



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



November 2013- BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

It's snowing!!! Our first blast of winter weather is just starting as I put the finishing touches on this newsletter. I keep a "ten year garden journal" where I record temps and rain and garden "stuff". I started this journal when we first moved to the mountains in 2007. Each page of the journal holds 10 years worth of data for a specific day. It's been interesting to read back over the previous years' events as I record each day's data. It hasn't been unusual to have a "significant" snowfall as early as mid-October, so I'm thinking we've been really lucky with our recent warm afternoons.

As you'll soon read below, BRAG has been invited to participate in the regional art guild show at the BASCOM in Highlands, NC, again this year and the members voted in favor of participating at last month's meeting. This is a great chance to get your art seen somewhere other than Yancey or Mitchell counties. Plus, this year, they are offering awards. Be sure to read more about this exhibit below.

See you at the meeting!

Paint on,

Susan Garriques

News

The November BRAG meeting will be held on Monday, November 18th, at the Burnsville Town Center at 6:30 pm. Now that it is the winter season and there is a chance of "bad" weather, rather than arranging for a "live" demo, we will be using video demos. This month, the video demo will be Rose Frantzen on "Alla Prima Portraiture". If you haven't heard of Rose Frantzen before, be sure to check out this link... http://oldcityhallgallery.com/portraitofmaquoketa.html

Elizabeth Ellison was our guest artist in October, demonstrating some of her watercolor techniques. Elizabeth, coauthor of "The Blue Ridge Nature Journal:Reflections on the Appalachians in Essays and Art". Her mediums include watercolor, oil and mixed media. Elizabeth was recently commissioned to paint mountain landscapes for each of the governors attending the Southern Governors' Association which took place in Asheville. More about her diverse accomplishments can be seen at elizabethhellisonwatercolors.com She is represented by The Design Gallery in Burnsville.

The planned 2014 exhibit at the Spruce Pine TRAC gallery has been cancelled. We have been encouraged to re-apply for 2015.

The Bascom: a Center for the Visual Arts in Highlands, NC, has asked BRAG to participate in their regional art guild show for the second year in a row. The show will run from January 11 to March 30, 2014. The reception is March 29th at 5PM. The BRAG members present at the October monthly meeting voted "yes" to participate again this year. Work submitted to the Bascom must be juried. Last year a group headed by Denise Cook, Executive Director of TRAC, was kind enough to jury our works. There will be as yet unknown number of pieces to shown at the Bascom. Last year, six members had works displayed. The members who were chosen arranged among themselves to deliver and pickup their artwork. Since the November meeting will most likely be the last meeting before the opening of the exhibit, plans will need to be confirmed at that meeting.

Gaylene Petcu, BRAG's Historian, has been doing a fabulous job on the History Book. Be sure to look for it at the monthly meetings. Thanks, Gaylene!

Ana Demertzis, one of the newer members of BRAG, was in charge of refreshments for the October meeting. She amazed us all with a beautifully decorated table in addition to delicious treats. Thank you, Ana.

Committee Chairs are still needed for both Exhibitions and Programs. Please contact Sandra Gates if you are willing to volunteer. Also - if you would be interested in becoming the newsletter editor, please let Sandra know.

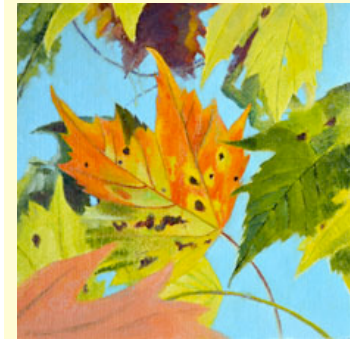
BRAG member George Horak talked to members during the October meeting about Fine Art America, an online art website. Artists can upload images of their work and sell that work through the Fine Art America website. Both prints and originals can be sold through the website. This is a great



Artist: Carol W. Bailey Fall



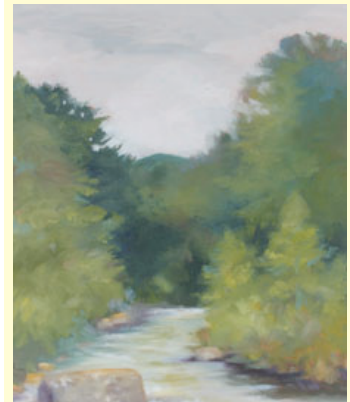
Artist; Kathleen Turczyn Summer Afternoon



Artist: Nanct Wood Maple Leaf



Artist: Anne Sabri Sunflower



way to get your art seen by people all over the world. Check it out at www.fineartamerica.com

Conrad Leavitt also spoke to members during the October meeting. Conrad is a videographer. For an artist, video can be used for recording demos which can be used on your website, YouTube, or even in an exhibit. Trillivision.com is Conrad's website.

Susan Garriques, BRAG's newsletter editor, was a featured artist in the October issue of the online magazine, Canine Collectibles Courier. You can read the interview here.... <http://erinrac.net/rock-solid-interview-with-susan-garriques/>

Internet Tidbits -

An urban sketcher <http://www.urbansketchers.org/2013/11/11-weeks-of-walking-and-sketching.html>

Embracing the bigger vision.... <http://faso.com/fineartviews/67564/embracing-the-bigger-vision>

How to make it as an artist.... <http://painting.about.com/b/2013/10/15/hard-work-makes-successful-artists-not-talent.htm>

The 6 C's of Art Sales..... <http://faso.com/fineartviews/66504/the-6cs-of-art-sales>

Classifieds....

Did you know that **Jerry's Artarama** has online art contests that are FREE to enter? Here's a link to the context page...<http://www.jerrysartarama.com/art-contests/index.htm?gclid=CLSbu6ue3roCFem7Aod-xcA0g>

Peggy Root is offering a workshop: **Capturing Mood in Your Landscapes** Nov. 16th. Saturday Afternoon Workshops are back! We offer a series of short, one afternoon, workshops on single topics during the winter months. We will meet at the (warm) studio school for a discussion of particular painting techniques, a coffee and cookie break and then painting practice! These workshops will run 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturdays - once a month. \$75. per person, art supplies not included. Call or write to reserve your spot. You are welcome to bring along your landscape work for an informal critique. 318 East Main Street, Johnson City, Tennessee, 37601 (423) 302-8960 or (423) 753-8398 write rootstudioschool@gmail.com website: www.rootstudioschool.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!

Archive of Newsletters:

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Artist: Judy Larkins *South Toe River*



Artist: Sharon Bradshaw *Fantasia II*



Artist: Laurel Lovrek

