

Artist of the Month—Joal Litavsky

Many of you know Joal as the art trip organizer since 2002 with at least 56 Florida trips and 3 European trips to see the Masters and their homeland, studios and museums. But did you know that through Joal's suggestion in 2006, when Carolyn Johnson was President, the tradition of including an "artist of the month" at VAL meetings began?

Other things of interest about Joal are:

- Her personal collection of art books started a lending library in 2001.
- Introduced to the Brick Center for the Arts, her first entry was a lady embellished with feathers that they priced at \$600. In 2006 she donated 2 paintings to benefit the Marion County Cultural Alliance.
- She joined the Ocala Art Group and introduced her art as "going down the drain."
- Joal was VAL Secretary in 2004.
- In 2005 her watercolor "Red Hat Friends" was juried into a Florida artists' show at the Orlando Art Museum.
- She was board member for the Leesburg Art Group from 2006-2008.
- She was guest Plein Air artist for the Mt. Dora Center for the Arts in 2006, and in 2008 painted 2 banners to hang on lightposts in Tavares, then auction to benefit the Arts.
- Joal brought Sylvester Wells, historic Florida Highwayman Artist, to Arts on the Square.
- During her first trip to Venice and Murano in 2007, she was inspired by the masks and through a 9-year-old boy realized that her masks were really 3-D, not collage works.
- While she sold her first silk painting in 2000, she returned to silk painting in 2009 to give demos for AHA, VAA and small groups hoping to inspire them.
- Last year Joal donated many works of art for the Wounded Woman Warriors fund-raisers, close to her heart because her Father was a wounded WWII vet.

Joal has taken many workshops. Her wish to fellow artists is to find the journey as rewarding as she has!

