



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.

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May 2013- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

Spring is finally here - a little chilly at times - and rather wet - but Spring! It never fails to amaze me just how green the world outside becomes when the leaves return.

Due to a scheduling conflict at the Town Center, our meeting this month, which was originally planned for Friday, the 17th, has been changed to Monday, the 20th.

Don't forget the TRAC Paint Out - Saturday, May 18th. This is a fun event - spend some time outside, painting from life and a chance to win some money. There's more about this event below, too.

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

News

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 20th at 6:30 in the Town Center in Burnsville.

Last month's meeting featured Wendy Outland, an art consultant. She talked about what makes a strong portfolio. She also explained about the relationship between an artist and a gallery. If you missed the meeting and would like to learn more about Wendy, check out her website - www.whoknowsart.biz

The TRAC Paint Out is on Saturday, May 18th. This is a fun event and a chance to win some money!

On Saturday, May 18, participating artists check in at the TRAC Burnsville Gallery between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Painting materials are validated and a \$25 fee is paid. Artists may use any painting or drawing medium or process. Once the materials are validated, artists venture to their chosen location; it can be anywhere they can get to and back by the deadline. Artists are welcome to visit Burnsville prior to the Paint Out to select the scene they want to capture, take photos, and prepare preliminary and practice sketches. In the evening, artists return to the TRAC Gallery by 5:00 p.m. with their paintings and titles and prices. There they also frame and price their artwork.

Each year TRAC selects a well-known painter to jury the entries. Based on her/his decisions, awards are presented to First (\$500), Second (\$300), and Third Place (\$200); and in the Student (\$15) and Honorable Mention categories. That evening a coffee and dessert reception is held in the Gallery. Folks come to meet the artists they watched all day, view the work, and applaud not only the winners but all the participants. Paintings from the Paint Out are on display for several days following the ceremony.

Support for the Paint Out is made possible by the Toe River Arts Council with the generous support of local family, Susan and Paul Crutchfield, who recognize and honor the giving and generous spirit of Sandra Gates. Funding to TRAC is also made possible with a Grassroots Art Grant through the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.

This year's judge will be Ann Vasilik, well-known artist from Asheville. She is a native of Lancaster County, PA and has lived in Asheville since 1988. She received a bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Philadelphia College of Art. Ann has worked as a painter and teacher in Virginia, California, Hawaii, North Carolina and the Republic of the Philippines. She has had numerous one-woman shows and has received many awards and commissions. Her work is contained in private and corporate collections.

BRAG member Gaylene Petcu has created an amazing body of work and is having a solo show this month at the Design Gallery at 7th South Main in Burnsville, NC. The show runs from May 10th through June 8th. "Bloom! Appalachian Flowers in Full Glory" has been made possible in part by funds Gaylene received from The Regional Artist's Project Grant. This project is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources with additional funding from local arts councils in Avery, Buncombe, Madison, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

If you can't make it to the gallery, you can always enjoy Gaylene's work from the comfort of your home on her website.... www.gaylenepetcu.com

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...



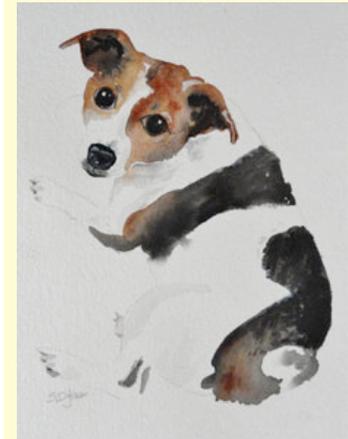
Artist: Carol W Bailey Trillium



Creative Challenge May



Artist: Barbara Deschenes Reflections



Artist: Mary Dykes Kally



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

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**On Going Events**  
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**The Toe River Valley Plein Air Painters** membership list is growing and there are lots of BRAG members there. We've had 2 paint outs already, both along side the Cane River just west of the Humane Society at the new sports complex. If you like to paint outside, please feel free to join us. You can read more about it on our blog - <http://trvpap.blogspot.com>.

Also in regards to painting outside - Scott Boyle has started a new website that is a place for all the North Carolina plein air painters groups to gather. It's a great place to go to find plein air sessions happening in North Carolina. That website address is [www.ncpap.org](http://www.ncpap.org). Both Scott's site and the Toe River Valley Plein Air Painters are free. No meetings.

If you would like to join our group, you can do that from the [ncpap.org](http://ncpap.org) site or just send Susan Garriques ([susan@susangarriques.com](mailto:susan@susangarriques.com)) an email and she'll put your name on the email list.

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**Internet Tidbits**  
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Now that the weather is better for painting outside - here's a good lesson on painting trees..

<http://www.artistdaily.com/blogs/pleinair/archive/2008/10/22/anatomy-of-the-landscape-trees.aspx?a=ar130504>

Have you ever tried watercolor pencils? Here is a good tutorial on how to use them.

<http://www.artistdaily.com/blogs/artistdaily/archive/2013/04/26/watercolor-painting-pencils-sure-tell-me-another-one.aspx>

A familiar question - "How do I create my own personal style?"

<http://faso.com/fineartviews/59024/develop-your-personal-style>

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**Classifieds**  
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**9th Annual Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival Sat, Sept 21.** Entry fee: \$100/non-refundable application fee: \$15 (App fee waived if you have previously juried into show). 3 images of your work and one of your booth set-up. Early bird entry deadline (\$15 discount on entry fee): May 1. Final entry deadline: July 15. For more info to [bakersvillefestival@gmail.com](mailto:bakersvillefestival@gmail.com)

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BRAG Member, **Kathleen Deasy**, is offering painting and drawing in her studio. She paints with both oils and acrylics. Classes are geared to new painters and artists that want to explore new techniques using texturing and adding dimension to their work using cloth and other natural materials that create 3 dimensional paintings. The cost is \$18 for an hour and half session and I am doing the classes by appointment. Kathleen's studio is White Oak Art Studio in Bakersville at 46 White Oak Rd. Call 828-688-1882 for more info or to schedule a lesson.  
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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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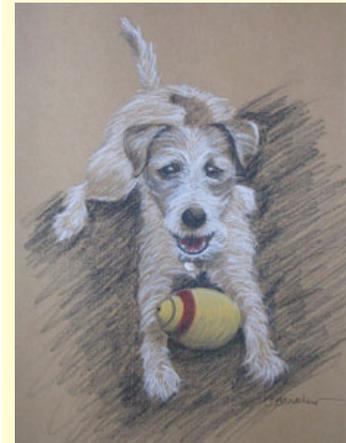
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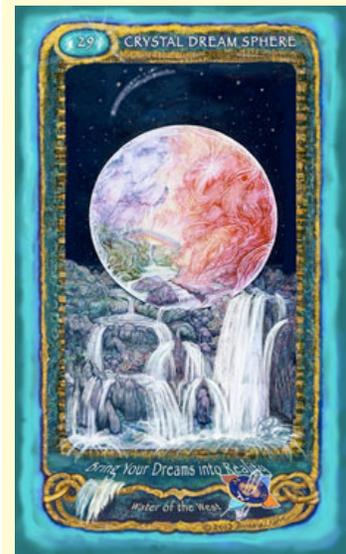
Artist: Anne Sabri Vases



Artist: Laurel Lovrek Beach



Artist: Sharon Bradshaw Buddy



Artist: Barbara Kahn Oracle card

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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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