



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



September 2012- BRAG Newsletter

If you hear a voice within you say, "you cannot paint," then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced. — Vincent van Gogh

From the Pinch-Hitter Editor...

Hello Everyone,

Susan Garriques is well on her way out West, and she will be missed! She left me plenty of hints about how to put this newsletter together, and even sent a couple of links from a campsite with Internet. That's dedication! I fear I'll fall short of filling her very capable shoes, but I'll give this my best shot. I've not had much in the way in incoming reports, but I've received some good images to work with, so here goes.

Nancy Wood

News

Artist Demos, Past and Upcoming

At our August BRAG meeting, we enjoyed a demo by Jim Carson, who drove up from Saluda, NC, (south of Hendersonville). A former lawyer, Jim has been painting now for over 20 years. Though he confessed to jet lag, having just returned from a trip to Europe, he nonetheless produced a lovely oil painting in less than two hours (photographed by Susan). See more of his work at www.jimcarson.net.

Our next BRAG meeting is Monday, September 17 at 6:30 pm. We are in for a treat with a demo by Ann Vasilik, an Asheville watercolor artist. She specializes in city landscapes, like this one of Asheville, taken from her website at www.annart.com. Coincidentally, Ann has also recently been to Europe — in her case, Switzerland and France. She plans to paint a scene from Anney for her demo..

Upcoming BRAG exhibitions -

Old Tools and Blue Ridge Pottery

Laurel Lovrek has been circulating a number of reminders about this show via email, including an entry form. I don't know about you, but I'm inspired by the painting Kathleen Turczyn has done for the show, a collection of wrenches she calls "A Family Affair."

To summarize about the show:

- The deadline for all entry information for this show is Monday, September 17 — the same day as our BRAG meeting.
• Any members who are entering this show should have the title of the piece, the price, size of the piece, and their \$10 entry fee ready to turn in by that date, so the organizers can assess how the show will hang.
• You can bring your entry form and fee to the BRAG meeting or mail to BRAG, P.O. Box 81, Burnsville, NC, 28714.
• The show will be hung on Monday, September 24 at the Rush/Wray (McElroy House) at 11 Academy Street, Burnsville.
• Some photographs of the paintings might be needed for publicity. If you like, you can bring your work to the Sept. 17 meeting and John Elsegood has generously volunteered to take photographs.
• Keep in mind the size limit: no paintings larger than 16 x 20.

Remember: The show opening reception is on the 28th of September at The McElroy House at 5pm to 7pm. We are hoping for a good crowd and it is a BRAG "Chamber Mixer" which means many of the business community will be attending. We have also sent out personal invitations to the local politicians and council members. Please circulate this opening on your Facebook page or personal website. Thanks.

Report on the Banner Elk Paintout

A number of BRAG members participated in the Banner Elk Paint Out on August 18: Sandra Gates, Laurel Lovrek, Gaylene Petcu, Katherine McCarty, and Nancy Wood. We were greeted by Jessie Schmitt, a new BRAG member who played a large part in making the Paint Out a success. Jessie lives in Banner Elk and is a member of the Avery Arts Council.

Painters found plenty of inspiration along the picturesque Greenway Trail, which meanders through the town. Sandra Gates did her painting on a bank overlooking the river, with a view of



Artist: Kathleen Turczyn



Artist: Jim Carson (Final Painting)



Artist: Ann Vasilik



Creative Challenge September



Artist: Sandra Gates

through the town. Sandra Gates did her painting on a bank overlooking the river, with a view of Grandfather Mountain in the distance. She definitely caught the overcast, misty feel of the day.

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**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 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.

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**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 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.

In September, 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](mailto:jelsegood@frontier.com)

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**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 offering a photo I took of my brother's koi pond. Bring your painting to a BRAG meeting, or send photos of your paintings to Nancy Wood for the newsletter.

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**Browsing on the Web**

Susan has a gift for nosing out interesting articles online. I don't have that gift, and I ran short of time this month. However, Susan sent me a link to one of her sources: a newsletter called BrushBuzz, with art news, links, and quotes. I think the idea was for me to find something interesting and add it to the newsletter, but here's the direct route: <http://faso.com/brushbuzz>. Take a look a see what grabs your fancy.

It's late in the year to be talking about en plein air painting (though we still have fall color coming up!) but I did find a wonderful website with a summary of the various pochade box options that exist out there. This site really helped me think through what type of lightweight equipment might be the best investment for me. The information was posted in 2008, but updated in May of this year. Here's the link:  
<http://www.linesandcolors.com/2008/08/17/pochade-boxes/>

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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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