



Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild (BRAG) promotes the works and activities of artists working in two-dimensional media in Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties and the surrounding areas of Western North Carolina. BRAG is an avenue for artist education and exposure through programs, workshops, exhibitions, and the internet, and seeks to promote and encourage the arts among its members, local schools, and the public.

Check out our On-Line Store to use PAYPAL



July 2012- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

July marks the beginning of new year for BRAG. We've got four years behind us now and are entering our fifth year. Looks like this one will be busy, too, with 2 exhibits a little later this summer. Plus we'll have a tent at the Old Timey Festival on the Burnsville Town Square and artists will be demonstrating.

We got a bit of good news recently - the Burnsville TRAC offices and gift shop will be staying in place for a while longer. It will be great to have their continued presence in Burnsville.

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

News

Our next BRAG meeting is Monday July 16th at 6:30 pm. Debra Nadelhoffer will demonstrate oil painting. Debra is a representational artist and works in both oils and pastels. She was recently accepted as an Artist in Residence at Acadia National Park and will be painting there for two weeks in September. Please visit Debra's website to see her work.... http://www.debranadelhoffer.com

Please make note of this important date change for the BRAG on Avery exhibit. Paintings need to be delivered on Sunday, August 5th, between 1pm and 5pm.

BRAG On Avery Exhibit REPORT:

Thursday, July 26th is the DEADLINE for submitting to John Elsegood the title of your artwork, media, size and price - if for sale - with artist's name, mailing address, email address and phone number.

We will have the forms for you to fill out ahead of time. You will have one form to attach to the back of your artwork and one to hand in to the hanging committee. This is so Caitlin can make the wall tags for the artwork and John to make a show catalog.

Artwork must be delivered on Sunday, August 5th to the Dickson Gallery between 1pm and 5pm. Caitlin Morehouse and John & Linda Elsegood will be there to accept work.

Hanging the artwork on the same day: Hanging committee--Caitlin Morehouse, John and Linda,

Avery Arts Council will provide display easels for any displaying of artwork.

The show will be open to the public at the time of hanging and the opening reception will be Friday, August 10th from 6:30pm till 8pm.

The exhibit will be taken down on Friday, September 28th and all artwork must be picked up at that time.

Only One piece of artwork per member, no larger than 16" x 20" and no limit.

It's time to pay membership dues again. Please download and printout a member form from this website (on the Membership page) - or - there will be copies available at the next meeting. Individual memberships are just \$25.

Laurel Lovrek is the BRAG secretary for this new year. Please send any correspondence to be distributed to the membership to "llovrek@ccvn.com". (Those are lower case "L's", not 1's.)

Jim Carson, our guest artist for the August meeting, has offered to hold a workshop for BRAG. There are several dates he is offering, listed below. Please let Peggy Horne maghorne@gmail.com know if you are interested in any of these dates.

- 1) June 24-30
2) July 24-29
3) Aug. 23-Sept. 1
4) the whole month of Sept.
5) Oct, except the week of Oct. 22-28

The Yancey Historical Association gave their approval and BRAG members voted to approve an exhibit from late September through October 29th at the McElroy House. The theme is "Old Tools and Blue Ridge Pottery". Each member will be able to submit one small painting.

BRAG is planning to have a tent during the Old Timey Festival (September 29th) and members will demonstrate painting. The festival is from 10-4 and members are needed to demonstrate. It doesn't have to be a complete painting. The technique is more important. The



Susan Garriques - Maggie



Artist: Barbara Deschenes - Tree Grove



Artist: Kathleen Turczyn - Donkey



Creative Challenge July

demonstrate. It doesn't have to be a complete painting. The technique is more important. The demos can be short - 20 minutes or so, which means one could start with a work in progress. Please contact Judy Larkins if you are interested.

BRAG Member Susan Garriques' art is part of the "Islands to Highlands" exhibit at the **Avery County Arts Council** in Linville. The exhibit is open from **July 4, 2012 until August 1st**. There will be an artists' reception on **Friday, July 13th** from **6pm to 8pm**.

BRAG Members Barbara Deschenes, Pauline Dials, Susan Garriques, Sandra Gates, Charlotte Holland, Gaylene Petcu, Anne Sabri, Kathleen Turczyn, Jeanette Warner, deJamette Wood and Nancy Wood are all participating "**The Power of Ten. An exhibit of the Gates' Studio Wednesday Painters**". The exhibit opens **August 4th** in **Burnsville** at the **TRAC Gallery**. It will be open through **September 15th**. There will be a **Meet the Artists Reception on Friday August 17th** from **5pm - 7pm**.

Creative Challenge - Each month a photo will be included in the newsletter and members are encouraged to paint from that photo. It should be quite interesting to see how everyone handles the subject matter. Feel free to crop and edit as you wish. You may bring your paintings to the meetings, or if you would prefer, send photos of your paintings to Susan Garriques for the newsletter. And... you don't have to finish it for a specific month - there won't be any deadlines. So if you don't get to paint this month's photo till November or December, no worries. Just have fun.

The Creative Challenge Photo for July:

(if you would like a higher resolution image (larger image) for printing - or an image from a previous Creative Challenge, please email Susan Garriques)

Guest Article

The Art of Influence: How George Inness Helped Me to Change My Artistic Direction and Find My Voice

This post is by guest author, Nathan Clements. George Inness is highly recognized and well respected among painters and collectors. He was an immensely capable artist. Although he lived and passed some 100 years ago, his influence has affected the artistic direction of many. I count myself as one of the influenced.

Notice I said influenced and not infected. To me, influenced means "inspired by" while not being obsessed with copying or emulating the actual works of this great artistic giant. This is an important distinction.

It has taken me 20 years to find my own artistic voice. I can vividly recall when it happened. I remember well the very moment. Alone in my studio, I said out loud "that's it!" The painting where I found my voice was later to be titled "Lullaby". It was so named because creating that painting was so natural for me. It felt like coming home after a long journey. It was a soothing comfort which took me into another world. John Denver said that when he first got to Colorado he felt like he had "come home to a place he had never been before."

That was me.

I had studied many great artists over the years but I had never really looked closely at George Inness. I suppose that I was not ready until the time was right. What really got me excited about George Inness was he painted like he did not care. Don't get me wrong, I do not mean that he did not care to make beautiful canvases. What I mean is he was absolutely fearless. He would do whatever was necessary to achieve the mood that he wanted to convey. He scumbled, glazed, scratched, and scraped his canvases over and over again until he was satisfied. The painting came into being little by little by the power of his imagination and his willingness to let his artistic muse determine the outcome. He did not resist the random patterns of his underpainting, but rather embraced them, knowing that the staggering power of unconscious creativity was found in them.

In addition, George Inness was not opposed to glazing the entire painting to achieve his color harmony and mood. This is something that was rather frowned upon in his day and this is also somewhat the case in today's "opaque paint" world. He was once visited by a young art school student who observed him glazing his whole painting with one color. The student was shocked and said something like "you're a great painter, I can't believe that you would resort to a glazed veil to achieve your affects". George Inness replied "you go back to your art school and tell them that I would smear mud on my canvas if it got me what I want".

George Inness was in three words SIMPLE, FEARLESS and FREE. No canvas was safe from repainting. No passage immune from being scraped off and "tickled" as he described it. These are the great lessons that George Inness influenced me with. It was almost as if he whispered to me through his paintings... "be simple, fearless and free just once, and see what happens". I did? and it worked.

Internet Tidbits

Richard Robinson is a New Zealand painter that offers some good free art lesson snippets on his website. Be sure to look around the site for all he has to offer. Here is a link to a free landscape painting lesson...

<http://www.livepaintinglessons.com/FREELandscapePaintingLessons.php>

Here's a good article about color mixing with oils... <http://emptyeasel.com/2006/12/22/how-to-make-better-oil-paintings-tips-and-techniques-for-correctly-mixing-color/>

Classifieds

*** SAVE THE DATE!! ***

**4th Annual Avery County Arts Council Avery Paint-Out on the Greenway
Saturday, August 18, 2012 Banner Elk, North Carolina**

Paint Out Registration is from 8:30am – 10:30am at the Art Cellar Gallery 920 Shawneehaw Avenue, Banner Elk

Registration Fee is \$35.00 Artists are allowed up to 6 surfaces stamped; up to 3 finished pieces can be submitted for judging. Artists will pick a spot along the Greenway Trail from the Art Cellar gallery thru to Tate-Evans Park, and paint until 3:00pm. The public is encouraged to walk the trail and view the artists at work. Paintings must be turned into the Art Cellar Gallery for judging, no later than 3:30pm. Artists may retain the right to sell their work. Avery County Artist and Teacher Barbara Timberman will be our judge. Award announcements and Paint-Out Reception will be held from 4-6pm. ** 1st Place: \$250.00, 2nd Place: \$100.00, 3rd Place \$75.00 People's Choice Award: 12 Color Palate – Graham Paint (medium of choice)

For Information contact **Jessie Schmitt – 828-260-2189** or schmittj@gmail.com (Please indicate Paint-Out in the tag line.)

Sponsors: The Art Cellar Gallery, Avery County Chamber of Commerce, Art Purveyors

One last note - it's about the Money Jar. You may have noticed a vase or a jar placed near the refreshments at each meeting and you may have assumed that was to help pay for the coffee and cookies. BUT..... BRAG pays the Town Center \$30 for each night that we meet. The "Money Jar" is meant to help pay the rent. If each member attending the meeting will contribute \$1 it will just about cover the cost of the rental. Please don't forget to add your dollar when you come to the meetings. Every dollar helps!

Archive of Newsletters:

- December Newsletter pdf
- January/February Newsletter pdf
- March Newsletter.pdf
- April Newsletter.pdf
- May Newsletter.pdf
- June Newsletter.pdf