# living NORTHSIDE

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# THE CORNER OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

MUSIC UNDERGROUND: DARWIN'S BURGERS AND BLUES

### UNLEASH THE BEAST: BE A WORKOUT WARRIOR



An insider's guide to living on the northside. From **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution** 



# Brush & Beverage

#### Story by TISA MOORE Photos by JASON GETZ

orget about those awkward art classes in grade school. Everyone is a cool kid at paint-and-sip gatherings. And you get to leave with your own masterpiece. The timeout activity gives your brain a break, says Barbara Watson, an instructor at Art & Beyond in Alpharetta. "When you're painting, you're not thinking about work, or the kids or anything else," she says. Here are some Northside spots where you can unwind with a beverage and a brush.

#### Art & Beyond

Since 2014, this Alpharetta studio has hosted classes for adults and children, in addition to private events for team building, birthday parties and showers. With Motown music playing in the background, paint-and-sip nights have become a popular form of entertainment where dates, girlfriends or small groups bring light snacks and a bottle (or two) of wine to settle in comfortably in front of their personal canvas and a palette of paint colors. Some canvases have a light pencil tracing of the subject for that night's painting. It may be the Eiffel Tower, a Tuscan landscape, a farmhouse or a beach hut, for example. Instructors give guidance throughout, suggesting which colors to add and which paints to mix together to create a new hue. Participants can follow as closely or as loosely as they like. "We get all kinds of people," says owner Andy Schwartz. "Some are specific on what they want to paint, others just come."

specific on what they want to paint, others just come." 8560 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 102, Alpharetta. 770-954-6102. www.artandbeyondstudio.com »

Shown are participants and artwork at Art & Beyond studio in Alpharetta. They are one of several Northside places that offer painting classes in a social setting.





#### **All Fired Up**

Indigo-colored walls popping with green trim get the creative juices flowing even for non-artists at All Fired Up in Alpharetta. Owners Bobbie and Jim Drummond say paint-your-own pottery studios around the United States and United Kingdom inspired them. They have more than 700 items of pottery, including cups, plates, bowls, kitchen items and kids pieces to paint. "We offer pottery painting, glass fusion, clay and canvas painting, and our selection for each medium is large," says instruc-tor Samantha Dutto. "Definitely the most common events are our children's parties. However, we have seen a dramatic increase in team building events, adults' parties and girls-night-out events." All Fired Up also offers studio time for artists to work. 53 South Main St. Alpharetta. 770-740-7800. alpha@allfiredupinc.com

#### **Masterpiece** Mixers

Owner Krista Goodrich studied art at the Louvre Museum in Paris, and that's only one aspect of her journey before opening Masterpiece Mixers Paint and Party Studio in several cities and states. The former financial planner's paint palace in Johns Creek welcomes solo artists, couples and group parties with no minimum number required. Instructors lead the classes for all skill levels. In addition to your favorite adult beverage, party favorites such as cake and pizza are welcome. The studio does not have a refrigerator, icemaker or microwave. 11030 Medlock Bridge Road, Johns Creek. 770-715-6136, masterpiecemixers.com

#### **Cork & Canvas**

These art parties are held inside a small, quaint cottage in Roswell. The evening kicks off in a social room set up for guests to mingle and enjoy their drinks and appetizers before the painting class begins. "You pick your paint colors and are welcome to add your own creativity," says owner Christine Zollinger. "We have a fun, relaxed atmosphere, and we only hold about 20 people, so you can get one-on-one help if you want it." Although most participants have little art experience, considerably talented artists also enjoy coming in at times to paint. "We have one man in particular that is an awesome painter," Zollinger says. "He comes in every few months and paints his own thing. He always does a fabulous job. It's very therapeutic." Company events have drawn more men to the activity, she says. Separately, Kids & Eazels Parties provide everything parents need to throw a birthday bash for children. The birthday girl or boy selects the subject painting for the party. 122 Norcross St., Roswell. 770-687-4251. www.corkcanvas.com

Andy Schwartz, center, guides students as Motown music plays in the background.

## insider **TIP**

Aprons are usually provided, but wear something you would not mind getting paint on — just in case. Arrive at least 15 minutes early. Depending on the location, late arrivals may not be able to participate. Many provide wine glasses, ice and napkins.



Artist Cindy Sanchez displays the painting students will replicate during a recent class at Art & Beyond.