



Varley
Art Gallery
of Markham



Fall
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 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

Start with Art!

Ages 4 to 5 | 10 AM to 12 PM

Saturdays, October 4 to December 6 | \$361 for 10 sessions

Bring your creative genius to the Varley to unlock their imagination in a fun and inclusive environment. Children will be introduced to the vibrant world of color through engaging drawing, painting, and sculpting projects. This program emphasizes the fundamentals of art, including colour mixing and creative process, while encouraging self-expression and cooperation. Children will also develop their coordination and fine motor skills along the way. All materials included.





Children's Art Classes

Art Explorers

Ages 5 to 6 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Saturdays, October 4 to December 6 | \$361 for 10 sessions

This is the perfect program for any young artist eager to play and learn in a fun and creative studio setting. Children are encouraged to develop their artistic abilities while exploring painting techniques and working with both traditional and non-traditional materials. They'll also visit the gallery for inspiration, sparking their creativity and deepening their understanding of art. This approach inspires them to try new things, make new friends, and learn valuable skills like collaboration, problem-solving, and creative expression. All materials included.





Children's Art Classes

Elements of Art and Design

Ages 7 to 10 | 10 AM to 12 PM

Saturdays, October 4 to December 6 | \$361 for 10 sessions

Are you ready to challenge your child to explore their imagination in a creative and supportive studio setting? Our professional artist-instructor will guide your child through the elements and principles of art and design, encouraging experimentation and self-discovery, which are essential for developing critical thinking and observational skills. Children will learn how to properly use tools and techniques to create finished drawings, watercolour and acrylic paintings, prints, and a mixed-media piece. Studio discussions, gallery visits, and artist demonstrations are integral components of this program in order for all children to create works they'll be proud to showcase at an end of term art show. All materials included.





Children's Art Classes

Sculpture Studio

Ages 8 to 12 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Saturdays, October 4 to December 6 | \$361 for 10 sessions

Designed for intermediate students, this program encourages kids to elevate their artistic skills to the next level. Pre-teens will be guided through challenging processes to create three-dimensional sculptures and works of art. The program focuses on working with clay and recycled materials, emphasizing creative thinking and the development of problem-solving skills. All materials included.





Children's Art Classes

Mixed Media for Mini Artists

Ages 4 to 6 | 1 PM to 3 PM

Sundays, October 5 to December 7 | \$361 for 10 sessions

Spark your little one's creativity in this playful and engaging class designed just for mini artists! Children will explore a variety of materials and techniques, including painting, drawing, collage, and sculpting, to create their very own masterpieces. Guided by experienced instructors in a fun and nurturing studio environment, kids will develop fine motor skills, experiment with colours and textures, and learn to express themselves through art. Gallery visits will provide extra inspiration, connecting their creations to the world of professional art. All materials included.





Children's P. A. Day Programs

Paint and Play P. A. Days

Ages 4 to 12 | 9 AM to 4 PM

Friday, September 26 and Friday, October 24 | \$83 per day

Get out of the classroom, and into the studio to Paint and Play this P. A. Day. Students will explore a variety of painting techniques, experiment with vibrant colors, and bring their imaginations to life through hands-on art projects. Alongside creative play and engaging activities, students will also have time to make new friends, express themselves, and discover the joy of making art. Perfect for young artists eager to learn and play in a supportive and inspiring environment!





Children's Holiday Workshops



Haunted Halloween: Monster Makers

Ages 5 to 8 | 1 PM to 3 PM
Sunday, October 26 | \$38

Unleash your child's imagination in this 3-hour Halloween-themed art workshop! Kids will design and create their very own spooky, silly, or downright wild monsters using a variety of art materials and techniques. Perfect for little artists, this workshop is all about creativity, fun, and embracing the Halloween spirit. Costumes are encouraged!



Children's Holiday Workshops



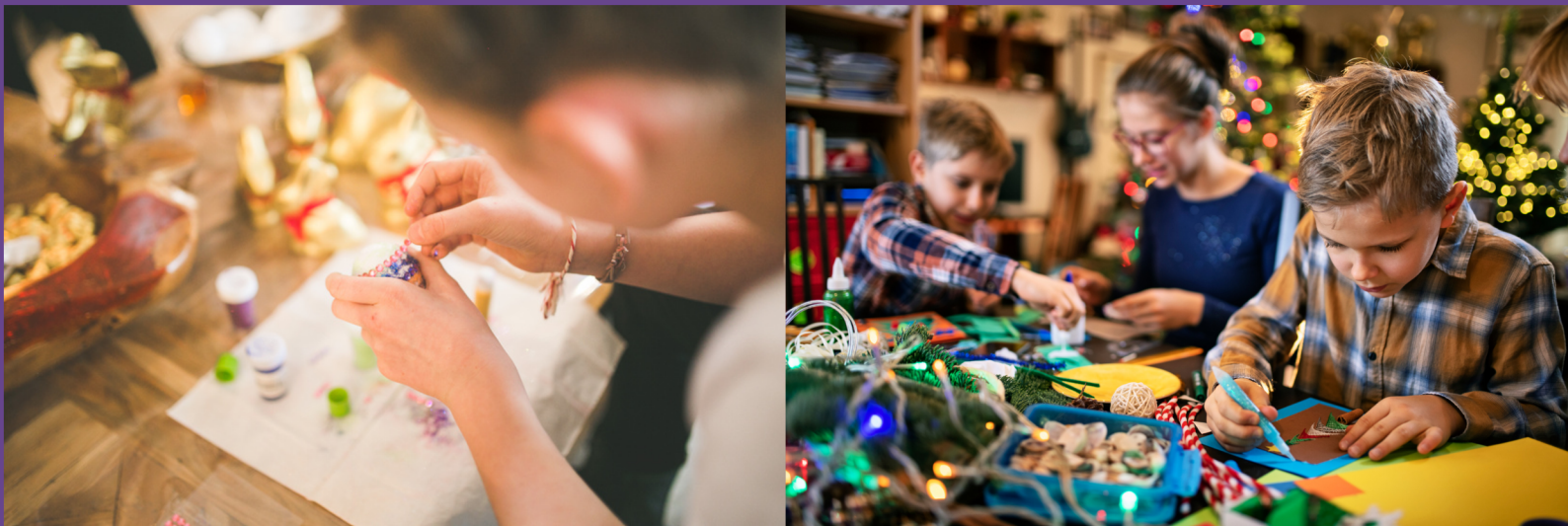
Crafty Christmas

Ages 5 to 8 | 1 PM to 3 PM
Sunday, December 21 | \$38

Get into the holiday spirit with this fun and festive crafting workshop for kids! Little makers will create seasonal treasures using a mix of materials and techniques, perfect for decorating, gifting, or keeping as a special holiday memory. This creative adventure is sure to bring cheer and inspire the magic of the season.



Children's Winter Camps



Winter Break Camps

Ages 4 to 6 and 7 to 12

December 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31

Half Day \$46 | Full Day \$83

Spark creativity this winter! Join us for a fun-filled day in the studio where young artists can dive into seasonal inspiration and bring their imagination to life. From sculpting and card-making to vibrant acrylic landscapes and playful mixed-media creations, every project is designed to spark joy and artistic discovery. Perfect for a cozy, creative winter escape!



NEW! Youth Art Classes

Animate It! A Stop Motion & Storyboarding Studio

Ages 8 to 10 | 4 PM to 6 PM

Tuesdays, October 7 to December 9 | \$361 for 10 sessions

Dive into the world of animation with this hands-on studio program where students will explore the art of storytelling through drawing, character design, storyboarding, and stop motion animation. Using tablets, sketchbooks, and even plasticine, participants will bring their ideas to life, culminating in a student showcase featuring original short films and behind-the-scenes artwork. Whether working solo or in small creative teams, young animators will gain essential skills in visual storytelling, camera work, and digital tools for animation. Students are required to bring their own tablet for this program.





NEW! Youth Art Classes

Fine Art for Young Adults

Ages 11 to 14 | 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Tuesdays, October 7 to December 9 | \$361 for 10 sessions

This engaging program invites young artists to explore their creativity and develop their unique artistic style. Through hands-on projects in drawing, painting, printing, and other fine art techniques, participants will learn key concepts such as composition, colour theory, and perspective. Guided by experienced instructors, students will be encouraged to experiment, express their individuality, and gain confidence in their creative abilities. Perfect for budding artists eager to deepen their understanding of art and create works that reflect their personal vision! All materials included.





NEW! Youth Art Classes

Art Portfolio Development

Ages 14 to 16 | 5 PM to 7 PM

Wednesdays, October 1 to December 3 | \$361 for 10 sessions

This intensive course is designed for aspiring artists looking to build a strong, well-rounded portfolio for art school applications or personal growth. Participants will explore a variety of mediums and techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media, while receiving personalized guidance from experienced instructors. The course emphasizes the development of technical skills, conceptual thinking, and creative problem-solving. Students will also learn how to curate their work, write artist statements, and present their portfolios with confidence. Perfect for teens eager to take their artistic practice to the next level! Most materials included.





NEW! Evening Classes for Adults

Introduction to Oil Painting & The Art of Still Life

Tuesdays, October 7 to November 25
6 PM to 8:30 PM | Ages 18+ | \$394 for 8 sessions

Have you always wanted to paint with oils? Learn the techniques of oil painting, and the art of still life painting while exploring topics such as studio safety and clean up, composition, colour mixing, and energetic brush strokes! This program is perfect for beginner and experienced artists who would like to add oil painting to their skill set. Supplies are not included, and a materials list will be sent out one week before the class begins.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris





NEW! Evening Sessions for Adults

Life Drawing: Drop-in Studio

Wednesdays, September 17 to December 3
5 PM to 8 PM | Ages 18+ | \$25 per session

Join us for a relaxed and inspiring open studio drawing session, perfect for exploring portraiture and figure drawing, in partnership with the Markham Group of Artists. These uninstructed sessions feature live models, providing a supportive environment to hone your drawing or painting skills. All skill levels are welcome. Bring your own materials, including easels and enjoy an evening of artistic exploration alongside fellow art enthusiasts. Spaces are limited.





Adult Four-Week Art Classes



Try it! Intro to Art

Wednesdays, October 1 to 22 | 1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$197 for 4 sessions

Come into the art studio and to try it! This four-week program is all about exploring your creativity 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 is required; just come with an open mind and leave any self-doubt at the door. Designed for participants who have not previously registered for a Varley Art Gallery program.

Artist/Instructor Sarka Buchl-Stephenson



Adult Four-Week Art Classes



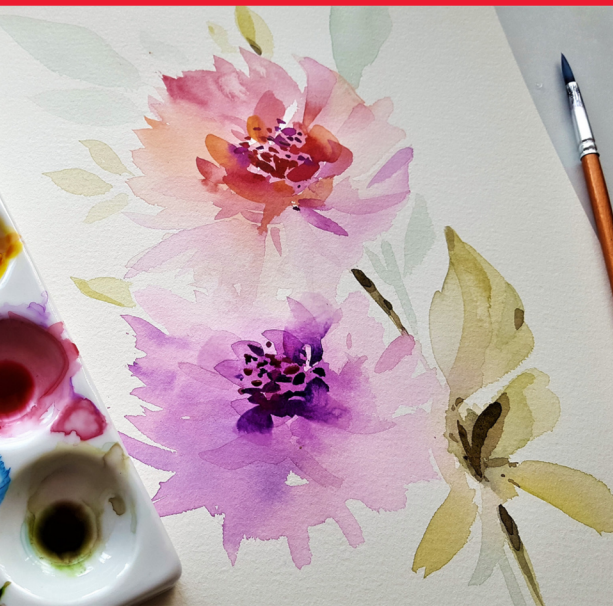
DIY Printmaking Studio

Fridays, October 3 to October 24 | 1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$197 for 4 sessions

Discover the creative possibilities of printmaking, no press required! This engaging workshop series introduces participants to a variety of accessible, low-cost printmaking techniques that can be done right at home using everyday and recycled materials. From kitchen lithography to linocut carving and beyond, you'll learn step-by-step methods to create layered, textured, and dynamic prints while exploring composition, colour, and design. Perfect for beginners and creative enthusiasts alike, this series is a great way to build skills, experiment with new materials, and unlock your artistic potential in a supportive, at-studio setting. Materials not included. Artist/Instructor: Sydney Hanson



Adult 8-Week Art Classes



Watercolour: Beginner to Intermediate

Wednesdays, October 1 to November 19
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$394 for 8 sessions

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. No experience required. Materials not included.

Artist/Instructor: Lori Spendiff

Watercolour: Intermediate to Advanced

Wednesdays, October 1 to November 19
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$394 for 8 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 life's 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 8-Week Art Classes



Introduction to Drawing

Thursdays, October 2 to November 20
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$394 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 life compositions to sharpen our drawing skills! Materials not included. A supply list will be provided one week in advance.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kallianteris

Landscape Painting

Thursdays, October 2 to November 20
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$394 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 the 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 included. A supply list will be provided one week in advance.

Artist/Instructor: Linda Kallianteris



Photo credit: Linda Kallianteris



Adult 8-Week Art Classes



Acrylic Pouring: Beginner to Advanced Techniques

Thursdays, October 2 to November 27 (No class on October 9)
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$394 for 8 sessions

Discover the magic of acrylic pouring in this dynamic class designed for all skill levels. Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your technique, this course will guide you through the fundamentals and explore more advanced methods like the chain pull, bloom, and Dutch pour. Learn about colour theory, composition, mixing mediums, and how to create stunning abstract artworks with movement and depth. Materials not included. A supply list will be provided one week in advance. Artist/Instructor: Olivana Tonon



Adult 8-Week Art Classes



Intro to Acrylics: Painting for Pleasure

Fridays, October 3 to November 21
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$394 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 8-Week Art Classes



Photo credit: Linda Kalianteris

Intro to Portrait Drawing: Beginner to Intermediate

Fridays, October 3 to November 21
10 AM to 12:30 PM | \$394 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, October 3 to November 21
1 PM to 3:30 PM | \$394 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 One-Day Art Workshops

with Erica Pinto

Brush Calligraphy: Beginner

Ages 16+ | Sunday, September 28 | 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. In this three-hour workshop, students will learn the fundamentals of modern brush pen calligraphy, including how to hold a brush pen, how to form basic strokes and how to connect these strokes to form lowercase letters and words. Students will receive a set of worksheets that they can take home to continue their practice. No experience is needed, just a willingness to have fun and try something new! Materials not included.



Photo credit: Erica Pinto

Brush Calligraphy: Intermediate

Ages 16+ | Sunday, November 23 | 1 PM to 4 PM | \$60

This class is designed for anyone who has taken a beginner-level brush pen calligraphy class and is ready to take their skills to the next level. In this three-hour workshop, students will practice uppercase letters and learn how to use these in combination with lowercase letters and words. They will also learn how to enhance their calligraphy by experimenting with style variations and simple flourishes. Students will receive a set of worksheets that they can take home to continue their practice. Materials not included.



Adult One-Day Art Workshops

with Erica Pinto

The Joy of Handwriting

Ages 16+ | Sunday, October 19 | 1 PM to 4 PM | \$60

Do you wish you had more opportunities to write by hand? In this three-hour workshop, we'll celebrate all things handwritten! The workshop will provide students with an overview of different styles and applications, as well as key considerations for improving your handwriting. Students will have the opportunity to refresh their cursive handwriting and apply their skills to a creative project. Materials not included.



Photo credit: Erica Pinto

Hand Lettered Holiday Ornaments

Ages 16+ | Sunday, December 14
1 PM to 3 PM | \$60

Custom ornaments make a wonderful gift for friends and family! In this two-hour workshop, students will learn how to draw beautiful script letters and use them to decorate their own acrylic ornaments. Students will leave the workshop with their finished ornaments as well as a set of worksheets to continue their hand lettering practice at home. All materials will be provided (e.g. ornaments, markers and ribbons). A supply fee of \$15 will need to be paid to the instructor at the start of the workshop.



Adult One-Day Art Workshop



Photo credit: Linda Kalianteris

Landscape Painting: Winter Scenes and Snow

Sunday, December 7 | 10 AM to 3:30 PM | \$104

Discover the beauty of painting snow covered landscapes in this hands-on workshop for oil and acrylic painters. Learn about layering paint in loose impressionistic brush strokes, capturing the beauty of pearly white snow and snow shadows in luminous paint. With step-by-step instructor guidance and critiques, this course is suitable for both beginner and seasoned landscape painters. Demonstrations will be in oil paint. Materials not included. Artist/Instructor: Linda Kalianteris

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

Phone

905-477-7000 extension 3261

Website

www.varleyartgallery.ca

Email

varley@markham.ca

Address

216 Main Street Unionville
Markham, ON
L3R 2H1



VarleyArtGallery



216 Main Street Unionville
Markham, ON. L3R2H1
www.varleyartgallery.ca

