



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.

Check out our On-Line Store to use PAYPAL



October 2012- BRAG Newsletter

The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work. — Emile Zola

From the Pinch-Hitter Editor...

Hello Everyone,

BRAG members were busy last month! Sorry to say that I missed most of the fun, due to the demands of my day job, family duties, and a virus. I missed the last BRAG meeting, missed the Tools show (heard it was well done and well attended), and only had a passing glimpse of the BRAG booth at the Old Timey festival.

Nancy Wood

Past and Future BRAG Meetings

At our September BRAG meeting, Asheville artist Ann Vasilik did a watercolor demo of a European town scene. I'm sorry I missed it, but thanks to Sandra Gates putting out the call, and the response of John Elsegood and Rhea Ormond, we have couple of good photos to fill the gap.

Our next BRAG meeting is Monday, October 15 at 6:30 pm. Word is that Peggy Horne arranged for a presentation by artist Edward Morris of Flat Rock, NC. His website, www.edwardmorrisart.com, is an intriguing travelogue of North Carolina scenes.

Member News

Dorothy Buchanan Collins will be doing a solo show of oil paintings, called "Late Bloomer, Celebration of Color," at the Mica Gallery. Most of the paintings (all painted in this past year) are of large flowers, but also include a still life and a landscape.

The Mica Gallery is the new art cooperative in Bakersville, located at 37 N. Mitchell Avenue, phone 828-688-6421. Mica is organized and run by 14 local artists, primarily ceramicists. If you've not been there yet, you're in for a treat! Check out their beautifully done website: www.micagallerync.com. And good luck to Dorothy!

As we say goodbye to summer . . . Laurel Lovrek recently took a painting holiday at a beach near Charleston harbor. The pastel shown is called Dunes, Isle of Palms. She comments that it was too windy on the beach for an easel and canvas, so she took to her pastels on location. Later, when rained out, she retreated to a screened-in porch and switched to oil. Sounds like a win-win situation!

Carol Bailey didn't offer any details, but sent two of her recent works. It was a hard choice deciding which one to include! As ever, her dramatic contrasts between dark and light are very striking. And you can feel the breeze blowing through the grasses!

Tools and Blue Ridge Pottery On-going Exhibition

The exhibition at the Yancey History Associations McElroy House opened with a good crowd on hand including our House Representative Ray Rapp and the Mayor of Burnsville amongst the guests. Kathleen Turczyn laid on a fabulous spread and Chris Carter from the Chamber and YHA greeted guests with Linda at the door. The mix of art and objects was a good match and there is talk of doing it again.

For those who missed the exhibition the Yancey History Association is open Tuesdays through Saturday 10am to 4pm and BRAG members are admitted free of charge, all others are admitted at \$3 for exhibition and tour. Go to the YHA shop on Academy Street to gain entry to the McElroy House and show your membership card.

Reminders

Membership dues were due in July. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please download and printout a member form from this website (on the Membership page) - or - there



Artist: Dorothy Collins



Artist: Ann Vasilik's Final Painting



Artist: Ann Vasilik at work



Creative Challenge October



will be copies available at the next meeting. Individual memberships are just \$25. Only fully paid members will have their web page on the BRAG website with bio and images. On September 1st, any member who is not paid membership in full will have their page taken off the BRAG website. If you are unsure of whether you have paid, please contact **Judy Larkins**. **John Elsegood** will be updating the website at the end of each month. Submit to John any changes or updates you want to make to your page by the third week. His email address is jelsegood@frontier.com

Creative Challenge - Each month a photo is included in the newsletter and members are encouraged to paint from that photo. Feel free to crop and edit as you wish. Wouldn't it be fun to see how different folks interpret and paint the same image? There are no rules or deadlines, and no worries about finishing for a specific month. Just have fun with it.

This month, I'm going with an October/autumn theme. Bring your painting to a BRAG meeting, or send photos of your paintings to Nancy Wood for the newsletter.

Articles of Interest

Susan Garriques is still traveling out west, but she never stops thinking about painting. She passed on a couple of links for this newsletter:

- http://www.goldenpaints.com/products/mixer/?et_mid=579489&rid=2888989

This fun tool is an online color mixer for Golden acrylic paints. Given the vagaries of color matching on a computer screen, I doubt how accurate the color is, but it's an interesting way to get a ballpark feel for what happens when you mix two or three colors together, whether or not you work in acrylics.

- <http://www.reddotblog.com/wordpress/index.php/should-i-date-my-artwork>

If you've ever wondered whether or not to include a date on your artwork, this article gives a very convincing argument against it. It's too long to reprint here in toto, but I recommend this down-to-earth analysis. Bottom line: the article suggests keeping records of your artwork with dates, but keeping dates off the actual artwork itself. After reading this, I came across a painting of mine that I dated last year, and decided to paint over the date. Funny how the painting already feels brand new.

Laurel Lovrek passed on these two items:

- http://www.youtube.com/user/bradteare?feature=results_main

I recommend videos by an oil and acrylic landscape artist on YouTube. His name is Brad Teare, lots of great information in the 54 videos.

- <http://landscapesinpastel.blogspot.com>

Also Deborah Secor, who was our guest artist in February, has a fantastic 35 chapter illustrated book "Landscape Painting in Pastels" which is free on the web. Her gift to the artistic community. Some chapters are reprints of articles she wrote for The Pastel Journal magazine, while others are new material.

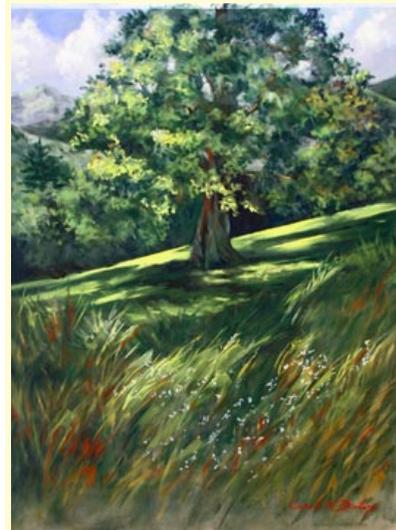
One last note - it's about the Money Jar. You may have noticed a vase or a jar placed near the refreshments at each meeting and you may have assumed that was to help pay for the coffee and cookies. BUT..... BRAG pays the Town Center \$30 for each night that we meet. The "Money Jar" is meant to help pay 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: Laurel Lovrek



Artist: Carol Bailey