



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



June 2012- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

With any luck, you all are as busy as I have been and you haven't noticed the lateness of the June newsletter. And hopefully you aren't too busy to miss our meeting this month on Monday the 18th. Freeman Beard, watercolor painter, is our guest artist this month. He will be doing a demo and answering our questions.

For those of you who like to get outside to paint, Kevin Beck has organized another Paint Out at Sweetgrass in Blowing Rock. This is a free event and includes a free lunch. It is a beautiful location with views of Grandfather Mountain. If you are interested, there is more info below.

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

News

During our next BRAG meeting (Monday June 18th, 6:30 pm) Freeman Beard will demonstrate watercolor painting and answer questions. Stop by Freeman's website (fbeardart.com) to see his paintings. Don't forget to get your questions ready!

The 6th Annual TRAC/BRAG PaintOut was a great success and well attended by both artists and art lovers. Congratulations to BRAG Members Jack Ferrell for his Honorable Mention Award and Julianna Hallman for her Student Award.

BRAG member Johnny Dean McCurry is holding an Open Studio on Saturday the 16th at 2:00pm. He has 25 new paintings and would be pleased if you can make it. Please visit and bring a friend. The studio is located on Bolens Creek Rd., behind the Bolens Creek Baptist Church which is just across from the community "Dig In" garden. This is 2.5 miles from downtown Burnsville. Johnny Dean's phone number is 713-2081 if you have any questions

Plein Air Paint Out with Kevin Beck. Friday, June 22nd, 9am - 5pm. This is scheduled to be a fun day of mingling with fellow painters and capturing the beauty of SweetGrass, a mountain lake community that borders the Blue Ridge Parkway at Holloway Mountain Road near Price Lake. SweetGrass and Blowing Rock Realty will be providing a buffet lunch and beverages of participating painters. We will have an informal voluntary "wet paint show" at the SweetGrass Lake House at the conclusion of the Paint Out. Email SueGlen@ BlowingRockRealty.com or call Sue at 828-295-9861 to register.

Congratulations to BRAG member Rhea Ormond for being selected to paint cows for the North Carolina Cow Parade. You can read more about the Cow Parade here... http://cowparadenc.com

Phil Garrett, a representative from Golden Acrylics, who gave an in depth presentation of Golden's products at the BRAG April meeting, is giving another presentation at Penland. It is a free event on the Craft House porch, Saturday June 16th from 10am-12pm. Please call Sallie Fero, the Supply Store Manager, to save your spot. 828-765-2359 ext 18.

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 June:

(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 Biggest Mistake Of All by Richard Rogers

As an artist, what do you think the biggest mistake you can make is?

My vote for the biggest mistake is being afraid of making mistakes.



Artist: Laurel Lovrek - Roan Mountain



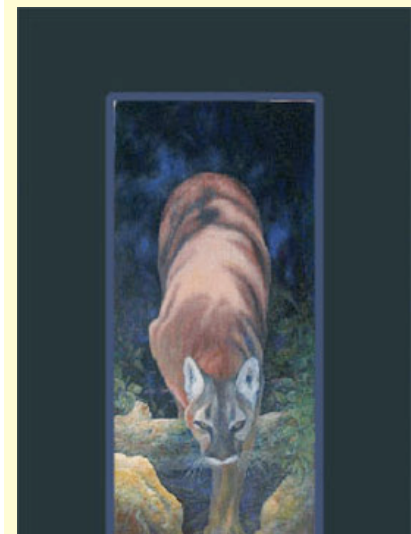
Artist: John Elsegood - Barn at Newlands



Artist: Kathleen Turczyn - Mountain Path



Creative Challenge June



Nothing will slow learning or progress more than the fear of getting something wrong, of making a mistake. It is a fear that immobilises some people altogether.

It doesn't happen often, but I've had people walk out of workshops before they even had a chance to learn something new, let alone practice a new skill, and all because they didn't instantly get a great result. Such unrealistic expectations preclude any possibility of learning or further growth.

The truth is mistakes are inevitable. They are part of the learning process. They need to be understood and accepted as such -- not avoided.

I am not saying I actually welcome mistakes. I would love to be right all the time and to get things right the first time, every time. But that is not how life works, and it is not how I learn -- nor how anyone else learns.

We crawl before we walk. It is the nature of things.

What mistakes give us are results, and that result is feedback. For that reason even a bad result is good, because the feedback we are receiving gives us an opportunity to learn something new, to work out how to do things better.

Drawing provides the perfect illustration (pardon the pun) for how 'mistakes' can be used as feedback to get better results.

For example, imagine drawing a landscape and putting the horizon line in the wrong spot. If the line is erased completely and you try again, you are, in effect, starting from scratch and there is no guarantee you will get a better result. If, however, the line is not erased, it can be used as a reference point. Should the new horizon line be higher or lower than the previous one? Using 'mistakes' as a reference point help you get the drawing 'right' much more quickly than if you are continually starting over.

It is much better to make mistakes than to do nothing. This applies not only to painting and drawing, but also to many other things, including marketing your art.

It is not a cosmic rule that people learn from their mistakes. Some people never do. But we can - by being willing to make mistakes, by observing the results, and then considering how those results can be improved upon.

The biggest mistake is to fear failure so much that you do nothing. Remember, the tortoise only makes progress by sticking its neck out. Do the same and make more mistakes. Don't think of them as failures. View them as results, as feedback, opportunities to learn and improve.

Happy painting.

Your thoughts and comments are welcome.

Cheers, Richard

link to original article - <http://richardrogers.com.au/blog/42286/the-biggest-mistake-of-all>

Internet Tidbits

Artists Helping Artists, an online art blog, also has a weekly internet radio show. All the shows are archived, so they can be downloaded and listened to "whenever". They give lots of marketing tips and do interviews with artists. Check them out here...
<http://artistshelpingartistsblog.blogspot.com/>

Here's a good article on designing your art blog...
<http://emptyeasel.com/2012/06/14/6-tips-to-help-you-design-a-great-looking-art-blog/>

How to get your art on greeting cards....<http://emptyeasel.com/2012/06/11/how-to-get-your-art-on-greeting-cards>

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!

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Artist: Linda Vickers Elsegood - Out of the shadows

