



What's Happening at the Ontario County Arts Council? Spring 2024

Mission Statement:

Experience the arts!

Ontario County Arts Council provides diverse opportunities for arts participation, understanding, and appreciation.

Joyce Kowba, OCAC Board President

Merrily we roll along! The arts council has so many activities coming up this year. Keep watching the website as new classes and activities are posted all the time. For April we took last year's successful Meet the Media and made the classes 3-D with needle felting, soap carving, rubber stamp carving and origami taught by our members. For those of you who still want more 2-D, in May we will have Drawing 101 and Acrylic Painting 101 classes for you. Please let us know if any of you have a suggestion for a class or want to teach a class at ocartsny@gmail.com.

We have re-branded our free Saturday Drop in and Draw sessions at the Historical Society. Open Art exemplifies our community outreach goal. These times are set aside for artistic camaraderie. Bring your project (knitting, writing, painting except oils, basket weaving, etc.) to the Historical Society and have fun working on it while chatting with OCAC and community members. If you would like to volunteer to demonstrate an aspect of your art informally, we would love that too, but it certainly is NOT a requirement. Just come and enjoy time spent artistically with artistic minded people! As always, we appreciate your membership and support in all we do. Hope to see many of you at these springtime events.

OCAC Members Art Exhibit - "Sky's the Limit"

Some say "The sky's the limit."- others believe they can go beyond!! Check out the new OCAC art exhibit located in the North Gallery of the Ontario County Historical Society Museum at 55 N. Main St.

Opening reception will be Saturday, March 30th 1-3:00 pm.

Enjoy:

* juried, original art by OCAC members

* light refreshments & wine

* 1:30 - OCAC Readers' Theater Players will perform an original, short skit written by OCAC member, Kathy Morris - "Total Eclipse Hotline."

How did ancient civilizations explain the eclipse? How close were they to the true reason for it? Find out the answers to those questions! And more!



Coming Soon to the Ontario County Arts Council Lobby at the Fort Hill Performing Arts Center
OCAC Artist, Victoria Connor's solo art exhibit!

Wild World Fibers!!

April 1 to May 29

Victoria will be doing an artist **"Meet & Greet" on May 19 from 1:30 - 3:00 pm.**
The Meet & Greet event will be included in the ticket price of the Finger Lakes Community Band performance of "Color Your World".

Ticket price information can be found at: <https://fhpac.thundertix.com/>



Drop-In and Draw is becoming - Open Art!

This is a fantastic and **FREE** opportunity to:

- get together with other OCAC members
- meet your OCAC board members
- relax, focus, create and recharge with like-minded people in a welcoming setting
- bring ANY project you like: sketch, water-color, pastel, knitting, sewing, mindfulness coloring, a good art-related book to discuss - anything! (except oil paints)

Make time for yourself and make time for your love of art. We'd love to see you!

Dates and times are always listed on the OCAC website: ocarts.org

Our next date is April 6, 11:30 to 2:30 at the Ontario County Historical Society Museum.



Our most successful workshop program and **fund-raiser** is back!

MEET THE MEDIA

This is a perfect chance to try a new art-form without having to buy expensive supplies you may not use again. Meet the Media is going 3-D!

Try:



soap-carving



rubber stamp making



origami



needle felting

Each session is only \$25. You can try 1, 2, 3 classes (or all 4 for only \$85).

Details are on the OCAC website at: <https://www.ocarts.org/events-and-workshops>

This is a great way to support the OCAC and its activities, including our scholarship fund. It's also a great way to meet new people and try new things.

Classes start in two short weeks, and space is limited. Sign up today!

Share your talents and knowledge by participating in OCAC's new -

DEMO PROGRAM

The arts council is looking for artists who would like to give an informal demo of their art form, or demonstrate a unique technique or project. This is open to any art form: 2-D, 3-D, fiber, writing, acting, etc. We would also be happy to include book talks if you have written or illustrated a book or you have a favorite art book you'd like to share.

Please contact us at: ocartsny@gmail.com if you would be interested in being a part of this new program. (Please don't volunteer other artists, thank you).

Ontario County Historical Society Updates



Upcoming Events

- March 29 Nooks & Crannies Tour 2 PM
- March 30 OCAC Art Reception 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- April 1-26 Final Month of Let's Go Have Fun! Exhibit
- April 6 OCAC Open Art 11:30 AM-2:30 PM
- April 25 Vinyl Record Night 6PM-8PM
- April 20 OCAC Open Art 11:30 AM-2:30 PM



Experience the arts!

OCAC Announces 2024 Grant Applications

We are accepting grant applications through April 1 from local nonprofit and government organizations for small projects to enhance the visual and performing arts in the county.

The arts council has established a budget of \$4,000 for 2024. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be announced by May 15. Projects must benefit the Ontario County community and enhance the arts as a whole.

Only a few days left to apply!!

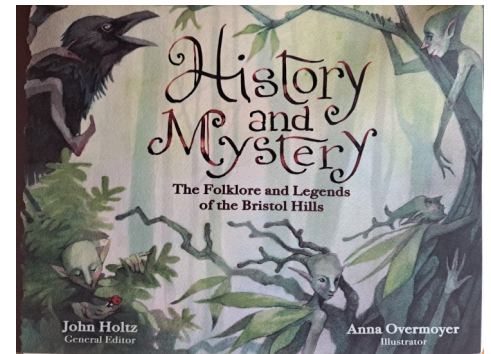
More information about grants can be found at: <https://www.ocarts.org/>

Thank you from a 2023 grant recipient -

Beth Thomas and The Bristol Hills Historical Society would like to thank the OCAC once again for the grant which helped to publish our book, History and Mystery - The Legends and Folklore of the Bristol Hills.

We are now in our fourth printing and are working with FLCC to bring our book to Finger Lakes TV in early fall. This will include dramatic readings of the entire book, and interviews with the artist, editor, and original painting owners. Copies of the book are for sale at Hopper Hills Floral & Gifts in Victor, heartfelt Designs in Bloomfield, and Reed Homestead gift shop in Honeoye.

Art has helped us share history in new ways! Thank you for your support!



Calling all artists!!

Are you one of our OCAC artists?

Would you like to exhibit your work?

We are inviting the artists in our membership to mount one or two person shows at the Fort Hill Performing Arts Center Gallery for 2025. You can exhibit and sell your art at this location, and you can hold a "Meet & Greet" reception with ticket holders of a Performing Arts Center Event which coincides with your show.

OCAC will provide PR for the show.

You would need to provide us with an inventory of your art, the title of your show, information on you as an artist and your work, an artist's statement, and some images of the work you want to exhibit.

An artist's agreement with all details, including commission, date of show, and all parties' responsibilities, would be signed between you and OCAC.

If you are interested in sharing your work with the community, please contact Harry Patrick, Ontario County Arts Council, 585-880-4292, hpatrick@rochester.rr.com, for more information.

Updates on OCAC Artist Members' Happenings!

Reminder to all OCAC artist—painters, performers, musicians!

If you would like to have your contact information listed on the artist directory page on the OCAC website please send the your information to: ocartsny@gmail.com first and last name, medium, website/Instagram, email, commissions taken yes or no

Victoria Brzustowiez - I have two paintings in the Rochester Art Club Signature Member Spring Exhibition at Hart Gallery27 in Brockport, and my painting, *Racehorses in Landscape*, was given a Juror's Award. I have three paintings juried into the Pastel Society of Western New York's Spring Exhibition at Barnes & Noble, Pittsford Plaza, which will be on display for the month of April. At the Art Shop in Penfield I am teaching *Oil Painting* and *Gouache Painting*. At Flower City Arts Center I am teaching *Intermediate Pastels*, *Fundamentals of Drawing*, *Illustration in Pen & Ink*, and *Gouache*. Or just go to my website to see what classes I'm offering: <https://www.victoriabcreative.com/workshops-classes>



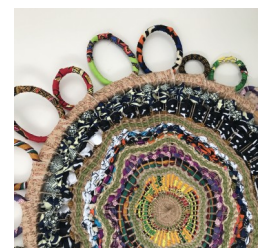
Karen Carlton - I will be participating in the East Aurora Art Walk on May 10th at Off Main Off Gallery, East Aurora, NY. I will have paintings on display for the months of June and July at the Castiglia Arts Center, Roycroft Campus, East Aurora.

Donna Patrick - Genesee Valley Quilt Club is holding their 2024 Quiltfest @ RIT field House May 17-19, 2024 for info go to www.geneseevalleyquiltfest.com You will be amazed at the quilts on display! They create a wonderful art show!!

Jerry Miller - I'll be exhibiting photo's at the Wood Library from March 27-May 3. The exhibit is titled, "Wild and Free", featuring wildlife from North and South America. Opening reception is on April 6th from 1-3 pm.

Jeremy Bach - I recently was asked by the Blank Wall Gallery in Athens, Greece if I would exhibit some of my work in Venice this coming June. Haven't been told which gallery as of yet just that it's in partnership with Blank Wall. Also, I just released a collection of short stories through Amazon titled, "Shadows", a mourning of the light" which will be part of a series.

Rachel Kraybil/ToolBoxEarth - as a first year participating artist I wanted to share that the next collection of weavings is being released April 22nd in celebration of Earth Day. The collection, Seven Veils, is inspired by the novel, *Skinny Legs and All*, by Tom Robbins. I am also publishing corresponding blog posts leading up to the release of the collection as an exploration of our own veils that we may benefit from dropping. For more information go to: <https://www.toolboxearth.com>



Jan Romeiser - I have a solo art show at the Cheshire Union until April 28th.

Maureen McCarthy— two of my poems were chosen for publication - *Cages*, in Poetica Review's 20th year anniversary anthology and, *Crow City*, in the journal, Plum Tree Tavern Best of 2023 Anthology.

Meet the Artist!

Victoria Connors



Tell something about your family, where you grew up, went to school, etc. Any mentors?

I grew up in a single mother household and we moved a lot when I was in grade school. One thing I appreciate about my mom was she often would take us camping or hiking. We always lived within the Finger Lakes region from Hemlock Lake to the Canandaigua area. My grandmother and grandfather were also a big part of my life. I often worked with my grandfather's commercial sewing machines used for carpet binding. Later on my grandmother took a major role in raising me. I started college while still attending high school which I am very thankful for. I went to Finger Lakes Community College then transferred to SUNY Geneseo. I don't work in the fields I majored in but thankfully I didn't attend art school and put myself in major debt either. My grandmother was my mentor and rock throughout my life until her passing in 2020. I took a long break from art after her passing.

Which artists have you been most influenced by?

My fiber artworks often have a very impressionist feeling to them. I don't particularly have a favorite artist or one that influenced my art. I feel the most drive and inspiration by my artists friends and ones I've met in my travels. I always enjoy the plein air artists out in the Sedona area as I feel we are trying to achieve the same goal but different mediums. capturing a beautiful moment in nature with art.

What type of art do you create? Has your style changed over time?



I have always enjoyed creating. Oil painting was my first medium of choice growing up. I first experimented with wool while making fedoras and fancy hats. I then discovered needle felting after seeing a demo and fell in love with the medium. I moved to Sheldrake off of Cayuga Lake soon after I discovered needle felting. It was perfect timing as I lived right in the heart of the Finger Lakes region and was surrounded by inspiring scenery. I was able to catch sunrise or sunset on Cayuga

Lake and Seneca Lake. Then I'd often sell my artwork in Ithaca and off the wine trails. I always enjoy doing landscapes and plein air but now I am branching out more into different techniques with the influence of nature. Currently I am doing more abstract flower pieces with more 3D reliefs to them. I am doing more felt painting with relief and embroidery. Not so much landscapes but still nature themed.

What inspires you to create art? Are there real life situations that inspire you?

Traveling to beautiful places was my biggest inspiration for the longest time. I currently have a list of mountain ranges around the world I plan to plein air needle felt. I am also experimenting more with needle felt reliefs and mix fiber mediums.

What is your favorite artist tool?

I really enjoy the new felting machines that have come out the last few years. I wish these had come out sooner when I was creating my national park series! All the large pieces I've done by hand have really taken a toll on my shoulder and wrist.

How important are titles to your art?

The majority of my art is nature themed, landscapes and national parks. I always had trouble with titles and artist statements. Either the landscape brings you joy and you know the spot or if you don't and the piece doesn't move you the title isn't going to either. I feel titles and statements are more important for nonobjective, abstract, art.

What are the hardest and best parts of creating art?

The hardest part is just creating it and getting projects done. Felting takes a toll on my shoulders and wrists. After my national park series, I had to slow down on the size and number of pieces I could create. Then I started managing a farm and could not create for a while. Now I am settling back into creating and finding what direction to go is a challenge.

Do you listen to music or podcasts when you create? What type and is it inspiring?

I listen to a little bit of everything while creating. I often start the day with NPR. When I have a large project to complete I often listen to house and techno music. It makes the felting process easier - dancing in place as I stab the wool.

Where can people go to see your art?

Currently I have work on display at the Fort Hill Performing Art Center, Canandaigua, NY. from April 1st to May 28th. I will be posting new shows and updates on Facebook and Instagram.

Do you have a website or Facebook page for your work?

Currently I am on Facebook as, VLC Fiber Arts, and my Etsy link can be found on my page by clicking on the "Shop Now" logo. I just changed my business name to VLC Fiber Arts so I am in the middle of changing my website over as well. You can also search Victoria Connors felt art and I come up in articles - Main Street Arts, PBS, an Australian radio podcast I did, and more.

Do you accept commissions?

Yes, people will often send me pictures of vacation trips or pets to do commissions.

Do you have a piece of artwork that you're most proud of? Why?

My Grand Tetons piece! I had to make two trips to the Grand Tetons National Park to complete this piece. It's currently still my favorite mountain range and I am not sure if I want to give this piece up just yet.



Professionally, what's your goal?

Currently, it is getting back into my professional art career. The market has changed since COVID and my sales were always networking or in person during art festivals. I never have issues selling my artwork, it's just getting in front of new customers. So far my goal is to host and teach one or two classes each month on needle felting. I am meeting with a PR advocate to work on my online sales so I can focus on creating.

Do you have a dream project that you'd like to create?

I would like to create a fiber art installation in a gallery. I want to do a mixed fiber installation with the theme of a secret garden or enchanted forest. I'll do giant felted flowers, butterflies, trees with faces. It will be a mix of natural materials such as vines to use to make trees and then with wire, wool, felt, paper to make the flowers, butterflies, etc. I could make this UV reactive as well. The goal is to make the gallery feel like its own little ecosystem and living creature.

These libraries would very much appreciate it if you would contact them to exhibit your art in the libraries:

Victor Farmington Library Greta Selin-Love www.victorfarmingtonlibrary.org or 585-924-2637

Bloomfield Library Danielle Tcholakian <dtcholakian@owwl.org> 585-657-6264

Naples Library Kendyl Litwiller napleslibrarydirector@owwl.org or 585-374-2757

Bristol Library Piety Exley, bristolibrarydirector@owwl.org (585) 229-5862

Canandaigua Wood Library Peter Blackwood peter@blackwoodphoto.com

OCAC Rotating Art Exhibits

When visiting local businesses in Canandaigua, Victor, Geneva, and Bloomfield that participate in **Rotating Artist Exhibits** please let them know how much you enjoy the art!

To see which artists are where, go to: <https://www.ocarts.org/rotating-exhibits>



"I don't like you, and you don't like me, but if we can figure this thing out, the sky's the limit."

Check our website www.ocarts.org for information and updates!
If you are on Facebook, please LIKE "Ontario County Arts Council"



Shout out to all of our Existing Members!!

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the arts in our community!

Please consider sponsoring a new member for their first year. It's only \$20.00!

Memberships information can be found at <https://www.ocarts.org/membership>