



### 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.

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## March 2013- BRAG Newsletter

### From the Editor...

March has become my favorite month since moving to the mountains. By March, winter is nearly over. It holds the promise of warmer days and greens instead of grays and browns. The weather can be wild - snow one day and warm and sunny the next. But even when it snows, it doesn't matter so much, because it is March and that means winter is nearly over.

Spring in the mountains is beautiful and for most of us, it can't come soon enough. I, for one, am looking forward to getting outside with my paints. Before you know it, the Paint Out will be here (only about 2 months away now), so it's time to get out and practice.

Don't forget... paint first!

### Susan Garriques

Our next meeting will be **Monday March 18th at 6:30 in the Town Center in Burnsville**. This month, our guest artist is **Susan Meyer Sinyai**. Susan is a pastel artist. If you would like to see her work beforehand, you can visit her website at... <http://www.susanmeyersinyai.com/>

**May 18th** is the date for this year's **TRAC Paint Out**. This is a fun event and a chance to win some money!

Each year TRAC selects a well-known painter to jury the entries. Based on her/his decisions, awards are presented to First (\$500), Second (\$300), and Third Place (\$200); and in the Student (\$15) and Honorable Mention categories. That evening a coffee and dessert reception is held in the Gallery. Folks come to meet the artists they watched all day, view the work, and applaud not only the winners but all the participants. Paintings from the Paint Out are on display for several days following the ceremony.

Support for the Paint Out is made possible by the Toe River Arts Council with the generous support of local family, Susan and Paul Crutchfield, who recognize and honor the "giving and generous spirit" of Sandra Gates. Funding to TRAC is also made possible with a Grassroots Art Grant through the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.

This year's judge will be Ann Vasilik, well-known artist from Asheville. She is a native of Lancaster County, PA and has lived in Asheville since 1988. She received a bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Philadelphia College of Art. Ann has worked as a painter and teacher in Virginia, California, Hawaii, North Carolina and the Republic of the Philippines. She has had numerous one-woman shows and has received many awards and commissions. Her work is contained in private and corporate collections.

**March 23rd (from 5pm to 7pm)** is the reception and awards announcement at the Bascom exhibit - Regional Art Leagues: Selected Works in Highlands. Members Sandra Gates, Rolf Holmquist, Laurel Lovrek, Roy Nichols, Gaylene Petcu and Nancy Wood all have art in the exhibit. You can learn more about the Bascom here.... <http://thebascom.org>

**Barbara Kahn**, one of BRAG's multi-talented members, has created Ancient Oracle Cards. This is an intuitive deck formed from fifty-four images of her visionary paintings done over several decades. She formatted them in Photoshop and is just finishing the editing on the Handbook.

Fellow painters, we have a rare opportunity to generate a workshop with a very talented painter and art teacher, **John MacDonald**. Check out his website at [www.jmacdonald.com](http://www.jmacdonald.com) — one look at his light-soaked landscapes will convey his skill at capturing the natural beauty around us.

John lives in Massachusetts; he teaches at Williamstown College and various art centers, including a week-long course at The Bascom this July. We have asked him to swing by Burnsville on his way to The Bascom to lead a weekend plein air workshop with us. That would be on **Saturday, July 13** and **Sunday morning, July 14**. The plan is to go to one or two outdoor locations on Saturday, and another on Sunday (we are open to suggestions for the best spots). Our home base in case of bad weather will be Sandra Gates' studio.

We've set a price of \$125, with a \$50 deposit due no later than March 30, so John can make his travel plans. We need a minimum of 8 people to make this work, and would set the limit at 12. Contact Nancy Wood for more information ([nancydwood@frontier.com](mailto:nancydwood@frontier.com)) or send a deposit made out to BRAG at PO Box 81, Burnsville NC 28714. Sandra will present further information on John MacDonald at the BRAG meeting next week.

**Editors update:** We do have 8 deposits for the workshop, so there are only 4 spots left. Don't miss this great opportunity!

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



Artist: Ray Caron Tomatoes



Artist: Barbara Deschenes Tropics



Artist: Susan Garriques Saki



Creative Challenge March



**On Going Events**

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**Time for a field trip??**

Check out this exhibit at the **Columbia Art Museum in Columbia, SC:**  
Impressionism from Monet to Matisse showcases 55 masterworks from the Dixon Gallery and Gardens. The exhibition features paintings by the well-known leaders of French Impressionism: Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley as well as paintings by America's most noted Impressionist painters, Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent. Major modern paintings by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and Georges Braque are also on view.  
<http://www.columbiamuseum.org/exhibitions/monet-to-matisse/>

**Internet Tidbits**

Thinking about upgrading your paints? Check out these paints....  
<http://www.linesandcolors.com/2013/03/08/vasari-classic-artists-oil-colors/>  
Carrie Waller is a fantastic watercolor painter. Here is a great post she did about using greens...  
<http://carriewaller.blogspot.com/2013/03/mixing-greens.html>

Make your art stand out...  
<http://theabundantartist.com/how-to-make-your-art-stand-out-online/>  
Learn how to photograph your art...  
<http://theabundantartist.com/how-to-photograph-and-edit-your-art-for-your-site/>  
Get your art featured in a magazine...  
<http://emptyeasel.com/2013/03/08/how-to-get-featured-in-an-art-magazine/>

**Classifieds**

Arthur Morgan School is selling:  
Drafting light table, square table does not tilt and has a level surface, storage compartments. Light box works and also has a adjustable level. \$25.00. Contact [esboesch@gmail.com](mailto:esboesch@gmail.com)

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DEADLINE: Wed, July 31, 2013  
**Southern Appalachian Artist Guild National Juried Show**  
Location: GA

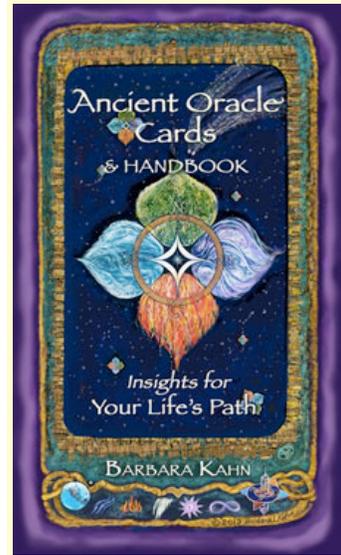
Georgia, Blue Ridge, The Southern Appalachian Artist Guild presents the 2013 National Juried Show, Oct. 19-Nov. 8, 2013. Juror: Michael Chesley Johnson, PSA, MPAC. \$5,000 in awards. Deadline July 31, 2013. Prospectus online: <http://www.blueridgearts.net/Pages/SAAGNationalShow.aspx> or send SASE to 420 West Main St., Blue Ridge, GA.  
Contact: Southern Appalachian Artist Guild | 706-632-2144 | [www.blueridgearts.net/Pages/SAAGNationalShow.aspx](http://www.blueridgearts.net/Pages/SAAGNationalShow.aspx) | [saagnationalshow@gmail.com](mailto:saagnationalshow@gmail.com)

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**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: Barbara Kahn Oracle



Artist: Nancy Wood Luna



Eye Trick - "left brain-right brain"  
Susan's Choice