)

Robin Huttash - (2021-2024)

Barbara Lindley- (2021-2024)

Becky McCollum - (2022-2025)

Mary Perry - (2022-2025)

Patricia Reinke - (2018-2024)

Francesca Romano - (2023-2026)

Elsa Vasquez - (2023- 2026)

Jo Williams (2021-2024)

Stephen Zhang - (2023- 2026)

IMPORTANT EMAILS:

VISION Newsletter	VISION@VASTArts.org
VADO (Visual Artists Day Out)	VADO@VASTArts.org
Critique Session	Critique@VASTArts.org
Membership	VASTArtsMembershipChairperson@gmail.com

The VAST Board of Directors Executive Committee is happy to receive communications from VAST members about their concerns, suggestions (especially for workshops, programs, and events), and ideas for the betterment of VAST. Please see the Executive Committee emails on the Board of Directors page.