



Varley
Art Gallery
of Markham



Winter
2025

Public Programs

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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.





How to register

Registration opens on December 3, 2023. Sign up for classes at [Markham.ca](https://www.markham.ca) 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. Fell at rdoliveirafell@markham.ca.

Members Save!

Become a Varley member and save 10% on all programs at the gallery.



Children's Art Classes

Start with Art

Saturdays, January 11 to March 22
(No class on March 15) | 10 AM to 12 PM
Ages 4 to 5 | \$346 for 10 sessions

Using a variety of media, including sculpture, painting, and drawing, children are encouraged to express their thoughts and emotions, build confidence, practice decision-making, and develop fine motor skills. Designed for children with active imaginations. All materials provided.



Elements of Art and Design

Saturdays, January 11 to March 22
(No class on March 15) | 10 AM to 12 PM
Ages 7 to 10 | \$346 for 10 sessions

Working in a variety of media, young artists with a passion for art will learn how to apply the elements of design and principles of art in their creative practices. Through gallery tours and experiments in the studio, children will develop strong visual literacy to understand the fundamentals of art. All materials provided.

Children's Art Classes



Art Adventures

Saturdays, January 11 to March 22
(No class on March 15) | 1 to 3 PM
Ages 5 to 6 | \$346 for 10 sessions

As they journey through the gallery and discover the studio, children explore their creativity to create one-of-a-kind, inspired, works of art with mixed media. From painting with modeling clay, to drawing with textiles, instructors help your young artist practice problem solving and communication skills. All materials provided.

Sculpture Studio

Saturdays, January 11 to March 22
(No class on March 15) | 1 to 3 PM
Ages 8 to 12 | \$346 for 10 sessions

Instructors challenge and guide your young artist through the elements of 3D design – space, shape, and volume – to help them build and sculpt. Through clay, recyclable materials, and everyday objects, instructors emphasize creative thinking and exploration of materials. All materials provided.



Children's Art Classes and Camps

Mixed Media for Mini Artists

Sundays, January 12 to March 23
(No class on March 16) | 1 to 3 PM
Ages 4 to 6 | \$346 for 10 sessions

Bring your little artist to the Varley for their first art studio experience. In a safe and inclusive environment, our friendly instructors guide your child through fun and imaginative art projects that build confidence, language and thinking skills, emotional understanding, and self-expression. All materials provided.



March Break Camp

Monday to Friday, March 10 to 14
9 AM to 4 PM | \$377 for five days

Art Adventure:
Ages 4 to 6

Canvas Creations:
Ages 7 to 12

Make this March Break unforgettable with creative camps at the Varley! Young artists will explore their imagination through hands-on art projects inspired by the gallery's current exhibitions. Led by experienced instructors, these camps provide a mix of artistic techniques and engaging activities designed to spark creativity. Perfect for kids looking to learn, create, and make new friends in a welcoming environment.

Children's Holiday One-Day Workshops



Be Mine, Valentine

Sunday, February 9 | 1 PM to 3 PM
Ages 5 to 8 | \$28 for one session

This Valentine's day, come into the studio and make fun, unique and even silly gifts with us! Show love to your parents, teachers, and friends by giving them a special Varley Valentine. All materials included.

Craft and Play, it's St. Patty's Day

Sunday, March 16 | 1 PM to 3 PM
Ages 5 to 8 | \$28 for one session

Let your kids celebrate St. Patrick's Day with fun, hands-on crafts! They'll create colourful, holiday-inspired projects while exploring their creativity in a welcoming and inclusive space. Perfect for young artists to play, learn, and enjoy together.

Teens/Family One-Day Workshops

Family Day Canvas Challenge

Monday, Feb. 17 | 1 to 3:30 PM
Ages 4+ | \$80/family (up to 4 members)

Join us at the Varley 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 our current exhibitions. Work together to bring home a finished painting! Note: Children must be at least 4 years of age to participate.



[NEW] Hand Lettering for Teens

Sunday, February 23 | 1 PM to 3 PM
Ages 13 to 16 | \$60 for one session

Young artists will discover how to draw stylish letters by hand, perfect for decorating bullet journals, creating unique posters, and crafting personalized cards. The workshop will cover the basics of letter formation and give students a chance to experiment with various pens and styles. Students will create a beautifully hand-lettered quote to take home. No experience required.



Image credit: Instructor Erica Pinto

P. A. Day Camps



P. A. Day Extravaganza!

Friday, January 17 | 9 AM to 4 PM

Ages 5 to 12 | \$80 for one day

Spend your P.A. Day at the Varley and get hands-on in our art studio. Children explore the gallery before starting on a variety of projects with paints, pastels, and more. Students will develop visual literacy skills, while practicing communication, decision-making, and problem solving skills. Emphasis is placed on the creative process and self-expression as they draw, paint and sculpt the day away!

All materials included. Please pack a nut-free snack and lunch.

Adult Art Classes

Watercolour: Beginner to Intermediate

Wednesdays, January 15 to March 5 | 10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 (8 sessions)

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

Watercolour: Intermediate to Advanced

Wednesdays, January 15 to March 5 | 10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 (8 sessions)

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 program.



Adult Art Classes



Acrylic Pouring: Beginners

Thursdays, January 16 to February 6
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189 (4 sessions)

Join us in the studio to explore acrylic paints as a fluid tool for creating expressive, abstract paintings. This program offers artist demonstrations, personalized guidance, and critiques to help you enhance your understanding of colour and composition. Open to all experience levels. Some materials included.

Acrylic Pouring: Advanced Techniques

Thursdays, February 20 to March 20
(No class on March 13)
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$189 (4 sessions)

Take your acrylic pouring skills to the next level. Designed for those with prior experience in fluid acrylic techniques, this program focuses on further developing your mastery of colour, composition, and pouring method with artist demonstrations, guidance, and critiques. Prerequisite: Acrylic Pouring: Beginner art class or workshop. Some materials included.



Adult Art Classes

Introduction to Drawing

Wednesdays, January 29 to March 26 (No class on March 12)
10 to 12:30 PM | \$378 (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 students will cover a new drawing theme with a series of still lifes to sharpen their drawing skills. Suitable for all skill levels.



Adult Art Classes

Introduction to Oil Painting: Beginner to Intermediate

Thursdays, January 30 to April 3
(No class on March 12 and 20)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 (8 sessions)

Learn the technique of oil painting while exploring topics such as: studio safety, 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.



Landscape Painting

Thursdays, January 30 to April 3
(No class on March 12 and 20)
1 to 3:30 PM | \$378 (8 sessions)

Learn the fundamentals of landscape painting while exploring its beauty. 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. This course is suitable for both beginner and seasoned landscape painters.

Adult Art Classes



Portraiture: Drawing or Painting

Fridays, January 31 to March 28
(No class on March 14)
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$378 (8 sessions)

Students will start by learning the structure of the head and using shading techniques to create value and form. Next, they'll study the fundamentals of portrait painting with a simple palette of three colours plus white. Topics include brush drawing, mixing accurate skin tones, layering paint, and capturing a likeness while working from a professional model. Participants may choose to draw or paint.

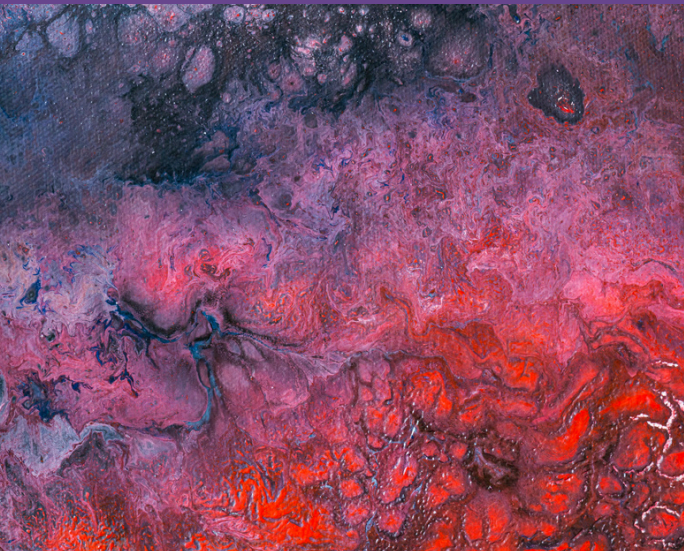
Life Drawing

Fridays, January 31 to March 28
(No class on March 14)
1 to 3:30 PM | \$378 (8 sessions)

Explore different drawing tools and the essential elements of life drawing, while learning about proportion, structure, and movement of the human body. This program will begin from the inside-out, building your drawing and observational skills, leading up to drawing a professional nude model. Suitable for all skill levels.



Adult One-Day Workshops



Acrylic Pouring

Wednesdays, January 8, February 12,
March 26 | 1 to 4 PM | \$120 each

Explore the world of acrylic pouring and the fundamentals of art including colour and composition. Create stunning abstract art in a supportive studio environment alongside like-minded peers. Suitable for all skill levels. Some materials provided.

Acrylic Pouring: Decorative Pouring

Sunday, March 2 | 1 to 4 PM | \$120

Join us to learn how to transform a clear glass vase into a stunning work of art and then design a unique abstract painting on canvas. Tap into your artistic side and take home two beautiful, personalized creations to showcase. Some materials provided.



Adult One-Day Workshops

Brush Calligraphy: Beginner

Sunday, January 19 | 1 to 4 PM | \$60

In this workshop, 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.

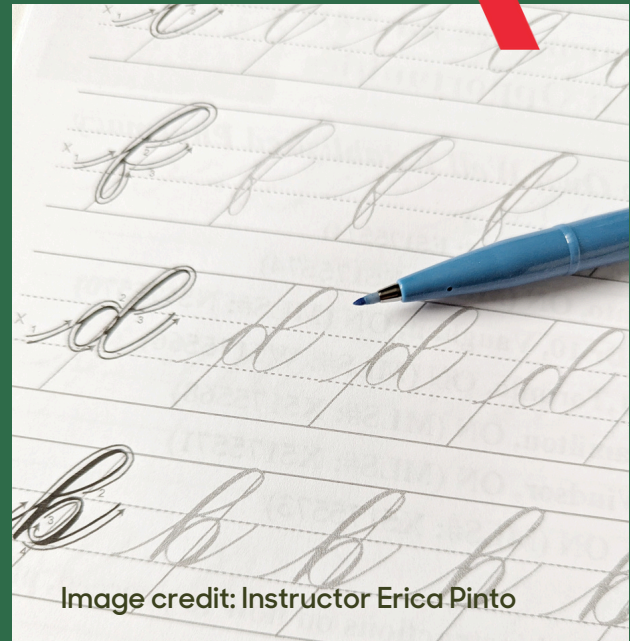


Image credit: Instructor Erica Pinto

Brush Calligraphy: Intermediate

Sunday, March 9 | 1 to 4 PM | \$60

In this workshop, students will practice uppercase letters and learn how to use these in combination with lowercase letters and words. They 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. Designed for anyone who has taken a beginner-level calligraphy program.



Image credit: Instructor Erica Pinto

Adult One-Day Workshops

Hand Lettered Valentine's Day Cards

Sunday, February 9 | 1 to 3 PM | \$60

Why buy a Valentine's Day card when you can create one by hand? In this workshop, students will learn to draw beautiful script letters and use them to design their one-of-a-kind Valentine's Day card. Students will leave with their finished cards and a set of take-home worksheets to continue their practice. No experience required.



[NEW] The Joy of Handwriting

Sunday, March 30 | 1 to 3 PM | \$60

Rediscover the art and joy of handwriting in this engaging workshop. Explore various styles and applications while learning essential tips to refine your handwriting. Perfect for those looking to refresh their cursive skills. This workshop also includes a creative project to showcase your progress.

Handwriting



Image credit: Instructor Erica Pinto

Contact us

Phone

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Address

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L3R 2H1



VarleyArtGallery



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





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