



Varley
Art Gallery
of Markham

Registered Programs
Winter 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
    VarleyArtGallery





Weekend Art Classes for Children

Start with Art!

Saturdays, January 10 to March 21* (10 Weeks)
Ages 4 to 5 | 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. All materials included.

Art Explorers

Saturdays, January 10 to March 21* (10 Weeks)
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. All materials included.

Elements of Art and Design

Saturdays, January 10 to March 21* (10 Weeks)
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 they can proudly showcase. All materials included.

*No art classes on Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22 due to LunarFest, a family-friendly event. Join us at the Varley for this free celebration featuring cultural activities, performances, and art-making fun for all ages.



Weekend Art Classes for Children

Sculpture Studio

Saturdays, January 10 to March 21* (10 Weeks)
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. All materials provided.

Mixed Media for Mini Artists

Sundays, January 11 to March 22* (10 Weeks)
Ages 4 to 6 | 1 to 3 PM | \$361

Spark your little one's creativity in this playful class where mini artists 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. All materials provided.

*No art classes on Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22 due to LunarFest, a family-friendly event. Join us at the Varley for this free celebration featuring cultural activities, performances, and art-making fun for all ages.





After-School Art Classes for Youth

Animate It! A Stop Motion and Storyboarding Studio

Tuesdays, January 6 to March 10 (10 Weeks)
Ages 8 to 12 | 4 to 6 PM | \$361

Dive into the world of animation in this hands-on studio where students explore drawing, character design, storyboarding, and stop-motion animation. Using tablets, sketchbooks, and plasticine, they'll bring ideas to life and showcase original short films. Students must bring their own tablet.

Fine Art for Young Adults

Tuesdays, January 6 to March 10 (10 Weeks)
Ages 11 to 14 | 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, color theory, and perspective. Guided by experienced instructors, students will experiment, express themselves, and gain confidence. All materials included.





After-School Art Classes for Youth

Digital Art for Beginners

Wednesdays, January 7 to March 11 (10 Weeks)
Ages 8 to 12 | 4 to 6 PM | \$361

Using laptops and drawing tablets, students will explore tools and techniques in Krita, a free digital art program, to bring their ideas to life, whether it's characters, landscapes, or abstract designs. Emphasis will be placed on building drawing skills, understanding layers, color mixing, and blending modes, and gaining confidence in a digital workspace.

Art Portfolio Development

Wednesdays, January 7 to March 11 (10 Weeks)
Ages 14 to 18 | 6:30 to 8:30 PM | \$361

This intensive program is designed for aspiring artists looking to build a strong, well-rounded portfolio for art school applications or personal growth. Students will explore a variety of mediums and techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media, while receiving personalized guidance from experienced instructors. Learn how to curate work, write artist statements, and present portfolios with confidence. Most materials included.





Holiday Workshops for Children

Paint and Play P.A. Day

Friday, January 16 and Friday, January 30
Ages 4 to 7 | 9 to 4 PM | \$83 each

Get out of the classroom, and into the studio to **Paint and Play** this **P.A. Day**. Children will explore a variety of painting techniques, experiment with vibrant colours, and bring their imaginations to life through hands-on art projects. Alongside creative play and engaging activities, kids will also make new friends, express themselves, and discover the joy of making art. All materials included.



Family Day Canvas Challenge

Monday, February 16 | Ages 4+
1 to 3:30 PM | \$80 (up to 4 family members)

Families, are you ready to paint? Join us this Family Day for a collaborative canvas challenge. In this fun, and educational gallery experience, families get a private tour before heading to the studio to complete a painting inspired by current exhibitions. Work together to bring home a finished painting!



HeARTs and Crafts

Sunday, February 8
Ages 5 to 8 | 1 to 3 PM | \$29

Join us for two fun-filled hours of Valentine's Day creativity! Kids will make colourful cards, decorations, and sweet crafts to share with family and friends. Perfect for little artists ready to craft, decorate, and spread the love. All materials included.



March Break Camps

Varley's Colour Club

Monday to Friday, March 16 to 20
Ages 4 to 6 | 9 AM to 4 PM | \$415

Step into a world of colour and creativity! Young artists will explore painting, drawing, collage, and simple 3D projects while learning about colour, shape, and texture through hands-on activities. By week's end, campers will take home a vibrant collection of original artworks and newfound artistic confidence. All materials included.



Paint it Big!

Monday to Friday, March 16 to 20
Ages 7 to 8 | 9 AM to 4 PM | \$415

It's time for young artists to go big at this week-long camp! Kids will plan, sketch, and create their own giant paintings, learning techniques for scaling, composition, and creative expression. By the end of the camp, each camper will take home a unique large-scale artwork to proudly display. All materials included.



Mini-Mation Studio

Monday to Friday, March 16 to 20
Ages 9 to 12 | 9 AM to 4 PM | \$415

Young artists will explore the world of stop-motion animation, creating their own short films from storyboarding and character design to set building and animation. Campers develop skills in sequencing, timing, photography, and digital editing while experimenting with clay and other materials. By the end of the week, each camper will have a finished film ready for a final showcase. All materials included.



Evening Programs for Adults

Introduction to Oil Painting and The Art of Still Life

Tuesdays, February 10 to March 31 (8 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Learn the techniques and fundamentals of still life oil painting, including composition, colour mixing, and brushwork. Ideal for beginners and experienced painters eager to explore oils. Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Linocut Printmaking

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

Explore the expressive art of linocut printmaking! Learn design, carving, inking, and printing while experimenting with texture, colour, and composition. Perfect for all skill levels. Artist/instructor: Sydney Hanson



Papermaking

Thursdays, February 5 to 26 (4 Weeks)
6 to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$197

Transform simple materials into beautiful handmade paper! Learn traditional techniques such as pulping, forming, pressing, and finishing, while experimenting with colour, texture, and inclusions. A fun, creative course for all skill levels. Artist/instructor: Sydney Hanson



Image:
Instructor Linda Kalianteris

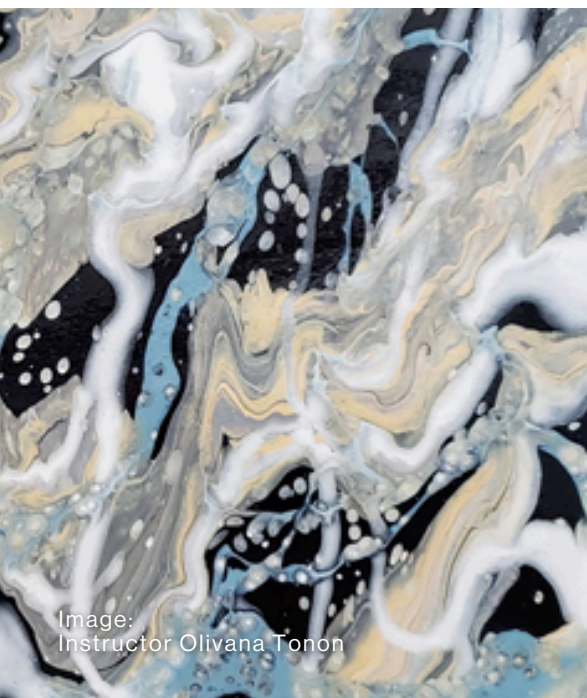


Image:
Instructor Olivana Tonon



Open Studio for Adults

Life Drawing Drop-in Studio

Wednesdays, January 14 to March 11 and 25*
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 model. 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. Space is limited.

*No drop-in life drawing session on Wednesday, March 18 due to March Break Camps.

Art Classes for Adults

Acrylic Pouring

Thursdays

Session 1: January 8 to 29 (4 Weeks)

Session 2: February 5 to 26 (4 Weeks)

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

Enjoy acrylic pouring in a supportive, creative environment. Explore exciting methods like chain pulls, blooms, and Dutch pours. Enjoy experimenting with colour, composition, and movement to create abstract artworks. Perfect for all skill levels. Artist/instructor: Olivana Tonon



Watercolours: Beginner to Intermediate

Wednesdays, January 14 to March 4 (8 Weeks)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

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



Watercolours: Intermediate to Advanced

Wednesdays

Session 1: January 14 to February 4 (4 Weeks)

Session 2: February 18 to March 11 (4 Weeks)

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

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



Gel Plate Printing

Wednesdays, February 4 to 25 (4 Weeks)
1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$197

Discover the magic of monoprinting! In this four-week class, you'll experiment with gel plates and acrylic paint to create dynamic prints. Learn layering, masking, image transfers, and painting directly on the plate to produce textured, vibrant works. Perfect for anyone curious about printmaking. Artist/instructor: Sarka Buchl Stephenson



Introduction to Drawing

Thursdays, February 5 to April 2* (8 Weeks)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

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



Portrait Drawing

Thursdays, February 5 to April 2* (8 Weeks)
1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

Capture the essence of a portrait. Learn step-by-step methods to construct faces and heads, then apply shading to create value and form. Work toward likenesses while drawing a professional model in a friendly, guided setting.
Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Images:
Instructor Linda Kalianteris



*No class on Thursday, March 19 due to March Break Camps.



The Painted Portrait

Fridays, February 6 to April 10* (8 Weeks)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

With a limited palette, learn to capture likeness using, colour mixing, layering and shading. You'll be guided through the art of portraiture in this encouraging studio environment. Recommended after "Portrait Drawing." Artist/instructor: Linda Kalianteris



Landscape Painting

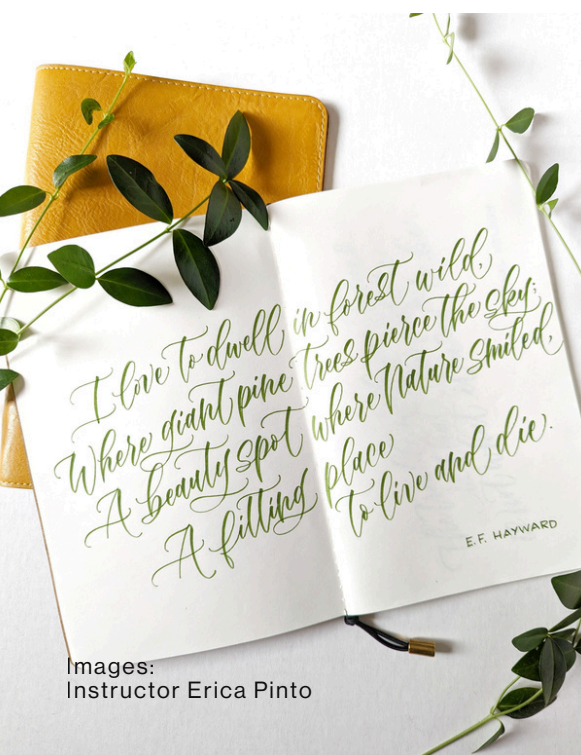
Fridays, February 6 to April 10* (8 Weeks)
1 to 3:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394

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



Images:
Instructor Linda Kalianteris

*No class on Friday, March 20 due to March Break Camps, and Friday, April 3 due to Good Friday.



Images:
Instructor Erica Pinto



Weekend Workshops for Adults

Brush Calligraphy: Beginners

Sundays, January 25 and March 1
1 to 4 PM | Ages 16+ | \$60 each

Brush pen calligraphy is a beautiful art form that adds a personal touch to everything from greeting cards to event signage. Learn the fundamentals 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. No experience needed. Artist/instructor: Erica Pinto

Brush Calligraphy: Intermediate

Sunday, March 29 | 1 to 4 PM | Ages 16+ | \$60

Designed for anyone who has taken a beginner-level brush calligraphy program. Students will practice uppercase letters and learn how to use these in combination with lowercase letters and words. Enhance your calligraphy by experimenting with style variations and simple flourishes. Students will receive a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. Artist/instructor: Erica Pinto

Hand Lettered Valentine's Day Cards

Sunday, February 8 | 1 to 3 PM | Ages 16+ | \$60

In this two-hour workshop, students will learn how to draw beautiful script letters and use them to create their own one-of-a-kind Valentine's Day cards. Students will leave the workshop with their finished greeting cards and a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. No experience needed. Artist/instructor: Erica Pinto



Image:
Instructor Romy Glogova

Painting with Fibre

Sunday, February 15 | 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM | \$104*

Explore felting and create a one-of-a-kind artwork using soft merino wool with needle and wet felting techniques. Using a landscape image as reference, learn to layer colours, build texture, and add decorative embellishments. Artist/instructor: Romy Glogova

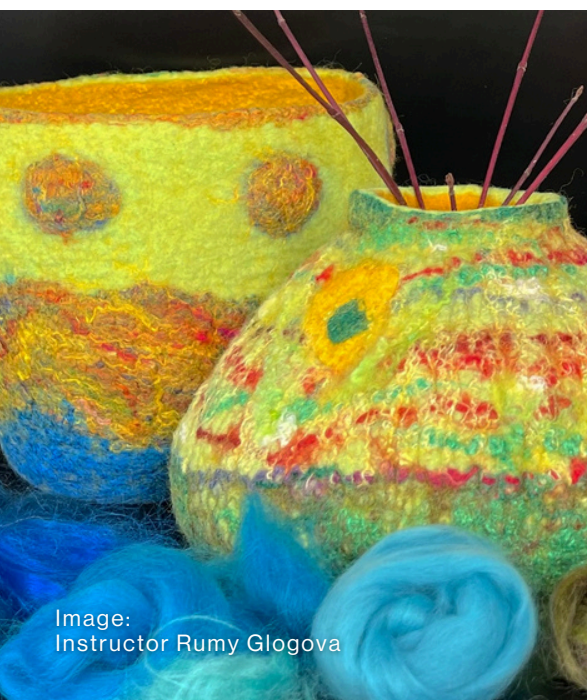


Image:
Instructor Romy Glogova

Sculpting with Fibre

Sunday, March 15 | 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM | \$104*

Learn how to transform soft wool fibres into sculptural vessels in this wet felting workshop. Using water, soap, and friction, you'll explore the traditional flat resist method to create a unique vase or bowl. Perfect for all level felters, this workshop guides you through shaping, texturing, and decorating your piece. Artist/Instructor: Romy Glogova

Acrylic Pouring

Sundays, January 11 and February 1
1 to 4 PM | \$60 each

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 Olivana Tonon

Acrylic Pouring: Decorative Pouring

Sunday, March 8 | 1 to 4 PM | \$60

Join us for a one-day acrylic pouring workshop. Students will learn how to transform a clear glass vase into a work of art, and design a unique abstract painting on canvas. Unleash your creativity and bring home two beautiful pieces to showcase! Artist/instructor: Olivana Tonon

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



Program Registration

Register for Winter 2026 art classes, workshops and camps at the Varley Art Gallery!

- Programs online preview: November 12, 2025
- Programs registration starts December 2, 2025 (6:30 AM)

Registration dates listed above are for Markham residents. Non-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 by phone.

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.