



Newsletter

March, 2011

Art Center of Brazos Valley 979-696-2787
www.bvartleague.org



**President's
Palette**

"Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms." ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Did you ever feel like the stranger in the room? I think many look at artists as a different breed. Not all of us fit the stereotype, but the majority of us do at one time or another.

I believe what people are probably seeing is someone who doesn't look at the world in the same manner as they do. What they may be referring to is the creative mind.

When you try and understand the dynamic of creativity in people, the process is unusual which, in turn, leads to looking at the world in unusual ways. We've all heard the term "thinking outside the box." It has become quite a commodity in everything from business to the entertainment field and I believe what many of these CEO's, executives, and head hunters are looking for is creativity

But do they always understand it? It also seems to be easily misunderstood, hard to recognize, and sometimes just flat-out missed by the non-creative types. I remember back in my days of teaching I would overhear my colleagues talking about how creative a student's project was. As I continued to listen I realized they were not talking about creativity at all but misinterpreting it for craftsmanship and appearance—it simply looked good.

According to Wikipedia, creativity is "the mental and social process involving the discovery of new ideas or concepts or new associations between existing ideas or concepts. It is about finding the relationship between two or more ideas, objects or concepts through the invention of a new reality. Creative ideas are often generated when one discards preconceived assumptions and attempts a new approach or method that others may see as unthinkable.

As artists we need have no fear in expressing our unique point of view. Luckily originality is considered a great achievement in the world of art. There may be many failures, but every once in a while something inspired and unique will occur.

Keep creating,
Nancy

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BVAL Calendar

March 4th—Art Step in downtown Bryan 5:00-9:00 p.m. BVAL will be set up at 208 N. Bryan, one door down from The Frame Gallery. \$10 non-refundable fee. Set up early the day of and you will need to either break down that evening or the next morning. Contact Nancy if you plan to be involved. (H) 485-0470

March 7th—BVAL Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.

General Meeting—Noon Demo Artist—
Brenham Downtown Art Gallery owner, Patsy Supak, demonstrate her award winning oil techniques.



A special thank you to the refreshment committee for February. They provided a delicious Valentine reception for the February meeting. Unfortunately at this time there are no volunteers to provide refreshments for the March meeting. Cynthia Hanks, Barb Starner, and Monika Pate are signed up for April refreshments.

April 1st—14th BVAL Judged Show

March 31st—Intake for Judged Member Show

April 1st—Hanging of Judged Member Show

April 2nd—Judging of BVAL Member Show with Reception 12:30—2:00 p.m.

BVAL Judged Show registration form is on page 5 and an interactive form is available on the BVAL web site www.bvartleague.org. Please check your BVAL Directory for Lone Star Art Guild Show Rules which also apply to this show.

Looking Ahead.....

May 20th-21st—LSAG Convention will be in Conroe, TX. Forms available at www.lsag.blogspot.com.

Local and Member Exhibits

Texas Gallery

**March 3rd—21st
ACBV 40th Anniversary
Community Masterpieces**

**April 1st—14th
BVAL Judged Show**

Art Center Studio

**March/April
Barb Starner and her students**

Brazos Center

**March/April
Nell Bednarz**

May/June

Jo Ann Jones & Magda Zietsman

C.S. Conference Center

**March/April
Mary Burkhalter & Lisa Hughes**

May/June

Sylvia Colwell & Anita Cannon

Frame Gallery

216 N. Bryan in downtown Bryan, TX
BVAL member Greta Watkins
Exhibits work by many **BVAL Artists**

Art C's Gallery

Located on Hwy 36 in downtown
Somerville is operated by two
BVAL members, Cheryl Wooten and Cathy Schuster.
www.artcals.com

Nature's Art Studio

101 S. Main St. Calvert, Texas
BVAL artist Shelley Harris-Janac
www.naturesartstudio.com

Do you have an exhibit, show, or information you would like mentioned in the BVAL Newsletter? If so, please send the information by the middle of the publication month to your newsletter editor. Information received will be published as space permits.

Upcoming Workshops

Nicholas Simmons Water Media Workshop Coming in April

Sign up now for the April 7th—9th workshop to be given by an exciting guest artist who has been described by the California Watercolor Association as having a fresh, unorthodox, and often irreverent approach to painting. His workshops are routinely “sold out” well in advance and it is anticipated that this workshop will require a larger location than available at the Arts Center due to the high demand for access to his teaching methods. So don’t miss out. Contact Cynthia at cynthia@chgraphicsstudio.com to reserve your space.

Washington, D.C. artist Nicholas Simmons paints in watermedia on a scale that rivals oil painting. The subject matter is a dazzling mix of figures juxtaposed with printed lettering, graffiti, Japanese block prints, neon lights, reflections, and lavish corners of nature. The effect can be disorienting, as though a camera has taken a picture by accident, revealing an image that is both exciting and mysterious. The paint itself swirls, floods, drips, and spatters, driven on by the general excitement of the imagery and giving the work a sense that it was done in a rush in a matter of minutes. John Parks, Watercolor, Winter 2009



Mr. Simmons’ paintings have been featured in a variety of publications, and on Maryland Public Television. In 2008 his DVD Innovative Watermedia was released by Creative Catalyst Productions. He is sponsored by Da Vinci Paint and Princeton Brushes. Awards include top prize at the 2007 National Watercolor Society, consecutive gold medals at the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, 2008-2009, and the gold medal at the Texas Watercolor Society in 2010.

Visit Mr. Simmons’ web site at www.nicholassimmons.com to view examples of his work and learn more about his instructional DVDs and international recognition and awards.

Monica Pate Watercolor Workshop in March

The workshop will take place at The Frame Gallery on March 5th and 6th from 9:00 am till 4:00pm. The title is "**Layering Technique in Watercolor**" and people who are interested may contact Greta Watkins at the Frame Gallery, framegallery@txcyber.com for more information and to sign up for the class.



NICHOLAS SIMMONS presented by the **Brazos Valley Art League**

An amazing workshop in water media.
All artistic levels welcome.

April 7, 8 & 9, 2011

Brazos Valley Art Center

Contact
Cynthia Hanks
cynthia@chgraphicsstudio.com
979.229.6242

A promotional poster for Nicholas Simmons' workshop. It features a photograph of Nicholas Simmons standing next to a framed watercolor painting of a woman in a red dress. The text on the poster provides details about the workshop, including the dates, location, and contact information.



BVAL Art Opportunities and News



CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Dmitri Koustov oil/acrylic classes meet on Saturdays 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Contact Dmitri at dkoustov@yahoo.com for information. All levels welcome.



Adult Water Color Classes with Barb Starnier meet Friday mornings 9:30—12:30 p.m.
Call 220-7231 for information and to register.

The Frame Gallery in downtown Bryan offers a variety of classes. Contact Greta at the Frame Gallery, 822-0496 for information on these upcoming classes and Wednesday afternoon portrait painting.

Wednesday Paint Days at the Art Center. Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting with your BVAL artist friends between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. No instructor and NO FEE.

Art Classes for Children

Children's Art with Daniel Xiao Saturdays 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Classes will meet in the studio at the Art Center. Call 820-4087 for information and to register.

Children's Art with Kay Watkins Tuesdays 4:00—5:30 p.m. Ages 9-15. Contact Kay at kaysartquest@gmail.com or 739-5782 to be placed on a waiting list. Class is currently full.



Children's Art with Amanda Dominguez at A&M UMC. 2 sessions fall and 2 in spring, 8 weeks long. Meeting on Tuesday and Thursday 4:00—5:30. \$145 tuition, \$25 pastels or you can bring your own. No oil pastels please. Maximum of 10 students per class. 1st grade-high school. For additional information contact www.doublecrossheartstudio.com

Gallery at Dartmouth OpportunityThe ACBV staff is in the process of converting the Gallery at Dartmouth into a full consignment function. If you are interested in this opportunity to sell your work at the Arts Center, contact Craig at craig@acbv.org or 696-2787. There is limited space and all applications are juried.

By Laws upated Be sure you have read the revised By Laws posted in the studio room and be prepared to vote on the updated version at the March meeting.

Special Concerns

Rebecca Lloyd's son has notified BVAL that Rebecca is now in Room 201 at Fortress Health and Rehab, 1105 Rock Prairie Road if any members would like to send her cards of encouragement.

Rose Shea's husband, Bob, has had a stroke and they are in need of prayers and support.

Please include these families and any other of your League member artist friends needing support in your prayers.



BVAL Judged Show Reminder—There is a size a limit of 38" width and maximum of 3 entries or ONE oversized 60" width painting may be substituted for the three entries in the professional category. All paintings must be wired and ready for hanging. All paintings should be framed or gallery wrapped.

