



Paint Strokes

Murrieta's Gem of the Valley Art Association

October Demonstrator

Valentina Ragsdale

Valentina was born in Russia and has lived in Southern California since 2004. As a child she loved to draw and paint and always dreamed of becoming an artist, and this led her to a full-time career in art. She finds great inspiration in the people around her, and she greatly admires creative people of any kind - photographers, architects, writers or musicians - and these provide an endless food for her soul.

Valentina works in the famous style of the Russian realist school. At the university of Design and Art, she studied Painting and Drawing, History of Art, and Sculpture. She has tried and worked with many art materials, but her favorites have always been oil and pastel. She considers herself a portrait artist, but can't resist painting a gorgeous bouquet or crashing waves of the ocean. She believes every medium dictates its own rules.

In the past, Valentina has worked as an Interior designer, Graphic designer, Colorist, Teacher of Drawing, Visual merchandiser, and Production Designer, but never stopped working at her easel and participating in different exhibits and shows with her fine art. She has received numerous awards and has her artworks in private collections of Russia, Mexico, Israel, Germany, and many other countries. She is very happy to be an Independent Fine Artist

<https://www.valentinaragsdale.com/>



New Members

Joan Fakhoury
Rhonda Fose
Kim Padulo
Donna Ramirez

Gem of the Valley Art Association

General Meeting

Date: October 6th, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Senior Center Main Hall
41717 Juniper, Murrieta

President's Message



OCTOBER.....REALLY???

Yes! And that begs the question....."witch" costume will you be wearing to the GEM meeting? Purple wigs are definitely in order, along with fun outfits, I think!! Wear what you want, you won't be judged.....but your artful entry will be! LOLOL

And the best part about our October get-together won't just be the fun snacks you bring, I'm willing to bet it'll be **VALENTINA RAGSDALE!** Our beautiful demonstrator who brings pastels to life, no matter the subject, will wow us once again. Check out her bio on the first page – I'm hearing she'll be doing a portrait for us, I just wonder who!!!

If you missed our September meeting to kick off 2025-26, you missed a great one. You won't want to miss this next meeting. To recap: You'll get to choose your category (Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced AND Photography) just like last year. And it'll be "one and done" – no second chances to change your mind. So, choose wisely and work hard for that promotion to the next level. Pick up a copy of the **Exhibitor's Guidelines** at the sign-in desk to understand the rules - there are a few changes from before.

IMPORTANT!! ALL RIBBON WINNERS (1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Winners AND People's Choice) are to bring your art to the Murrieta Library (right next door) after our meeting! Katie will have the Heritage Room display case open for us and Steve & I will be there to help you. Thanks to Patsy Kile, plenty of easels are already in the case so, please, don't be shy! Your ribbon winner has a place!

Gem ~ we're all about art!

Cathy

ATTENTION

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, please come prepared to do so at the October meeting. Please bring cash or a check for \$50.



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**Your 2025-2026
Board
Members
&
Committee
Members**

**We currently have 33 paid
members for the
2025/2026 season.**

Treasurer's Corner

Starting Balance	\$ 3,127.21
Monies out:	\$ 462.00
Monies In:	\$1,344.00
Sept. Ending Balance:	\$ 4,009.21
Cathy Keeney Treasurer	

September Demonstrator

Kat Furrow

Kat painted 3 paintings at once...here is the progression of one of them.

Here is the website to Kat's next class:
https://www.katfurrowart.com/workshops/standard_products/november-16-2025-sunflowers-mixed-media-workshop.



Here is the partially finished painting,



This is what the finished painting will look like.



Ron Baca was the lucky winner of Kat's donated painting



September Awards

Master Category

1st Place

2nd Place

3rdPlace

Not Enough Entries

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Advanced Level

1st Place

2nd Place

3rdPlace



Gina Wilson
"Vine Keeper's View"



Rick Wilson
"Faded Glory"



Lori Waggoner
"Peony"

Intermediate Level

1st Place



Ana Weimer
"Portugal"

2nd Place



Julie Byrd
"Fall Egret"

3rdPlace



Marci Schaffer
"Mom's Love"

Entry Level

1st Place



Kim Padulo
"Mr. Hooty"

2nd Place



Kathy Vasquez
"Thirsty Mouse"

3rdPlace



Jill Jones
"Quirky House"

Photography Category

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

No Entries

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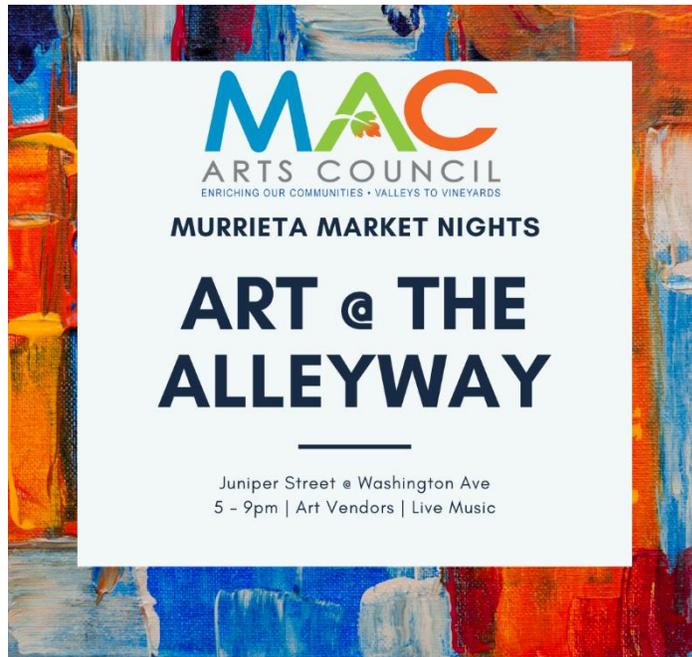
People's Choice



Gina Wilson
"Vine Keeper's View"

The Gathering Place

Good Friends, Good Food, Good Times



MACarts951@gmail.com

Call For Artists

Art @ The Alleyway

Artist vendor fee: \$25

Thursdays

All Year

Join us, and many others, each and every Thursday in Downtown Murrieta. Murrieta Market Nights is held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday year-round. 60+ vendors, music, food & of course ART! Open Mic Nights are held on the 2nd & 3rd Thursday @ The Alleyway. All ages & all talents are welcome!