



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



April 2013- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

This month's BRAG meeting promises to be perfect for any members that are interested in selling their work. Wendy Outland, an art consultant, is coming to talk to us about strengthening (and creating) our portfolios. She'll also talk to us about how to choose the right gallery for our work. You can read more about it below.

April is the month that flowers bloom and the art galleries begin having exhibits again. Those first exhibits bring everyone out from winter hibernation and there is always an exciting energy in the air. It is a wonderful time of year here in the mountains.

I hope to see you at the meeting

Don't forget... paint first!

Susan Garriques

Last month, members enjoyed a pastel demonstration by Susan Meyers Sinyai. If you missed the meeting, you can see her work and read more about her on her website..... http://www.susanmeyersinyai.com/

Our next meeting will be Monday April 15th at 6:30 in the Town Center in Burnsville. This month, our guest artist is Wendy Outland, art consultant. The workshop topics are Creating or Strengthening Your Professional Portfolio and Galleries 101. You will want to bring your artist statement, bio/resume and your price list, as she will offer quick critiques to help you strengthen your portfolio. She will also make recommendations for how to target and assess galleries. This is your opportunity to take advantage of a professional art consultant to further your career. Check out her events page on www.whoknowsart.biz.

As of this writing - there are still 2 spots left in the John MacDonald workshop on July 13th and 14th. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from a talented painter and teacher. It is only \$125. Send a \$50 non-refundable deposit to BRAG to hold your spot. When all spots are filled, we will start a waiting list.

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. 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 site or just send Susan Garriques (susan@susangarriques.com) an email and she'll put your name on the email list

The TRAC Paint Out is next month on 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.

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 copy and edit as you wish. You may bring your paintings to the meeting or if



Artist: Carol Bailey River



Pastel Demonstration by Susan Meyers Sinyai



Artist: Sharon Bradshaw Conversations



Artist: Ray Caron Mushrooms



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)



Creative Challenge April

Ann Vasilik, next month's Paint Out judge, has an wonderful exhibit of her work at the North Carolina Arboretum. She was featured in the Arboretum's newsletter this month. If you would like to read the article, you can click here for the pdf file.

Save the date! BRAG member **Gaylene Petcu** has created an amazing body of work and will be having a solo show beginning next month at the **Design Gallery** at 7th South Main in Burnsville, NC. The show runs from May 10th through June 8th, with an artist's reception on May 10th from 5pm to 7pm. **"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.

You'll find an article about Gaylene and her exhibit in the April issue of the Laurel of Asheville. If you would like a sneak preview of the paintings, you'll find them on Gaylene's website...
www.gaylenepetcu.com



Artist: Barbara Deschenes Palm Gardens

On Going Events

If you haven't been down to Columbia, SC, to see the Impressionism exhibit, there is still time. The exhibit is open through the 21st of this month. Several BRAG members have been to the exhibit and we all agree - it's worth the trip!

Impressionism from Monet to Matisse showcases 55 masterworks from the Dixon Gallery and Gardens. The exhibition features paintings by the well-known leaders of French Impressionism: Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Alfred Sisley as well as paintings by America's most noted Impressionist painters, Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent. Major modern paintings by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and Georges Braque are also on view.

<http://www.columbiamuseum.org/exhibitions/monet-to-matisse/>



Artist: Mary Dykes Little Foxtail Palms

Internet Tidbits

Here is an interesting discussion about selling prints online...(editor's note: I've been a member of Fine Art America for a few years now and can recommend joining)

<http://fineartamerica.com/why-every-artist-and-photographer-in-the-world-should-be-selling-on-fineartamerica.html?id=4106>

Are you afraid to try new things?
<http://theabundantartist.com/fear-new-things/>

Wondering if you should take a workshop?
<http://faso.com/fineartviews/58048/workshops-an-investment-in-yourself-and?>
<http://faso.com/fineartviews/58480/learn-to-fish-part-2-in-a-series-about-workshops>

Classifieds

This online exhibit sounds like a good way to market your art - and maybe win some free is very reasonable. This is for Surrealism, Impressionism and Abstract art ...

Dreams Within Me - We would like to invite visual artists from all over the nation to join us in our third year of online competitions. Our current themed art competition is " Dreams Within Me" is designed to draw a wide variety of amateur and professional artists working in the genres of: surrealism, impressionism & abstract art in any subject matter. Show us what most represents you, your creative expression & skill. The emphasis on our judging process is mainly uniqueness to style & subject matter. Share yours with us. (Complete rules are explained on entry page.)

<http://www.gulfcoastartdirectory.com/ContestCurrent.html>

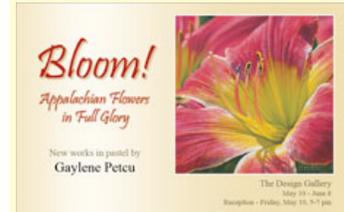
9th Annual Bakersville Creek Walk Arts Festival Sat, Sept 21. Entry fee: \$100/non-refundable application fee: \$15 (App fee waived if you have previously juried into show). 3 images of your work and one of your booth set-up. Early bird entry deadline (\$15 discount on entry fee): May 1. Final entry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

The Burnsville Development Group invites artist studios and other business owners in Burnsville/Yancey Cty to submit information for inclusion on the exploreburnsville.com website that is now under construction. This website will feature a directory of area businesses, including artist studios. A full page for each business will display information such as phone number, hours of operation, a description of business products or services. Up to four photos are included on the listing page. A Google map will direct customers to their location. To be included, a business must be located in Yancey County.

The Burnsville Development Group (BDG) is the sponsoring organization of the Explore Burnsville website, using funds earmarked for the promotion of businesses in Burnsville. Any business that pays a privilege license fee to the Town of Burnsville will be listed free of charge. Other business owners in



Artist: Sandra Gates Highlands Church



Artist: Gaylene Petcu Bloom Invitation

privilege license fee to the Town of Burnsville will be listed free of charge. Other business owners in Yancey County are encouraged to add their business at a nominal fee, with the first 100 businesses getting the first year free of charge.

Please complete the listing form and submit up to four photos of your business. Go to the Explore Burnsville website. Send photos to jymckinney@gmail.com.

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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