



## ARTIST SHOWCASE

To go back to the beginning of the Artists' Showcase you would have to start with a group of Village artists who got together to paint at Paradise Recreation Center back in 1989. At the time it was the only Recreation Center in The Villages where now there are 32. This painting group became the first resident-only art club, known today as The Villages Art League with almost 300 members. Beside establishing regular painting sessions in the various recreation centers three times a week for its members to paint together, the goal of the Art League has always been to provide a fine art venue where artists can showcase and sell their work to the general public.

The First Artists' Showcase was titled "Art in the Round" and it was held in April 1999, in the Carmen Miranda Room in the Paradise Recreation Center. This annual event has been in Katie Belle's at Spanish Springs and La Hacienda Regional Recreation Center in the past. It continued to move as it became more popular. It now takes up every banquet room and the theater room of the Savannah Center. Every year The Villages Art League and The Villages Recreation Department sponsor the Artists' Showcase at the Savannah Center in The Villages in November, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with more than 70 artists.

From one room in 1999, to all four banquet rooms and the theater room of the Savannah Center, the Art League and The Villages Recreation Department are still providing a venue for the many Village artists to show and sell their fine artwork.

The Artists' Showcase has grown over the years to become a major art show that is attended by people from many surrounding communities. This fine art showcase features original works in watercolor, oil, acrylics, pastels, colored pencil, pen and ink, graphite and charcoal. Admission is free and open to the general public.

A mail-in registration for the Artists' Showcase is held in October. Registration forms, floor plans and showcase rules are posted on the website. Artists keep 100% of their sales.