



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



May - BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

The greens are back. After months of grays and browns, the greens are stunning. And of course, there are the flowers. Purples, yellows, pinks, red, oranges, and blues. Incredible.

The TRAC PaintOut is this month - on the 19th. Stuart Roper will be the judge for the PaintOut and he will also be our guest artist at this month's meeting. Don't forget - the meeting will be on Friday the 18th, the evening before the PaintOut.

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

News

During our next BRAG meeting (Friday May 18th, 6:30 pm) **Stuart Roper** will be presenting a "tutorial" on working "en plein air". He will be discussing and showing basically how he starts a painting on location, as well as covering materials, paints, brushes, mediums etc. He would also like to have a question and answer period on almost any facet of painting.

Please be sure to check out Stuart's website to see his paintings and read about his fascinating travels. www.stuartroper.com

Phil Garrett, a representative from Golden Acrylics, gave an in depth presentation of Golden's products at the April meeting.

TRAC has lost all but one of their Burnsville employees who were working through grants from the Senior Community Service Employment Program and is looking for volunteers for the giftshop through the end of June.

ROUTE 80 SHOW REVISITED

To be held in Burnsville Library Gallery.
Date and Time to be Decided.

ENTRY RULES:

(Revised from the first Rte 80 Exhibit)

The show will ONLY be open to paid members of BRAG. (Membership is from July to July.)
Work must be rendered in 2010, 2011 or 2012.

Only ONE piece of artwork PER member due to the small size of the gallery -- (We have around 40 members at this time.)

You may use an entry from the first Rte. 80 show or do a NEW piece.

Must be two-dimensional: Photography, pen and ink, charcoal, pastels and any painting medium.

Must be framed properly and ready to hang. The Acceptance committee has the authority to refuse work that is not appropriate.

Work must have geographical details of subject matter with location regarding rte 80 - (so that each can be numbered and pin-pointed on display maps.)

Artwork can be rendered from subject matter that is within THREE MILES of Rte. 80.
OR-Can be rendered from subject matter that is ACCESSIBLE ONLY from Rte. 80-A DEAD END ROAD--(there is NO distance limitation on a dead end.)

There WILL be a small entry fee which will be decided upon by the Guild members.
(To cover expenses).

All necessary entry forms will be provided for Artwork information : Artist name, title, medium, location to Rte. 80, size, price and or insurance value if not for sale.

There will be a DEADLINE (to be decided)-on entries-with ALL Artwork information, so that a show catalog can be printed.

The History panels will be on display in this show for more interest as well as the MAPS OF ROUTE 80.

If you have any interesting History or stories concerning areas within Rte. 80, please let me know-(does not have to be related to your artwork).



Artist: Stuart Roper



Artist: Pauline Dials - River Rocks



Artist: Barbara Deschenes - Mountains



Creative Challenge May



If you do a NEW piece of artwork and know any History or interesting Facts about your subject matter, please inform me so I can add a NEW PANEL TO OUR HISTORY display.

BRAG Member **Jo Wainwright** has been accepted into the 35th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Southern Watercolor Society. Jo competed successfully with 230 artists and a total of 425 paintings. Only 90 paintings were selected for the exhibit. The exhibit will be held in Georgia at the Sautee Nacoochee Center. Congratulations, Jo!

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 May:

(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
Cultivating Emotion

This article is by **Keith Bond**, Regular contributing writer for *FineArtViews*.

In last week's article, I embedded a video of Sharon Isbin performing a classical guitar piece. The point of the article was how technical ability and emotion are both critical in your art. ?One without the other is not enough for truly great art.

It's easy to find lots of how-to's to help develop the technical aspect. And of course, lots of practice is required.

But what about the emotional aspect? How do you develop and cultivate emotion in your art?

Here's a list of some of the ways that work for me. Realize that a lot of practice is important here, too.

Spend Time With Your Muse - Think of it as a relationship. Court your muse. The more time you give her, the more your muse will give you in return. Creativity begets creativity. Spend time creating. Have a regular date with your art.

Spend Time With Your Subject - Know your subject intimately. If you paint landscapes, spend a lot of time in nature (or with whatever your subject is). Walk slowly. Observe, feel, respond. Smell the air. Smell the pines and sage. Explore. Contemplate. Discover the underlying rhythms of nature. Find metaphors in nature. Meditate. Do all this without your art supplies. Simply build a relationship with your subject. You will strengthen your feelings about it.

Create Art With Your Subject in Front of You -Create from life as much as possible. If your muse speaks to you while you are standing on a river bank, why would you just take a photo to capture the scene and hope you can remember what your muse said later in the studio?

Get Clear through Thumbnails **n** Before you begin a piece of art, draw several thumbnails. You will dig deeper into yourself and into your subject as you do. You will begin to become more aware of what you are responding to.

Write - I find it helpful to write a few words while doing my thumbnails. I have also on occasion written my thoughts, feelings, and impressions while simply meditating in nature. Also, writing after the fact also helps solidify ideas and helps you become more aware of how you respond to your muse. It will strengthen your ability to identify those feelings in the future.

Title Your Work Before You Begin - Sometimes simply giving the work a title before you begin helps you stay clearly focused on what you want to say.

Develop Your Memory - As much as I advocate painting from life, there is a time and place for memory painting. Superficial details are forgotten and impressions and emotions are retained through memory. Let memory guide your work, and as a result you will have more emotion in your work.

Create a Studio Environment Conducive to Getting Into the Zone - Create a safe haven in your studio free of distractions. Fill the space with things that promote introspection, creativity, memory, happiness, etc.

Identify Emotional Triggers -Find things that bring you back to meaningful memories or strong emotions. They could include music, smells, images, tastes, etc. Fill your studio with these.

Develop Routines the Get You Into the Zone - Basketball players have routines at the free throw line. Golfers have routines for the critical putts. So do performers and boxers and many others. These routines aren't just quirky habits. They are choreographed methods to get you to focus intently on what you are doing so that you can be at your peak performance. They are designed to get you into the zone.

Use rituals, emotional triggers (see #9), arrangement of your colors on your palette, placement of easel in your studio, other routines, etc. to get you into the zone. Do this each time you create.



Artist: John Elsegood - Red Barn at Newlands

time you create.

Meditate - Yes, I included meditation as part of spending time with your subject (#2). But spending time to meditate on the bigger questions in life, on family, on spirituality, etc. is also important. Your choice of subject and how you respond to it is in direct relation to who you are as an individual. Your beliefs, philosophies, personality, relationships, etc. all play an important role in shaping you. Pondering on these issues, though not directly related to your art, will strengthen your inner-self. Your art will benefit. Your creative muse comes from who you are holistically.

Spend time developing your emotional voice, coupled with your technical development. If you do, your work will have much more meaning.

Share what other things you do to cultivate and nurture your own emotional connection to your art...

Best Wishes,

Keith Bond

Internet Tidbits

For those of you watercolorists (or just an art appreciator!), be sure to take a look at this preview of a new exhibit by South Carolina artist, Mary Whyte... ?
<http://gardenandgun.com/gallery/mary-whyte-working-south>

If you are interested in plein air painting, here is a great blog post all about pochade boxes. ?
<http://www.linesandcolors.com/2008/08/17/pochade-boxes/>

Classifieds

CALL FOR ENTRIES - Appalachian Pastel Society, Asheville, North Carolina

The Appalachian Pastel Society invites artists to submit work for their 2012 National Juried Exhibition to be held October 18 - December 14, 2012 at The Asheville School in Asheville, North Carolina. More than \$2,000 in cash prizes and art supply gift certificates will be awarded, including a \$1,000 Best in Show Cash Award.

Juror for the 2012 APS National Exhibition is Richard McKinley, PSA, PSWC-DP, NPS.

Richard McKinley has been a professional working artist for 38 years and has over 35 years of teaching experience, including several DVDs on pastel painting. A book that compiles years of his published Pastel-Pointers columns and blogs for the Pastel Journal Magazine titled "Pastel Pointers, Top Secrets for Beautiful Pastel Paintings", was released in November 2010. For more information, visit Richard's website at [?www.mckinleystudio.com](http://www.mckinleystudio.com)

Paintings submitted must be 80% soft pastel (not oil pastel). Submission is made via digital images in JPEG format on a CD. Artists may submit up to three images. Entry is \$25 for APS members, \$35 for non members. Deadline for receiving entries is August 1, 2012. Visit the APS website for prospectus at [?http://www.appalachianpastelsociety.org/national-exhibitions/](http://www.appalachianpastelsociety.org/national-exhibitions/), or send a SASE to Carol Branton Morrow, 108 Flame Azalea Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778, phone 828.686.7549.

The Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival Organizing Committee and the City of Bakersville, NC are happy to announce the eighth annual Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival in historic Bakersville, NC on Saturday, September 22nd, 2012. The festival will feature juried exhibitors from North Carolina and throughout the southeastern United States and will further establish Bakersville as a destination for individuals seeking fine art and craft.

We would like to invite local & regional fine artists and craftspeople to apply for space at this year's show. The entry fee is \$100 and the non-refundable application fee is \$15. (The \$15 application fee is waived if you have been previously juried into this show.) The jurying committee will require 3 images of your work and one of your booth set-up. (See application guidelines for specifics on submitting images.)

Awards include:
Best of Show \$1000 ::
Second Place \$500 ::
Third Place \$300 ::
Honorable Mentions (3) \$100 each
Middleton Emerging Artist Award \$200
Early bird entry deadline (\$15 discount on entry fee) is May 1, 2012.
Final entry deadline is July 1, 2012.

An application has been attached to this email. You may obtain additional applications, if needed, via:

Email: send a request to bakersvillefestival@gmail.com

Website: download an application at www.creekwalkfestival.com

Or by contacting our Festival Coordinator: Brette Barron at 828-284-1913

Brette Barclay Barron
Festival Coordinator

Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival

www.creekwalkfestival.com

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](#)