



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



PayPal



January/February 2012 Combined - BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

Happy New Year!

There are daffodils about to bloom in our garden. They survived the 6 degree morning a few days back, which I was sure was going to kill them. This winter has been agreeably mild. I'll keep my fingers crossed it will stay this way.

BRAG members will be meeting again on January 16th at the Town Center (6:30 pm). Since we didn't have a meeting in December, we will have some catching up to do. See you there....

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

BRAG's January meeting will be held on **Monday, January 16th, at 6:30 pm** at the Town Center.

BRAG's February meeting will be held on **Monday, February 20th, at 6:30 pm** at the Town Center.

You are currently reading this newsletter on our new website, which John Elsegood has just recently finished. Here are some details from John regarding updating the site from now on:

Changes, alterations, additions and updates will be done at the end of each month. On demand changes are not efficient with a website as large as the BRAG site is.

For some artists with missing biographies, John took info from internet articles and the website of the said artist to fill in the blank spots. These can be altered at the end of January - please send John the bio as you would prefer it to be.

John's email address: ?jelsegood@frontier.com

The Avery Arts Council Show

We are still considering a name for our upcoming show for the Avery Arts Council in August. Some of the submissions are below. We'll be discussing this again at our next meeting.

- Adventures In Avery
- Adventurous Avery
- Avery County Scenic Byways
- Highlights of Avery County
- Art In Avery
- BRAG Artists Paint Avery
- Paintings of Avery County
- Avery Art by BRAG Artists
- Avery County Painted
- Artventure in Avery
- Aspects of Avery
- A Very Avery

Congratulations to member **Gaylene Petcu**. She is the recipient of the Regional Artist Project Grant.

Here is a link for more information. <http://www.averycountyartscouncil.org/>

Peggy Home, our Program Chairperson, is working hard to schedule programs for our meetings. She has arranged for a representative from Golden Acrylics to do a presentation for our April meeting. If you have any requests or ideas for a presentation, please be sure to contact Peggy.

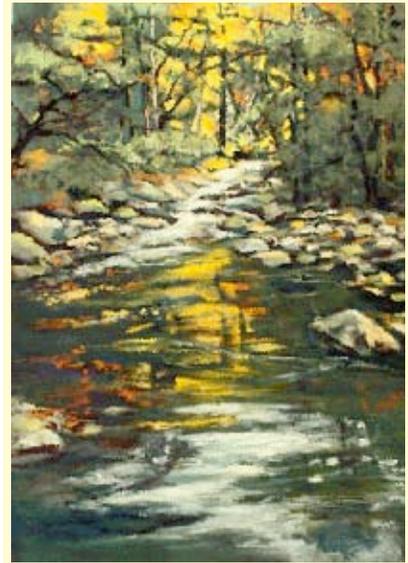
We've decided to change the **Creative Challenge** from a "word" based subject matter to a "photo". Each month a photo will be included in the newsletter and members are encouraged to paint from that photo. It should be quite interesting to see how everyone handles the subject matter. Feel free to crop 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 January/February is Snowman:

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



Gray Squirrel - Artist: Linda Vickers Elsegood



Artist: Carol Bailey



"Fields of Poppies" Artist: Gaylene Petcu



Creative Challenge January/February



"Scout", the portrait on the right, was painted especially for the Helping Paws Exhibit, an annual online event sponsored by the **Canine Art Guild**. Each of the artists in this exhibit has partnered with an animal rescue group or shelter and pledged a portion of the sale of their work to that rescue or shelter. **Susan**, for the 4th year in a row, has partnered with the Yancey County Humane Society. In addition to a portion of the sales going to the shelter, there will be People's Choice Awards. These awards are cash awards that go directly to the shelter partnered with the artist. Susan's paintings have won People's Choice Awards for the past three years. You can help make her painting a winner again this year by placing your vote for Scout. Visit the exhibit by clicking here - ?www.canineartguild.com/gallery/



"Scout" Artist: Susan Garriques

Scout is a Bluetick Coonhound and she is waiting patiently for a forever home. She's a young spayed female and just as sweet as can be. If you'd like to adopt her, please contact the **Yancey County Humane Society at 828-682-9510**

Internet Tidbits

Those of us from Florida know Dave Barry's work well. Here's a link to a fun article he wrote about Art Basel in Miami.....
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2009/09/13/1210737/the-idiots-guide-to-art.html>

And here's an interesting read that's been creating a bit of a stir on the internet:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mat-gleason/twelve-art-world-habits-to-ditch-in-2012_b_1181672.html

Researching copyright issues recently I found this question and what I thought was a pretty good answer.....

"I've found a lovely photo on the Internet and want to make a painting of it. Can I do this?" --

A painting made from a photograph is known as a derivative work. But that doesn't mean you can simply make a painting from any photo you find -- you need to check the copyright situation of the photo. Don't assume because the likes of Warhol used contemporary photos that that means it's okay if you do.

The creator of the photograph, i.e. the photographer, usually holds the copyright to the photo and, unless they've expressly given permission for its use, making a painting based on a photo would infringe the photographer's copyright. In terms of US copyright law: "Only the owner of copyright in a work has the right to prepare, or to authorize someone else to create, a new version of that work."¹ You may be able to obtain permission to use a photo for a derivative work from the photographer, or if you're using a photo library buy the right to use it.

You might argue that the photographer is unlikely ever to find out if you use it, but are you going to keep a record of such paintings to ensure you never put it on display or offer it for sale? Even if you're not going to make commercial use of a photo, just by creating a painting to hang in your home, you're still technically infringing copyright, and you need to be aware of the fact. (Ignorance is not bliss.)

The easiest solution to avoiding copyright issues when painting from photos is to take your own photos, or use the Artist's Reference Photos on this website, photos from somewhere such as Morgue File, which provides "free image reference material for use in all creative pursuits", or to use several photos for inspiration and reference for your own scene, not copy them directly. Another good source of photos are those labeled with a Creative Commons Derivatives License in Flickr.

Photos being labeled "royalty-free" in photo libraries does not mean "copyright free". Royalty free means that you can buy the right from the copyright holder to use the photo wherever you want, whenever you want, how many times you want, rather than purchasing the right to use it once for a specific project and then paying an additional fee if you used it for something else.

As for the argument that it's fine to make a painting from a photo provided it doesn't say "do not duplicate" or because 10 different artists would produce 10 different paintings from the same photo, it's a misconception that photos aren't subject to the same stringent copyright rules as paintings. It seems that all too often artists who would scream if someone copied their paintings, don't hesitate to make a painting of someone else's photo, with no thought to the creator's rights. You wouldn't say "as long as a painting doesn't say 'do not duplicate' that anyone can photograph it and declare it their original creation".

The absence of a copyright notice on a photo doesn't mean copyright doesn't apply. And if a copyright statement says ©2005, this doesn't mean that copyright expired at the end of 2005; it generally expires several decades after the creator's death.

(article courtesy of ?About.com)

2 Artist Resolutions to Steal for 2012

by **Alyson Stanfield** on January 1, 2012

One of my first-ever free gifts for subscribers to my newsletter was a list of Artist Resolutions. Today "being January 1 and all" seems like as good a time as any to update and share. Steal and adapt what feels true to you.

Artist Resolutions

RESOLVE to try a different color.
RESOLVE to experiment with a new media.

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RESOLVE to take a class, read another book, watch an art documentary.
RESOLVE to expand my knowledge of art.

RESOLVE to share my art with more people.
RESOLVE to write more about my art.

RESOLVE to find my own path.

RESOLVE to stop whining about not having enough time.

RESOLVE to say No to those things that are not important to me or that get in the way of what I want to be.

RESOLVE to stop fiddle-farting around on the Internet or with the TV remote control and start dedicating myself 100% to my life's work.

RESOLVE to stop playing it safe.
RESOLVE to take risks.

Classifieds

Call for Art - Syracuse Cultural Workers - Datebooks and Calendars - We are seeking art that complements activism...art that challenges the powers that be...that sustains and educates...celebrating our efforts to change the world!
<http://syracuseculturalworkers.com/call-art>

Light Space & Time Gallery, Jupiter, Fla.

Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery presents its juried competition "All Women," open to all female two-dimensional artists. Submissions from female artists will be accepted for inclusion into the February 2012 online group exhibition. Five finalists will be selected to appear in the exhibition and awards for first, second and third places will be given.

Deadline: January 29

For more information: <http://www.lightspacetime.com/competitions/future-competitions/januarys-art-competition-all-women/>

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](#)