

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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## Art Center Sarasota's New Exhibitions:

### September 2-October 2

#### The Annual Petticoat Painters Exhibition

*Featuring work in various media by all 20 members of this historic group.*

#### The Future is Now: Pencil Paintings by Art Venti

*Featuring large-scale, dream-like landscapes in pencil.*

#### A Fine Line

*A juried exhibition of work by figurative artists in a range of mediums.*

**Opening reception for all exhibits is Thursday, September 2**

(Sarasota, FL) Art Center Sarasota's 2021 exhibition season continues with three exhibits, September 2-October 2. **The Annual Petticoat Painters Exhibition**, in Gallery One, showcases work by all 20 members of this historic group. **"The Future is Now: Pencil Paintings by Art Venti,"** in Gallery Two, features vividly colored, large-scale works on paper by Art Venti. **"A Fine Line,"** in Gallery Three, is a group exhibition of work by figurative artists in a range of mediums juried by Craig Carl. The opening reception for all three exhibits is Thursday, September 2, 6-8 p.m. *Art Center Sarasota, 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. For information, visit [www.artsarasota.org](http://www.artsarasota.org) or call 941-365-2032.*

The **Petticoat Painters** are one of America's longest-running women's art groups; it has exhibited continuously since 1953. While this organization may be old, the art created by its members is forever young. This exhibit of work by **all 20 member-artists** reveals that timeless quality. Artworks range from Susan Klein's vividly colored and joyous landscapes, to Diane Schmidt's masterful abstract water-media paintings, to Keiko Romerstein's ethereal creations in watercolor and sumi-e. "Their bold works remind us that the 'Petticoat Painters' are formidable artists who just happen to be women," says Kinsey Robb, Art Center Sarasota's new executive director. "The group began when women artists weren't generally accepted in exhibitions. The name sounds oddly quaint today—but it's itself an emblem of how far they have come."

**Art Venti** creates his dream-like, landscapes with translucent layers of colored pencils. Adapting the classical oil painting technique of artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Venti builds his spectacular vistas with layer on layer of pencil pigmentation. The result? Intensely detailed, amorphous shapes evoking dreamscapes of twisted white bedsheets, swirling ribbons, and underwater plants. The artist says that his work flows from a vision of a futuristic world. "My work doesn't conveniently fit into any critical category," says Venti. "There are elements of abstraction and glimpses of reality. I start by creating a forest of colored tissue paper in a light box, and then experimenting with shadow, light and depth on this tableau. Illuminating this translucent paper suggests scenes of different landscapes that seem to move and change as the sun crosses the sky." Venti was born in New York City and studied at The School of Visual Arts there. He relocated to Los Angeles and lived and worked there for 35 years before moving back to the United States in 2020. He now lives in Sarasota.

**“A Fine Line”** is a group exhibition open to figurative artists working in a range of mediums. The exhibit is juried by Craig Carl, a multi-talented artist with a career as a creative director, designer and illustrator producing ad campaigns, posters, book covers and architectural illustrations. His illustration clients have included Target, AT&T, The NFL, HBO, Doubleday and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

### **About Art Center Sarasota**

Art Center Sarasota was the first arts and cultural institution in Sarasota. It was founded in 1926 as the “Sarasota Art Association” by Marcia Rader, the art supervisor for the Sarasota County schools district. In the early years, the group met monthly and sponsored exhibits in rented facilities. The Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 1943 and has been in its current location in the Sarasota Bayfront Cultural District since 1949. Art Center Sarasota is now a membership-based organization that offers curated and juried exhibitions, adult and youth education programs, outreach initiatives for underserved youth, and culturally related public programming. Art Center Sarasota’s mission is to inspire individual creative expression, nurture artistic talent and provide the community with accessible and diverse visual art opportunities.

### **Art Center Sarasota**

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### **Gallery Hours:**

Monday-Friday: 10am - 4pm  
Saturday: 12pm - 4pm