

Artists bring talents to Coffee and Canvas

By Kelly Faulkenham
Correspondent

NEW SMYRNA BEACH - Ten artists of varying levels of experience recently gathered at the Artisan Gardens to put their talents to the test for a Coffee and Canvas class with artist Heather Pastor.

Held in the front building on the same property as Clay Gallery, Hottie Coffee owner, Lori Ellis and The Bake Shop by Heather Harrison, provided the space along with a selection of coffee and pastries.

With a goal of completing an image of a sunflower in two hours and encouraging people of all ages to experience the feeling of putting paint on canvas, Pastor provided each with a 16x20-inch white canvas on a tabletop easel, tools, paints and a pencil to the group who were openly eager to get started. "95 percent of the class has never painted before today," she said, explaining the design rule of odds, painting top to bottom, small areas to small and light colors before moving on to darker ones.

Choosing a pallet that would complement her kitchen, first time painter Sharon Baridon was excited to get started, saying, "I've had a lot of false starts." But her color choices and technique were praised and she appeared openly pleased with her artistic endeavors.

"It's harder than painting by numbers," said Mary



The Coffee and Canvas class led by artist Heather Pastor at the Artisan Gardens in New Smyrna Beach. NEWS-JOURNAL/KELLY FAULKENHAM

Barringer with a sense of humor. Turning her canvas up-side-down, she realized it looked good from a variety of directions.

"This is the second class I've taken with Heather," commented Joan Macrie. An experienced wood worker, she said after the first class, she went out and bought paint supplies so she could continue at home. "She has inspired me and I find painting very therapeutic."

Pastor, who taught Paint Your Art Out classes at The Hub for about three years, said she was looking for a way to expand her market by teaming up with local area businesses.

"When my friends Lori and Heather partnered up to open Artisan Gardens, I asked if we could move the classes to that location,"



Heather Pastor consults with Sharon Baridon on her first acrylic on canvas painting. NEWS-JOURNAL/KELLY FAULKENHAM

she explained.

Once the weather turns a little cooler, her plan is to take the class outside into the tranquil and

inspirational gardens.

Pastor teaches classes throughout Volusia County. For information, visit onebyonedesign.com.