

Art in Vail's gardens all summer long

Artists will be outdoors at Vail's Betty Ford Alpine Gardens displaying and teaching

VAIL DAILY STAFF REPORT
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VAIL, Colorado – Artists can spend a day demonstrating and teacher among the flowers in Vail, Colorado's Betty Ford Alpine Garden during this summer's Art in the Gardens series.

Kicking off the "en plein air" – or, art outdoors – program will be local nature photographer Jon Sheppard, who will be at the gardens today from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and then again on June 17, July 8 and 29, Aug. 19 and 26 and Sept. 2. He will give photography lessons and students' photos may be displayed at the Vail library this winter.

On June 10, Colorado watercolorist Cheryl St. John will be in the gardens from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., then again on July 1, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9. Inspired by "the wide open spaces," her classes focus on improving en plein air techniques.

"En plein air is always a challenge, never-ever routine," says St. John. "The changing light and weather conditions create a sense of urgency that translates to a spontaneous and loose interpretation of the scene, something that is very difficult to achieve in the studio."

The husband-wife team of Kevin D. Miles and Wendy Schaefer-Miles, known for their neo-impressionistic landscapes, are in the gardens June 19 and 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., creating an oil painting of the gardens.

Denver watercolor artist Patricia Barr-Clarke demonstrates en plein air techniques all day on Wednesdays, July 15 and 29 and Aug. 12. And Cynthia Padilla, international botanical artist and naturalist illustrator, offers a two-day field sketching workshop 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 4 and 5.

The Art in the Gardens program also features artists displaying their art for sale at Alpine Treasures, the Gardens' gift shop on Gore Creek in Vail Village. St. John will be on hand July 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barr-Clarke will be there Saturday, Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Vail watercolorist Elaine Kuntz is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For the complete events schedule or more information, call 970-476-0103, ext. 3, or visit www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org.

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