

HEMLOCK STUDIO GALLERY

Artists' Newsletter

June 12, 2025

Resuming Classes

When we relocated our gallery from 1392 Washington Street to our current location on the Clarkesville Square, we knew going in that our biggest challenge would be teaching space. We have puzzled over this for almost a year, now, and we may finally have a solution. Or, perhaps, a workaround.

Thanks to some maneuvering by the Gallery Committee, more space has been freed up at the back of the gallery, permitting us to use two, 3 x 6 folding tables, which provides space for up to six participants, depending upon the art medium.

Initially, we began with offering classes only on Sunday afternoons during the winter, and on Mondays, when the gallery was closed. However, we've done some additional thinking about this and have determined that with a little creativity we could certainly attempt to run small classes/open studio even on days when the gallery is open.

Probably the biggest challenge for holding classes during regular business hours that the gallery is open is that **we need to be sensitive to our customers and visitors because many people are reluctant to intrude on a class or gathering.** (From my workbench in the other gallery, I did notice that this can be off-putting to many people.) My suggestion is that whenever folks come into the gallery while we have a class or open studio in progress that we encourage them to come back where the classes are held while saying something like, *"Please come ahead and don't worry about us...we're just making more art...and we love to have visitors!"* If we fail to make this effort, we will undoubtedly chase away customers.

Consider Offering a class or facilitating an open studio

We're discovering that one of the reasons folks are interested in art classes is that – irrespective of the art experience - classes provide an opportunity for socialization. We have many retirees in the area, and while they may come into the gallery to, for example, find a unique gift or purchase original cards, some are looking for connections to others. Since we are a community of nice folks (who are also creative and talented!), offering classes is yet another way for us to bring folks into our gallery.

Think about whether you'd like to offer a class or, perhaps, organize an open studio group. Guidelines and procedures for doing this are posted on the artists' "insider" page of our website. (Check under the "Documents and Forms" section in the upper left-hand side of the page.)

<https://hemlockstudiogallery.com/insider/>

Art Classes in Northeast Georgia

Several Hemlock artists offer classes for those interested in exploring their creativity or learning new techniques. Also, as a community service, we are pleased to provide a listing of art classes in the Northeast Georgia area. [Click here to see a listing of current classes.](#)

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New Procedure for Registering Participants in Classes Taught by Hemlock Artists

Our process for registering participants for classes taught by our own Hemlock Studio Gallery artists has changed a bit from that used in our previous location.

Given the sheer number of class sessions already listed, the most that we are going to be able to do in the gallery is list the names and contact information for individuals who wish to register. It is going to be too burdensome to process - and keep track of - payments for classes in advance (this was cumbersome in the other Hemlock location as well). For several reasons (not the least of which is that Square charges a higher service fee when credit cards are not physically present - meaning, over the phone), **we are not going to have folks pay when signing up for classes.**

A white, signup notebook has been added and will be kept next to the red gallery binder (generally on the top shelf on the left side of the desk (see photo below).



At the right is a photo of the front cover of the white, Class/Workshop Signup notebook. There are easy, step-by-step instructions for taking in-person or telephone signups for classes. As mentioned above, we will not be taking payment at the time folks sign up for a class. However, a new step is that we will text the artist/instructor (just as we do when there is a sale) just so they'll know whenever someone new signs up for a class they are offering.

Class/Workshop Signups

This notebook contains sign-up sheets for scheduled classes and workshops only. Individual classes that artists arrange are handled by the artist directly.

To the on-duty artist:

- **Write in name and contact information** for interested participant. (Double-check name & date of class)
- **If a class is full** (meaning there are no more blanks above the solid cutoff line, **ask the person if they'd like to be on a waiting list.** You can then write their contact info on the next available blank line.
- **Text the artist/instructor** to let them know you've added a person to the class (alternatively, you can take a picture of the sheet and text that to the artist).

Please do not take payments for classes or workshops. Participants will pay on the day of the class.