



Varley
Art Gallery
of Markham



Spring
2025

Public Programs

Table of Contents

- Land acknowledgement
- About the Varley
- Program registration
- Art classes for kids
- P.A. day camps
- Holiday workshops for kids
- Winter break camps
- Adult classes and workshops
- Volunteer at the Varley
- Contact us



Welcome

We acknowledge the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the current treaty holders Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.





About the Gallery

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham is a vital cultural hub for artists and diverse communities. A municipal gallery, we create critical conversations about Canadian art and society. We inspire local and national audiences to engage with art through outstanding exhibitions and rich public and educational programs relevant to the communities we serve. We also share and celebrate the life and work of F. H. Varley, a founding member of the Group of Seven.





Program Registration

How to register

Registration opens on August 13, 2024. Sign up for programs at [CityofMarkham.perfectmind.com](https://www.cityofmarkham.ca/perfectmind.com) or call the City of Markham's Contact Centre at 905.475.4731 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM). Non-residents incur additional fees. Seniors save 30%

Accessibility

If you, or your child require accommodations, contact Public Program Coordinator, Rachel D'Oliveira Fell at rdoliveirafell@markham.ca.

Members Save!

Become a Varley member and save 10% on all programs at the gallery. Seniors do not receive our members discount, however do get an additional 30% city-wide.



Children's Art Classes

Storyteller's Studio

Ages 5 to 6 | 10 AM to 12 PM

Saturdays, April 12 to June 21* | \$346 for 10 sessions

Storyteller's Studio is designed to inspire young minds through hands-on exploration, learning, and fun! The program combines education and imagination, helping little artists develop fine motor skills, confidence, and a love for self-expression.

Each week, your child will:

- Discover new art techniques and concepts (colour theory, shapes, and patterns).
- Explore creative themes like nature, storytelling, and cultures around the world.
- Collaborate on exciting group projects to foster teamwork.
- Take home their own finished artworks, from vibrant paintings to textured collages.

The grand finale? A special art showcase where parents can celebrate their child's artistic achievements! All materials are provided.

*No classes on June 7, 2025 due to Unionville Festival.





Children's Art Classes

Colour Lab

Ages 5 to 6 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Saturdays, April 12 to June 21* | \$346 for 10 sessions

Perfect for young learners, this program combines playful exploration with foundational art education to spark curiosity and develop essential skills.

Each week, your child will:

- Explore a variety of materials like clay, textiles, and paint through guided, interactive projects.
- Learn key art concepts such as color, texture, and composition in an engaging and accessible way.
- Build problem-solving, fine motor skills, and confidence through hands-on creativity.

Set in an inspiring studio environment, this class fosters a love of learning and self-expression as kids create one-of-a-kind colourful art pieces. All materials are provided.

*No classes on June 7, 2025 due to Unionville Festival.





Children's Art Classes

Art Explorers: Elements of Art

Ages 7 to 10 | 10 AM to 12 PM

Saturdays, April 12 to June 21* | \$346 for 10 sessions

Discover the foundations of art and design! Perfect for curious young creators, this class offers a balance of education and hands-on activities to nurture artistic skills and confidence. The program culminates in an inspiring art showcase, where parents can admire their child's portfolio and celebrate their artistic growth.

Each week, your child will:

- Dive deep into essential art elements like line, colour, texture, and space.
- Experiment with a variety of mediums, from drawing and painting to sculpture and mixed media.
- Learn techniques inspired by famous artists and global art traditions.
- Work on individual and collaborative projects that challenge creativity and problem-solving.

Encourage your child to explore their creativity while building a strong foundation in art and design. All materials are included.

*No classes on June 7, 2025 due to Unionville Festival.





Children's Art Classes

Shape Makers Sculpture Studio

Ages 8 to 12 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Saturdays, April 12 to June 21* | \$346 for 10 sessions

This dynamic program invites young artists to explore the possibilities of three-dimensional art while learning essential techniques and building their skills.

Each week, your child will:

- Work with a variety of materials, including clay, wire, and recycled objects.
- Learn techniques like modeling, carving, and assembling to bring their ideas to life.
- Develop problem-solving, spatial awareness, and fine motor skills through engaging projects.

From abstract forms to imaginative creations, every session encourages self-expression and innovative thinking. Set in a collaborative studio environment, this class is perfect for kids ready to explore the world of sculpture. All materials are included.

*No classes on June 7, 2025 due to Unionville Festival.





Children's Art Classes

Mixed Media for Mini Artists

Ages 4 to 6 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Sundays, April 13 to June 22* | \$346 for 10 sessions

Introduce your little one to the wonders of the art studio in Mixed Media for Mini Artists, a playful and hands-on class designed for budding artists ages 4 to 6. Perfect for curious minds, this program encourages creativity and exploration through a variety of materials and techniques.

Each week, your child will:

- Experiment with mixed media like paint, clay, paper, and recycled objects.
- Learn foundational art concepts such as colour, shape, and texture.
- Build confidence, motor skills, and creativity through fun and engaging projects.

In a nurturing studio environment, kids will create unique, imaginative masterpieces while discovering the joy of self-expression. All materials are included.

*No classes on April 20 and June 8, 2025.





Children's Holiday Art Workshops



Easter Egg Painting Party!

Ages 5 to 8 | 1 PM to 2:30 PM

Sunday, April 13 | \$35

Join us at the Varley Art Gallery for a colourful, egg-citing adventure designed just for kids ages 5 to 8! Bring your imagination and get ready to paint, decorate, and bedazzle your very own Easter eggs in a fun and creative environment. Parents are welcome to explore the gallery while the little ones dive into this “egg-straordinary” art-making experience. All materials are included.



Adult 8-Week Art Classes

Watercolour: Beginner to Intermediate

Wednesdays, April 9 to June 4 (no class on May 21)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Learn the basics of watercolour painting while having fun with distinctive techniques. Through artist's demonstrations and painting exercises, you'll build an understanding of colour theory, layering techniques, and composition. No experience required.

Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Lori Spendiff

Introduction to Drawing

Wednesdays, April 9 to May 28
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Build your creative skill set with the class that puts the “fun” in the FUNdamentals of drawing! Learn how to use a variety of drawing tools while exploring topics such as: line, form, value, light, shadow, and perspective. Each week we will cover a new drawing theme with a series of still lifes to sharpen our drawing skills. Materials not included. Suitable for all skill levels.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris





Adult 8-Week Art Classes



Photo credit: Linda Kalianteris

Landscape Painting

Thursdays, April 10 to May 29
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Discover the beauty of painting landscapes in this hands-on course designed to introduce you to the fundamentals of landscape painting. Explore topics such as: oil painting safety, composition, value, and design, as well as focused lessons on how to paint sky, trees, clouds, buildings, shrubs, flowers and more. With step by step instructor guidance and critiques, this course is suitable for both beginner and seasoned landscape painters. Materials not provided.
Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris

Introduction to Oil Paint: Beginner to Intermediate

Thursdays, April 10 to May 29
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Have you always wanted to paint with oils? Learn the technique of oil painting while exploring topics such as: studio safety and clean up, composition, colour mixing, and energetic brush strokes! This course is perfect for beginner and experienced painters who would like to add oils to their skill set. Materials not provided.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Photo credit: Linda Kalianteris



Adult 8-Week Art Classes



Photo credit: Linda Kalianteris

Introduction to Portrait Drawing: Beginner to Intermediate

Fridays, April 11 to June 6 (no class on April 18)
10AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Discover the art of Portraiture! We will focus on the fundamentals of portraiture to understand the construction of the face and head by using a simple step by step drawing method. Next, we will use shading to create value and form, and together we will work towards capturing a likeness while drawing a professional model. Suitable for all skill levels. Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris

The Painted Portrait: Advanced

Fridays, April 11 to June 6 (no class on April 18)
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Simplify your portraiture palette and learn the art of mixing skin tones with only 3 colours + white in this advanced portrait painting course. Using the “Zorn” palette we will explore an easy system to quickly and accurately mix warm and cool flesh tones in oil or acrylic paint. Topics include brush drawing, mixing accurate skin tones, layering paint, and capturing a likeness while working from a professional model. Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Photo credit: Linda Kalianteris



Adult 8-Week Art Classes



Intro to Acrylics: Painting for Pleasure

Fridays, April 11 to June 6 (no class on April 18)

10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 for 8 sessions

Whether you are new to painting or returning to your practice, this course is a great way to relax and enjoy the painting process. Work in acrylics on paper and canvas along side the instructor as she guides you through beginner techniques to create landscapes, portraits, and still-life paintings from reference images. No experience required. Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Bernadette Lau



Adult Four-Week Art Classes



Try it! Intro to Art

Wednesdays, April 9 to 30 | 1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189 for 4 sessions

All are welcome to our Try it! 4 week studio series with artist and instructor Sarka Buchl-Stephenson. In a relaxed and inclusive environment, you'll be guided through a variety of media, learning how to draw and paint. Demonstrations and hands-on exercises will be provided. No experience required; just come with an open mind and leave your fears at the door. Designed for participants who have not previously registered for a Varley Art Gallery program.



Adult Four-Week Art Classes



Watercolour – Intermediate to Advanced

Wednesdays, May 7 to June 4 (No class May 21)
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189 for 4 sessions

Painting in watercolours is both exciting and rewarding. Further your knowledge of basic techniques with colour, value, and design theories by painting flowers and still lifes from reference photos. Participants should have completed an introductory level course, or have some experience with watercolours before signing up for this intermediate level class. Materials not provided.

Artist/Instructor: Lori Spendiff



Adult Four-Week Art Classes



Hand-building 101: Pottery for Beginners

Wednesdays, April 9 to 30 and May 7 to 28 (two four-week sessions available)
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189 for 4 sessions

Get ready to jump into the world of ceramics! In this hands-on class, you'll learn essential hand-building techniques like pinch pots, coiling, slab building, and more. Perfect for beginners, this class will help you explore your creativity in a fun, relaxing environment and give you a skill set to last you a lifetime! Some materials provided. Additional fee for clay is required.

Artist/Instructor: Lindsay Franks



Adult Four-Week Art Classes



Acrylic Pouring for Beginners

Thursdays, April 10 to May 1 | 1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189

Paint pouring has never been so popular. Join us in the studio with established artist and instructor Olivana Tonon to explore acrylic paints as a fluid tool for creating expressive, abstract paintings. Open to all experience levels, this four week course offers artist demonstrations, personalized guidance, and class critiques to help you enhance your understanding of color and composition. Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Olivana Tonon

Acrylic Pouring: Advanced Techniques

Thursdays, May 8 to May 29 | 1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189

Join us in the studio with established artist and instructor Olivana Tonon to explore acrylic paints as a fluid tool for creating expressive, abstract paintings. Open to those who have previous experience with fluid acrylics, this course offers artist demonstrations, personalized guidance, and class critiques to help you enhance your understanding of color and composition. Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Olivana Tonon





Adult One-Day Art Workshop



The Art of Printmaking: Hand-Made Cards

Sunday, April 6 | 1 to 4 PM | \$60 for one session

Learn the basics of printmaking while designing and printing unique cards to take home. No experience needed—just bring your creativity! Materials not provided.

Artist/Instructor: Sarka Buchl-Stephenson



Adult One-Day Art Workshops

with Erica Pinto

Brush Calligraphy: Beginner

Ages 16 + | Sunday, April 27 | 1 PM to 4 PM | \$60

Brush pen calligraphy is a beautiful art form that can be used to add a personal touch to everything from greeting cards to event signage. Students will learn the fundamentals of modern brush pen calligraphy, including how to hold a brush pen, form basic strokes, and connect these strokes to form lowercase letters and words. Students will receive a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. No experience required. Materials not included.

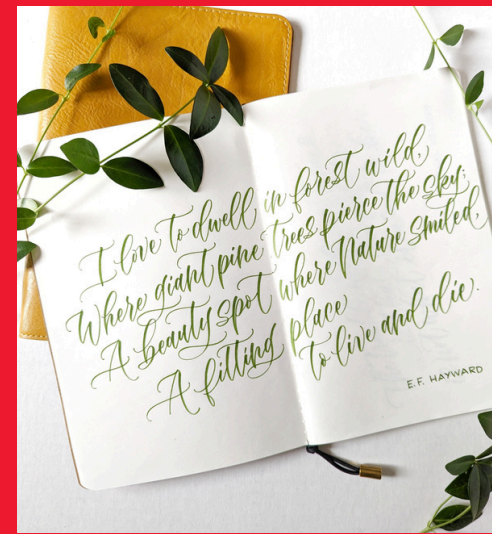


Photo credit: Erica Pinto

Brush Calligraphy: Intermediate

Ages 16+ | Sunday, May 25 | 1 PM to 4 PM | \$60

This class is designed for anyone who has taken a beginner-level brush pen calligraphy program. Students will practice uppercase letters and learn how to use these in combination with lowercase letters and words. The workshop will also enhance their calligraphy by experimenting with style variations and simple flourishes. Students will receive a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. Materials not included.

Brush Calligraphy: Advanced

Ages 16 + | Sunday, June 22 | 1 PM to 4 PM | \$60

Ready to take your calligraphy skills to the next level? Designed for those who have taken a beginner-level class, this workshop will guide you through the essential steps of designing a polished, finished piece. We'll cover drafting, composition, and techniques for adding beautiful embellishments. Students will receive a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. Materials not included.



Adult Two-Day Art Workshop



Hand-Building: Coiling

Sunday, May 11 and 18

10 AM to 2 PM | \$160 for 2 sessions

Coiling is a foundational technique that gives beginners the key to success for any ceramic project. In week 1, you'll get to learn coiling with a hands-on lesson and guided projects. In week 2, you'll get to decorate your very own pieces, paint-your-own-pottery style! This workshop is perfect for anyone who wants to expand their creativity with a new, tactile medium. Some materials provided. Additional fee for clay required.

Artist/Instructor: Lindsay Franks

Volunteer at the Varley

Assist with art education
programming in your
community.

We are looking for people (ages
14+) with an interest in art to
help us:

- Run special events
- Assist with Children's
programs
- Monitor the Exhibition
Galleries (Gallery
Attendants)

Learn more at markham.ca



Contact us

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