

Spring Newsletter

Championing creativity and inspired art



DUNDAS VALLEY SCHOOL OF ART



GOODBYE 40'S, HELLO 50! That Was An Art Auction To Remember

Our 49th Live Auction event raises the highest proceeds in school history

Paddles shot up and the bidding was lively as art lovers responded to this year's superb selection of 52 art pieces during the Live Auction finale of our 49th Annual Art Auction.

"We couldn't ask for a better response," says Heather Vaugeois, auction coordinator and Director of Advancement for DVSA. "There was a buzz from the moment the front doors opened. The record bidding shows just how much auction goes connected with this year's selection of artworks."

Thousands of art patrons visited the school over the three days in April to view the art-filled studios that somehow managed to display a record 1,694 submissions. Proceeds from the Silent, Dream and Live auctions directly benefit the local artistic community and fund DVSA's mission to provide high-quality and accessible visual arts education programs for the region.



A huge thank you goes to the many individuals, businesses and contributing artists that supported the event. **And to our over 350 volunteers who help us mount the auction each year, our deep gratitude for your time, efforts and care.**

Shine On, DVSA

With funding help from our Annual Campaign, a major project this fall and winter was restoring the school's outdoor lightning to its original state, as it was after the 2010 renovations. Over the years, weather took its toll on the lighting fixtures with many eroding and in need of replacement. Not only does the new illumination make the school a glowing beacon for artists, but it also ensures our students can safely navigate the outdoor walkway and stairs when attending our evening classes and events. Thank you to all our Annual Campaign supporters for making this improvement possible.



ART AUCTION BY THE NUMBERS:

1,694 – artwork submissions

533 – participating artists

180 – new-to-the-auction artists

\$94,375 – total live auction proceeds (highest ever)

\$329,456 – total auction proceeds (highest ever)

\$125,290 – total payout to participating artists

One BIG March Break

“My granddaughter LOVED IT!! By the end of the week she said she wanted to quit Grade 1 and go to Art School! We’ll be back!” Those are the testimonials we love to hear, especially from a growing segment of grandparents enrolling their grandchildren in our art programs. Over 250 young artists (a new registration record!) took part in our action-packed March Break week filled with drawing, painting, pottery, cartooning, mosaics and more. And once again, with help from a number of generous corporate donors, we were able to provide over 10 bursaries to families who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford to send their young artist to Art Camp.



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AGING ARTFULLY

Going strong in its third year, our Aging Artfully outreach program continues to engage the senior community in visual art activities run by professional artists. The goal is to promote accessibility to the visual arts while offering opportunities for seniors to express their individual creativity. Two local senior centres took part in this year’s program – Wentworth Lodge and St. Joseph’s Villa – with art lessons on watercolour painting and sculpture offered at both locations.

“Some of the participants start

out hesitantly, but as they progress with their project, you see their confidence grow,” says Tina Destro, the program instructor. “Each senior artist has a history and story – they have lived a life filled with many experiences. To able to step into their day and encourage, inspire and artistically support them – that is a real privilege.”

Funding for Aging Artfully is generously provided by the Dougher Foundation and Schwenger Family Fund at Hamilton Community Foundation.

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TALKING ART

Learning from other artists is one of the seminal elements in an artist’s training. DVSA’s free Artist Talks series, consisting of 2-3 talks each term, provides our students with an excellent opportunity to hear from other working artists as they share information on their careers, inspiration, techniques and the work they produce.

“I’m continually reminded there are many different types of artists in this world,” says Janet Parker, an Artist Talk regular attendee. “The guest artists offer a different perspective. It’s helpful sometimes to know they too are still working through problems.” Adds student, Barb Townsend, “How other artists express things that are important to them and to be able to



An Artist Emerges

Ioana Dragomir is one of Ontario’s leading emerging artists. The DVSA Advanced Studio student’s work is currently featured in SHOW.19, now on at Idea Exchange Queen’s Square in Cambridge, ON. The exhibition brings together 13 emerging artists from across Ontario whose works, processes and preoccupations are the newest and latest in the world of contemporary art.

“It was an open call to be part of the show, so getting accepted is quite nice,” says an excited

Ioana. “My piece is called *Can a story be red and should it be based upon Autobiography of Red* by Anne Carson. It’s a pictorial retelling of the story by remapping out the red parts in it. There were 149 drawings to be installed.”

To top off a Spring filled with success, Ioana was also a recipient of a Women’s Art Association of Hamilton Scholarship and is planning to use that funding, in part, to curate a show in the DVSA Gallery based on the theme of translation.

“I don’t think I would be able to take on such ambitious projects if I wasn’t here at DVSA,” she says. “It’s been an opportunity to commit myself to my work and having John Wilkinson’s guidance has helped immensely – just having someone to speak with about my ideas and help formulate exactly what I’m doing.”

The new show opens in August – we can’t wait to see it.



Welcome Alicia!

Expect to see more of this cheerful face around DVSA. Our newest team member is Alicia Giansante, who signed on in the Fall to take up the role of Program Assistant. The significant growth in registrations over the past three years has created a need for more staffing as we work to meet demand for the high-quality programs we offer. An Art History & Studio Art grad from McMaster and a practicing artist herself, Alicia feels strongly DVSA is exactly where she’s meant to be – we couldn’t agree more!

peek into their thought process – that’s invaluable.”

Contributions to our Annual Campaign support these hour-long talks and not only provide inspiration for our students, but offer financial support to the visiting artists as they discuss what they love to do. After each talk, the guests are often invited to spend time in our Advanced Studio, offering creative input to the students on process and projects.

Speakers this year have included Sally McKay, Martin Pearce, Dagmar Kovar, Natasja Bischoff and Colin Lyons, representing a wide range of artists and educators working in various media and styles.



Proud New Partners

DVSA has partnered with community organization, The Eva Rothwell Centre, to run After School Art Programs for young artists, ages 4-10. Funded by Hamilton Community Foundation, these programs are an opportunity for DVSA to bring art education to children who are living in underserved neighbourhoods and engage them in projects that develop creative literacy. We look forward to sharing more about this exciting outreach initiative in our Fall edition!



Winter Colours

Winterblooms 2019 brings expanded exhibitions of vibrant floral arrangements and great art and artifacts

Presented in partnership by DVSA, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas Museum and Archives and Mohawk College's Continuing Education Floral Design program, the fourth edition of Dundas Winterblooms drew hundreds of art and floral lovers to the three exhibition locations in January. The four day event features free exhibitions of original artworks and precious artifacts, accompanied by fresh floral arrangements that take their inspiration from their paired work of art.

"The event keeps growing in popularity, compelling us to expand the exhibitions," says Claire Loughheed, our school Executive Director. "Bringing together the two art forms results in some stunning flower, art and artifact combinations. Plus, it brings a much welcome burst of colour to winter."



Art Heals

Divine intervention leads DVSA student to the perfect art class and a journey of healing



"Whatever you want to do, just do it."

Dana Bachetti was initially devastated by her cancer diagnosis. But, bolstered by her faith, the DVSA student

regrouped with a determination to live life to the fullest. She began with guitar lessons and as her health improved, decided to enrol in an oil painting class at DVSA.

"I studied watercolour on my own previously and wanted to try oil," Dana recalls. "I'd just enrolled in Beginners' Oil Painting on Monday evenings when I learned my cancer had come back and I'd have to start chemotherapy. I was about to drop the course when the school called to say it was cancelled, but they could move me to Landscape Painting in Oil with Susan Outlaw on Thursdays. I think it was divine intervention, because my chemo was scheduled for Fridays. I'd have chemo on Friday, feel miserable for several days and then begin to feel more myself in time for class on Thursdays. It was so therapeutic.

I looked forward to being in the studio and working on my paintings. I'd be all pumped up to have chemo on Friday again!"

So beneficial was the experience for her healing process, she enrolled in a second class. "I took the Waterscapes in Oil course, also with Susan. I'm amazed by her talent – I would watch her carefully, how she plans a piece, how she holds her paintbrush. I loved every minute of it. My mind was more occupied with painting than it was on feeling sick. It was a beautiful experience, making new friends and being part of a community of artists. It took me away from the illness and put me into a world of enjoyment."

Having fought cancer for the past 9 years, Dana recently learned she is now cancer free. But, that doesn't mean she'll be slowing down. "I'm off to Haiti this July to work in an orphanage. And, I'm hoping to do another course with Susan in the Fall. Or maybe a Pottery class?"

Her advice to others who may be managing an illness? "Do what you want to do. Go! Starting painting, make pottery, take guitar. It's all part of the healing and I can honestly say – art heals you."

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