

Vol 8, Issue 1.... January 2020
Easel Street News

The Inspire Your Heart with Art Issue

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Reality Into Fantasy



[Abel](#) (right)

In January, we celebrate "[Inspire Your Heart with Art Day](#)". And while it's officially celebrated on the last day of January, we use the entire month. Because we can.

Thirty artists' works. Wall and table art. Inspiring.

We also recognize our two Featured Artists, [Marla Montgomery](#) (left) and [Shara](#)



Marla is a fused glass artist at Artisans. Shara creates composite photography.

According to Shara, their works can "stretch the limits of glass artistry and composite photography, pushing reality into fantasy."

Want to see a glass long stemmed rose? In it's own gift box? How about a steam locomotive coming out of the smoke and haze?

See more of Shara's and Marla's works at our Artisans shop in Mount Dora; and on our web site, artisansonfifth.com.

And on the Second Friday of January, you might make it a point to visit us during Mount Dora's Art in the Alley from 5 to 9. You can nosh on some refreshments and visit with both Shara and Marla, who will be in residence to share their works and insights. You can check out all their works, as well as those of the other 38 members.

For more about fused glass and composite photography, see below.



Two Winners!



Each year, Artisans helps fund the Marilyn Dodge Scholarship for the Visual Arts, awarded by the Mount Dora Women's Committee of Fine Arts, to a local high school graduate.

This year, we went 'public' with our initiative; holding a drawing for two baskets containing donations from our members. One basket held items worth over \$400. The other, over

\$500.

On December 20, in time for Christmas, we drew the names of Kat Paulsen and Laura Adams. Congratulations to each of you!

For more information about the scholarships we support, go to artisansonfifth.com/scholarships.

For information about donating to Artisans and how those donations are used, go to artisansonfifth.com/donate.

The Mount Dora Art Festival



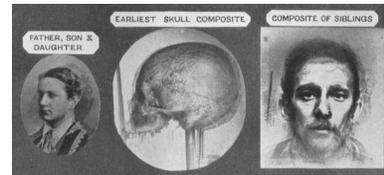
Once again, on **February 1st and 2nd**, Mount Dora will host it's 45th annual [Art Festival](#). Downtown will be taken over; and a mob of people will visit. Artisans will be there, of course, with our doors open to and welcoming all comers.

But you don't need to wait until the Art Festival to see our works. Do you. You can come any time at all when we are open. Tuesday through Thursday, 10-5, Friday and Saturday until 8, and Sunday 11-5.

Didja Know?

Composite Photography

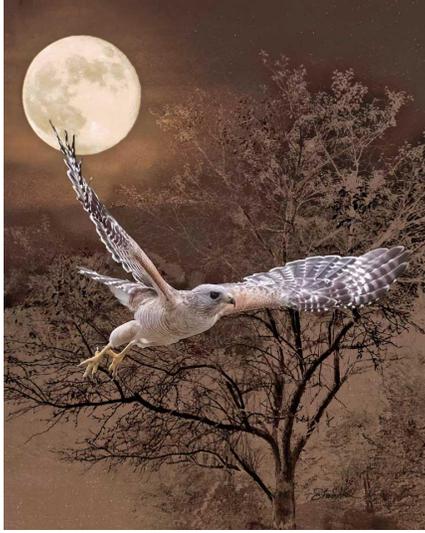
Sir Francis Galton in the late 1800's devised a technique for multiple exposures on the same negative plate. He wanted to form composite portraits of peoples' faces. He found the image created was far more attractive to viewers than any individual face, spurring research on human attractiveness, "averageness", ideal types and even the workings of the human mind. Thus, was born 'composite photography'. <http://galton.org/composite.htm>



Today, people who make composite photos generally process them digitally, using electronic tools and techniques such as;

- Focus stacking – combining different shots in to one.
- Compositing – creating more elaborate scenes than would be possible with just a camera.
- Layer masking – hiding layers, inverting masks, revealing what was hidden.
- Pens – cutting out objects.
- Blending tools – for effects in lighting and contrast.

Shara Abel enjoyed a nursing career for most of her working life, however, music and photography remained her passion. Today, if she is not writing music, she spends her time creating artistic masterpieces with composite photography.



Shara's pieces are creations of her imagination. Starting with her original photos and textures she incorporates varied and detailed editing techniques to create unique, one of a kind pieces of art that tell their own story.

She uses Photoshop and Topaz software in crafting her works. Patience, detail orientation and organization are mandatory as is a great deal of planning necessary to visualize a final outcome. She plans and chooses the images she wants to incorporate into and around her primary image, keeping in mind image size, contrast, light and perspective. Shara will sometimes use up to 75 layers of images to create her final product, while blending, shaping, resizing all of the images she is working with to create an aesthetic, believable piece of art.

We at Artisans, are all so very proud to have her works gracing our gallery walls.

Fused Glass

Glass is the magic that happens when you mix silica sand and lime and then heat it at high temperature to melt it. Different kinds of glass happen when you add other ingredients. And when you transform it using any of a number of different techniques, more magic happens. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass> . Fused glass is just one of these magical things. You fuse glass when you melt different pieces in a kiln together to make new forms, patterns and textures.



The first fusing and kiln casting was done by the Mesopotamians about 4,000 years ago. Then, glass was considered a precious metal alongside silver and gold. Fusing as a contemporary art form gained popularity in the US during the 1960's. Dale Chihuly <https://www.chihuly.com/life/writings/chihuly-artist-breathing-life-glass> is one of the better known artists in this medium. Some of his more renowned works are:

- "Fireworks of Glass", held by the Children's Museum in Indianapolis <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/exhibits/fireworks-of-glass>
- "Royal Blue Mint Chandelier", held by the Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC. <http://mintmuseums.org/art/collections/item/royal-blue-mint-chandelier/>

and

- "Summer Sun", on display at Kew Gardens, London. <https://www.art-critique.com/en/2019/05/dale-chihuly-at-kew-gardens/>



Marla Montgomery retired from owning a day spa in Portland Oregon and moved to Florida in 2011. She has always been a hobbyist, but her passion ignited when discovering glass fusion. Among other pieces she creates exquisite bowls, plates, decorative wall hangings and beautifully designed glass flowers. The techniques Marla likes most are:

- **Vitrographing** – where hot glass is pulled out of a hole on the bottom of a special kiln where it can be manipulated as it melts through.
- **Screen Melts** – where you melt glass through a special screen, creating swirling patterns that merge with one another.
- **Pot Melts** – where glass is melted in a suspended container with one or more holes on the bottom of it. When heated, the glass flows through the holes onto a kiln shelf below, twisting and turning to make intricate patterns.
- **Slumping** (draping) - Where glass is placed over a mold and heated until it slumps into or drapes over the shape.

Artisans has the honor of exhibiting her exquisite representation of this fine form of art.

Eleven Years, On

Eleven years ago, Artisans became a reality. On a shoestring. Briefly known as the "*Artisan Gift Shop and Hospitality Center*". Outfitted with some donated fixtures - and managed by some committed people. Last year, in preparation for our 10th anniversary, we captured some oral history from some of our founding members. For that story, go [here](#).

Since that modest beginning, we've slowly made improvements to our store and our operations. These improvements are continuing; and this coming summer, thanks to some significant donations, we will be, among other things, replacing our floor. More on that as it develops.

Join Us?

Artisans members paint, do fiber, photography, prints, mixed media, wood, basketry, glass, jewelry, clay and more. Check out all their works at artisansonfifth.com/our-artists.

If your work is remarkable; stands apart; and you think you might want to have your works made available in downtown Mount Dora, you can look at what it takes to join us at artisansonfifth.com/join-us. You can, of course, also visit us; and speak with one or more of our members if you wish.

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QUILTERS GUILD
LAKE COUNTY

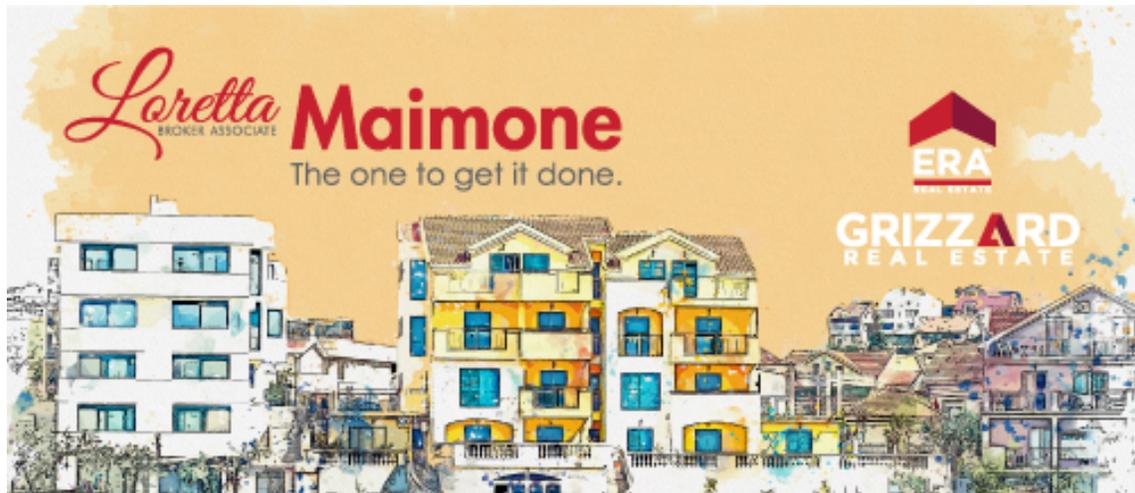


Make Friends.
Make Quilts.
Make a Difference.

Join us every Tuesday at 10:00 am
Mieluz Grand Hall, 415 N. Grove, Eustis, Fl.

Check out our website and follow us on Facebook to see what we have going on!

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STUDIO SPACE AVAILABLE



- Collaborative artists' space in Eustis
- Shared Gallery available
- Spaces are 9' x 15'
- Shared Classroom available

Those interested contact Jackii Molsick:
352.459.3585 or jmolsick@gmail.com



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ONGOING EVENTS IN AND AROUND MT. DORA

- **2nd Friday of each month – "Art in the Alley"** from 6 to 9 pm in downtown Mt. Dora. Start your art stroll at the Mt. Dora Center for the Arts and pickup a special map. You will have a chance to win a prize when you get all the punches. **10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE** at Artisans during "Art in the Alley."
- **Sundays – Mount Dora Village Farmers Market** at Sunset Park starting at 9 am.
- For more Mount Dora events click [HERE](#).

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