



Varley
Art Gallery
of Markham

Registered Programs
Spring 2026



Where learning meets imagination.
216 Main St. Unionville, Markham



Welcome to the Varley Art Gallery of Markham

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 meaningful 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.

Public Hours

Tuesday to Friday | 12 to 4 PM
Saturday and Sunday | 10 AM to 5 PM
Monday | Closed

Contact Us

905-477-7000 ext. 3261

varley@markham.ca

[f](#) [@](#) [x](#) [v](#) VarleyArtGallery



Weekend 10-week Art Classes for Children

Start with Art!

Saturdays, March 28 to May 30
Ages 4 to 6 | 10 AM to 12 PM | \$361

Let your child's creativity shine at the Varley with fun, inclusive projects in drawing, painting, and sculpting that build skills and confidence.

Art Explorers

Saturdays, March 28 to May 30
Ages 5 to 6 | 1 to 3 PM | \$361

Young artists will love this fun studio where they can play, paint, and explore using a variety of materials and gallery inspiration. Along the way, they'll build confidence, make friends, and create art they'll be proud of.

Elements of Art and Design

Saturdays, March 28 to May 30
Ages 7 to 10 | 10 AM to 12 PM | \$361

Ignite your child's creativity in a fun, supportive studio where they'll explore drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media with guidance from a professional artist. Gallery visits and demos will inspire them to create art.

Sculpture Studio

Saturdays, March 28 to May 30
Ages 8 to 12 | 1 to 3 PM | \$361

Get ready to build, mold, and create in this hands-on studio where kids explore sculpture with clay, wire, plaster, and found materials. With guidance from a professional artist, they'll bring ideas to life and showcase their creations.



Weekend 10-week Art Classes for Children

Mixed Media for Mini Artists

Sundays, March 29 to May 31
Ages 4 to 6 | 10 AM to 12 PM | \$361

In this playful class, mini artists will explore painting, drawing, collage, and sculpting. Guided by experienced instructors and inspired by gallery visits, kids will develop skills, experiment with materials, and express themselves through art.

After-School 10-week Art Classes for Youth

Intro to Digital Art

Thursdays, April 9 to June 11
Ages 8 to 12 | 4 to 6 PM | \$361

Young artists will explore tools and techniques in Krita, a free digital art program, to bring their ideas to life using laptops and drawing tablets. Topics include characters, landscapes, and abstract designs. Emphasis will be placed on building drawing skills, understanding layers, colour mixing, and blending modes.

Fine Art for Young Adults

Thursdays, April 9 to June 11
Ages 14 to 18 | 6:30 to 8:30 PM | \$361

This engaging program invites young artists to explore drawing, painting, printing, and other fine art techniques while learning key concepts like composition, colour theory, and perspective.



Holiday Workshops for Children

Spring into Art: Easter Workshop

Sunday, March 29

Ages 5 to 8 | 1 to 3 PM | \$38

Hop into a 2-hour mixed media adventure! Kids will paint, collage, and craft bright spring-inspired creations to take home.

Summer Camps at the Varley

July and August (9 weeks)

Ages 4 to 12 | 9 AM to 4 PM | \$441/week

Spark creativity all summer long at the Varley! Our week-long, arts-based summer camps invite children ages 4 to 12 to explore, imagine, and create in a vibrant gallery setting. Each full-day camp runs from 9 AM to 4 PM and is packed with hands-on artmaking, playful exploration, and plenty of opportunities for self-expression.

Guided by experienced instructors, campers dive into a mix of visual arts, creative projects, and gallery-inspired activities designed to build confidence, curiosity, and creative skills—all while having a ton of fun. Whether they love painting, drawing, building, or just getting messy with art, every child leaves with new friends, big ideas, and artwork they'll be proud to show off.



Evening Programs for Adults

Introduction to Drawing

Mondays, April 6 to June 8* (8 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Build your creative confidence and have fun learning the fundamentals of drawing! Explore line, form, value, light, shadow, shading, and perspective through themed still life each week. Perfect for all skill levels. Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris

*No class on May 18 and 25

Landscape Painting

Tuesdays, April 7 to May 26 (8 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Discover the joy of painting landscapes! Learn composition, value, and design while developing your personal painting style. Step-by-step guidance and constructive critiques included. Perfect for beginners and seasoned painters. Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris

Photography 101

Wednesdays, April 8 to May 27 (8 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

This introductory course is perfect for anyone new to photography. Learn the basics of composition, lighting, and camera use while practicing simple skills in a relaxed, supportive environment. Artist/instructor: Joel Clements



Image: Instructor Oliviana Tonon



Evening Programs for Adults

Acrylic Pouring

Thursdays, April 9 to May 28 (8 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Learn the fundamentals of colour and composition while creating vibrant, abstract pieces. This program is perfect for anyone looking to unleash their creativity and enjoy a hands-on artistic experience.

Artist/instructor: Oliviana Tonon

Linocut Printmaking

Fridays, April 10 to May 1 (4 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$197

Learn design, carving, inking, and printing while experimenting with texture, colour, and composition. Perfect for beginners or anyone wanting to try a hands-on printmaking technique.

Artist/instructor: Sydney Hanson

Impressions of Nature: Texture and Colour in Acrylics

Mondays, April 27 to May 11 (3 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$147

This beginner program introduces participants to acrylic paints and mediums by creating an impressionistic landscape, waterscape, or poppy painting. Explore acrylics, learn to build textured surfaces, practice core colour-mixing skills, and develop colourful layered backgrounds. The final session focuses on adding detail, depth, and expressive marks to create an expressive finished painting. No experience required.

Artist/instructor: Karen Hague



Evening Programs for Adults

Watercolours for Beginners

Tuesdays, May 5 to June 9 (6 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$295

Learn the basics of watercolour painting while having fun! Explore colour, layering, and composition through demonstrations and hands-on painting. Perfect for beginners or those refreshing their skills.

Artist/instructor: Lori Spendiff

Screen Printing

Fridays, May 8 to May 29 (4 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$197

Discover the art of screen printing in this hands-on course designed for beginners. Learn how to create your own designs and print them onto textiles, including t-shirts, tote bags, and fabric panels. Explore basic techniques, tools, and color application, and leave with your own custom-printed creations. Perfect for anyone looking to add a personal, creative touch to fabric projects. Some materials provided.

Artist/Instructor: Sydney Hanson



Image: Instructor Linda Kalianteris



Image: Instructor Linda Kalianteris

Evening Open Studio for Adults

Life Drawing Drop-in Studio

Wednesdays, April 8 to June 3*

5 to 8 PM | Ages 18+ | \$25 each

Co-presented with the Markham Group of Artists, this weekly program offers non-instructional life drawing sessions featuring a live, clothed model in long poses. Open to artists of all skill levels, it provides a relaxed and supportive environment for exploring portraiture and figure drawing.

Please bring your own materials including easels.

*No drop-in life drawing session on May 6.

Art Classes for Adults

Introduction to Oil Painting and the Art of Still Life

Thursdays, April 9 to May 28 (8 Weeks)

10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Experience the beauty of oil painting! Learn the techniques and fundamentals of still life painting, including composition, colour mixing, and brushwork. Ideal for beginners and experienced painters eager to explore oils.

Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Image: Instructor Linda Kalianteris



Art Classes for Adults

Landscape Painting

Thursdays, April 9 to May 28 (8 Weeks)
1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Discover the joy of painting landscapes! Learn composition, value, and design while developing your personal painting style. Step-by-step guidance and constructive critiques included. Perfect for beginners and seasoned painters.

Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris

Intro to Acrylics: Painting for Pleasure

Fridays, April 10 to May 29 (8 Weeks)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

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 as the instructor guides you through beginner techniques to create landscapes, portraits, and still-life paintings from reference images. No experience required.

Artist/Instructor: Bernadette Lau



Art Classes for Adults

Acrylic Pouring

Session 1: Fris., April 10 to May 1 (4 Weeks)

Session 2: Fris., May 8 to 29 (4 Weeks)

1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$197 per session

Learn the fundamentals of colour and composition while creating vibrant, abstract pieces. This program is perfect for anyone looking to unleash their creativity and enjoy a hands-on artistic experience.

Artist/instructor: Olivana Tonon



Image: Instructor Linda Kalianteris

Introduction to Portrait Drawing

Fridays, April 17 to June 5 (8 Weeks)

10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

This program will focus on the basics of portraiture to understand the construction of the face and head using a step-by-step drawing method. Next, we will use shading to create value and form. Together, we will work towards capturing a likeness while drawing a professional model.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris



The Painted Portrait

Fridays, April 17 to June 5 (8 Weeks)

1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

With a limited palette, learn to capture likeness using colour mixing, layering, and shading. You will be guided through the art of portraiture in a studio environment. Registration in conjunction with "Introduction to Portrait Drawing" is recommended.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Art Classes for Adults

Watercolours: Beginner to Intermediate

Weds., April 29 to June 17 (8 Weeks)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Learn the basics of watercolour painting while having fun with distinctive techniques. Through artist's demonstrations, exercises, and lots of time painting, you'll build an understanding of colour theory, layering techniques, and composition. Perfect for beginners or those refreshing their skills.

Artist/Instructor: Lori Spendiff

Watercolours: Intermediate to Advanced

Weds., April 29 to June 17 (8 Weeks)
1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Take your watercolour skills further! Build on basic techniques and explore colour, value, and composition through flowers and still life. Recommended for students with some prior watercolour experience.

Artist/instructor: Lori Spendiff



Weekend Workshops for Adults

Sculpting with Fibre

Sunday, April 19

10:30 AM to 3:30 PM | \$104*

Step into the world of wet felting and create your own everlasting spring flowers. This hands-on workshop introduces an ancient fibre art that transforms loose wool into sculptural forms using water, soap, and friction. Design your flowers inspired by nature or your imagination, and choose to finish each piece with a stem or as a wearable pin. Participants will take home 2–3 completed flowers, along with additional materials to continue exploring the art of felting at home. This workshop is perfect for beginners and inspiring for those with felting experience.

Artist/Instructor: Rumy Glogova

*A materials kit (\$25) is payable to the instructor (cash accepted). Additional specialty fibres will be available based on individual project needs.



Acrylic Pouring

Sunday, April 19

1 to 4 PM | \$60

Dive into the fun of acrylic pouring! Learn the fundamentals of colour and composition while creating abstract pieces. Perfect for anyone looking to enjoy a hands-on artistic experience.

Artist/instructor: Olivana Tonon





Image: Instructor Erica Pinto



Image: Instructor Rumy Glogova



Image: Louis Li Photography

Weekend Workshops for Adults

Brush Calligraphy: Beginners

Sundays, April 26 and June 14
1 to 4 PM | Ages 16+ | \$60 each

Brush pen calligraphy adds a personal touch to everything from greeting cards to event signage. Learn the basics of modern brush calligraphy, including how to hold a brush pen, form basic strokes, and connect them to form lowercase letters and words. Students will receive a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. Artist/instructor: Erica Pinto

Painting with Fibre

Sun., May 3 | 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM | \$104*

Create a unique Tree of Life wall hanging while learning the fundamentals of traditional needle felting and wet felting. This tactile and meditative experience invites students to explore the transformation of loose wool fibre using water, soap, and their hands, while playing with colour and texture. Suitable for all levels.

Artist/Instructor: Rumy Glogova

*A materials kit (\$25) is payable to the instructor. Additional specialty fibres will be available.

Mixed Media and Collage

Sun., May 31 | 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM | \$104

This beginner-friendly workshop introduces participants to creating art using a variety of materials. Learn simple techniques for layering, cutting, and combining images and textures to make a unique artwork.

Artist/instructor: Olivana Tonon



Code of Conduct

The Varley Art Gallery of Markham is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all. All staff, volunteers, participants, and facility users are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and manner, uphold the rights and dignity of others, and exercise due care and responsibility in the use of City property and the property of others.

Withdrawal and Refund Policy

A full refund will be provided for any [withdrawal and refund request form](#) submitted to the City of Markham more than seven days (exactly 168 hours) before the start time of the first class of the program. Clients can withdraw online; no withdrawal and refund request form is required.

No transfers, withdrawal, or refunds will be provided for any requests submitted within seven days (exactly 168 hours), on, or after, the start time of the first class of the registered specialty program.

Please note that the registration system does allow a client to withdraw from a course online within seven days (exactly 168 hours) of the start time of the first class of the program but will not provide a refund or a credit. If this occurs, please contact the contact centre for assistance. The policy for registered specialty programs as indicated above still applies when this occurs.

A full refund will be provided for any course that the City of Markham cancels before the course start date.

For assistance and questions relating to the Transfer, Withdrawal and Refund Policy, please contact the contact centre at customerservice@markham.ca or by phone at 905.477.5530, Monday to Friday 8 AM to 5 PM.

Program Registration

Register for our Spring 2026 public programs:

- Programs online preview: January 31, 2026
- Programs registration starts February 24, 2026 (6:30 AM)

Non-Markham resident registration begins one day later.

Children's and Youth Programs:



Adult Programs:



Ways to Register

Online

- Create an [account](#) with the City of Markham
- Enter all the required fields
- After hitting "submit", a temporary password will be sent to your e-mail

Once your new password is created, you are all done! You can now add family members and financial information to your account making registration for all programs with the City of Markham that much easier.

By phone

Call the Contact Centre at 905.477.5530 Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM to register.

Members Save!

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

