



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



December 2013- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

Happy Holidays!! Even though the snow has (mostly) been staying north of us, the holiday spirit is everywhere. As I write this, Christmas just 7 days away. Time is flying!

We won't be having a meeting this month, so if I don't see you out and about, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paint on,

Susan Garriques

News

There will be no meeting in December. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, January 20th, 2014.

The November BRAG meeting was held on Monday, November 18th, at the Burnsville Town Center at 6:30 pm. Following a brief business meeting, members watched a video demo by artist Rose Frantzen on "Alla Prima Portraiture". If you didn't make it to the meeting or if you even if you did, you really should check out this link...(and be sure to look at the way her portraits of Maquoketa was hung!).. <http://oldcityhallgallery.com/portraitofmaquoketa.html>

Update on the Bascom exhibit:

On December 17th, a group headed by Denise Cook, Executive Director of TRAC, juried the work submitted by BRAG members for the upcoming exhibit in Highlands, NC, at the Bascom. The exhibit features work from regional art guilds. This will be the second year in a row that BRAG has been asked to participate. This year only 4 paintings are allowed to be entered. Eight BRAG artists submitted paintings . Each artist could submit two paintings to the jury. There were a total of 11 paintings for the jury to choose from. The four paintings chosen were "Plum Daylily" by Gaylene Petcu, "Bille Ruth" by Rolf Holmquist, "Roan Mountain View" by Sandra Gates, and "River" by Susan Garriques. Congratulations to all - especially to Gaylene, Rolf and Sandra who have juried in for the second year. (editor's note: be sure to look for images of these works in the next newsletter)

The Appalachian Pastel Society is featuring BRAG member, Gaylene Petcu, as Artist of the Month. The quick link to the newsletter is <http://www.appalachianpastelsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2013-December-Newsletter.pdf>

As you may remember, BRAG's very first exhibit took place at the Spruce Pine Library. BRAG members, at that time, had recently placed art in the Burnsville, Spruce Pine and Bakersville libraries. Since that time, the art has been removed from the Burnsville library (in preparation for its move to its new home), but there is still art in the Spruce Pine library and the Bakersville library. There was a short discussion about this during the meeting in November. This is where an Exhibition chairperson would come in. And a committee of helpers. How about 2 members together holding the chair position? All volunteers are welcome! It would be a great idea to refresh the art in the libraries. We have quite a few new members now and thier work would be a great addition. Please contact Sandra Gates if you are interested.

Website Updates - John Elsegood, our volunteer Webmaster, has made time in his busy schedule to update the member pages of the BRAG website. This is mostly for our new members, but if your page is sorely out of date you may update your information, too. After the update the only pages that will appear are those who have paid membership for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Please send your completed information to Laurel Lovrek (llovrek@ccvn.com) by January 15th, 2014. Laurel will forward all the collected information to John. If you have questions please send them to Laurel at llovrek@ccvn.com. (and a big thank you to John!)

Committee Chairs are still needed for both Exhibitions, Publicity and Programs. Please contact Sandra Gates if you are willing to volunteer. (and thank you very much to Laurel Lovrek, our secretary, who has taken on several of the chores of these missing chairpeople!) Also - if someone is willing to take over the Newsletter, it would free Susan Garriques, our current editor, up to be able to take over the website.

Last year your editor, Susan Garriques, participated in a 30 Paintings in 30 Days Challenge in January. The challenge is on again in 2014 and she's planning on doing it again this year. It was a great experience and she sold several paintings, too! If you would like more information, contact



Artist: Carol W. Bailey Buchanan Barn in snow



Artist; Kathleen Turczyn Winter River



Artist: Allen Benowitz Cardinal in forest



Artist: Sharon Bradshaw Shearling cap



Susan (susan@susangarriques.com)... or go directly to the site to sign up...
<http://lesliesaeta.blogspot.com/2013/12/get-ready-for-january-2014-30-paintinqs.html>

Internet Tidbits -

Are you a fan of Cezanne? You might like this...

<http://www.artistdaily.com/blogs/oilblog/archive/2013/11/21/how-to-paint-sleep-and-nearly-die-like-c-233-zanne.aspx>

Three things a painting can't live without....

<http://www.artistdaily.com/blogs/artistdaily/archive/2013/11/20/3-things-a-painting-can-t-live-without.aspx>

Here is a big thumbs up for a pencil sharpener for pastels....

<http://www.joannegrantart.com/?p=2338>

Several members have talked about Rosemarys brushes - would you like to hear the story behind them?- here's an interview with Rosemary's daughter....

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/artistshelpingartists/2013/12/05/the-story-behind-rosemarys-brushes>

For all you watercolor artists here is a helpful article on tools for the watercolor artist - this is actually the 4th article in the series, so be sure to notice the links to the other articles.

<http://emptyeasel.com/2013/12/12/4-more-useful-watercolor-tools-for-beginning-painters/>

Classifieds....

Lisa Blackshear, a member of the **Western North Carolina Plein Air Painters** (several BRAG members are members also), started an Asheville Urban Landscape Painters project in 2013. She plans to continue this project in 2014. The Asheville Urban Landscape Project 2014 will be 12 sessions of Plein Air Paint-Outs in the City of Asheville. They will meet **Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., April 16-May 26 and Sept. 2-Oct. 7**. The series of Paint-Outs will culminate with an exhibition in the Fall of 2014, place to be determined. The Paint-Outs are gatherings of artists, both professionals and novices, painting together outside in "Plein Air". We will gather in a different Asheville neighborhood each time, such as the Botanical Gardens, the Basilica, Pack Place, the River Arts District, West Asheville, Downtown Weaverville, and others. Each Paint-Out will begin with a presentation of a Featured Artist. All mediums are welcome, oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel. Contact Lisa for more info....**Lisa Blackshear, 828 458-0111, asheville@wncpap.com**.

2014 Women Painters of the Southeast Exhibition and Sale - at the Lovely Magnolia Art Gallery in Greensboro, GA., just one hour outside Atlanta, nestled by beautiful Lake Oconee!! \$13,000 in cash and prizes. New ENTRY DEADLINE: 12/20/13. Renew OR Apply anytime now through December 20, 2013 and get membership through December 2014. go to: www.womenpaintersse.blogspot.com

Did you know that **Jerry's Artarama** has online art contests that are FREE to enter? Here's a link to the contest page...<http://www.jerrysartarama.com/art-contests/index.htm?gclid=CLSbu6ue3roCFenm7Aod-xcA0g>

Wrapping up...

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 2011.pdf
- January/February Newsletter 2012.pdf
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Artist: Susan Garriques *Christmas Teddy Bear*



Artist: Sandra Gates *Winter View*



Artist: Charles Gillespie *Winter*



Artist: Barbara Kahn *Winter Wood Spirits*



Artist: Judy Larkins *Winter Pasture*



April Newsletter 2013.pdf
May Newsletter 2013.pdf
June Newsletter 2013.pdf
July Newsletter 2013.pdf
August Newsletter 2013.pdf

September and October 2013 Newsletters refer to Susan Gauriques, susan@susangarriques.com

November Newsletter 2013.pdf



Artist: Laurel Lovrek *Iris*

BRAG is a not for profit organization under TRAC (Toe River Arts Council) in North Carolina.
Any information not covered in this website can be obtained by emailing one of the officers on the BRAG website contact page.

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