

DECEMBER 2024



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President's Message



Dear Members,

On behalf of the GCAG board members, I would like to extend well wishes, peace and the great joy this season of anticipation and hope brings.

The past six months have flown by with two shows, in addition to the Christmas Village Sale and Bavarian Holiday Fest Sale, monthly presentations, and a Holiday gathering. A huge thank you to Jill Meeks who orchestrated the Christmas Village Sale and Bavarian Holiday Fest Sale this December and to all the volunteers and artists who participated!

Congratulations to our "Spirit of the Miniature Show" award winners and thank you to Lisa Livengood our presenter and judge. There will be more information in this newsletter. It was a successful show with nine pieces sold.

The GCAG Board members and committee have been planning fun filled winter and spring seasons. Our Senior High School Show, under the leadership of Gloria Brinkman, is scheduled in February at the Rauch Gallery at Gaston College.

We are in the midst of planning the Natural View Show, the Garibaldi plein air event, and a new plein air exhibit at Bliss Gallery, all happening this Spring. Stay tuned for more information including our January 21st presentation by Debbie Heatwole.

We invite your participation, creativity and ideas! May the light of the season fill your hearts with happiness and merriment.

Artfully yours,
Cam Tracy, GCAG President
info@gastoncountyartguild.org

gastoncountyartguild.org

**"Perpetuating
and Supporting
the Visual Arts
in Our Community"**



LAST MEETING

Many fine and amazing pieces of miniature art may be seen at the Main Branch of the Gaston County Library on Garrison throughout this month. Our November's meeting was the reception for the GCAG Miniature Show and four artists were honored for their work.



Janice Booth



Richard Martinez



Cam Tracy



Connie Snipes

BLISS GALLERY EXHIBIT

Take a moment and stroll over to Bliss Gallery in Belmont, NC
to view our own artists' event!

“Two Signatures: Portraits of Iconic Musicians”
featuring the artwork of
Helen Newton and Connie Snipes
through January 18, 2025

The artists



themselves!



DECEMBER'S ACTIVITIES

You and a guest are invited to our Annual GCAG Holiday Celebration
December 10, 6-9 pm at the home of Jason Hannusch
214 W 4th Avenue, Gastonia
Bring Soup, Salad, or Dessert to share; BYOB.



**ONE MORE DAY TO FIND
THAT SPECIAL GIFT!**

Visit our Christmas/Holiday Event
this Saturday, 12/14 (rain date is
Sunday, 12/15).



JANUARY'S MEETING

Visit with Debbie Heatwole January 21st (later than usual) at Belmont's Old City Hall, downtown Belmont, 6:30-8 pm and learn about silversmithing and stone work to create jewelry.

"This is a tale of how a left-brained thinker found her creative side, learning to make jewelry that reflects her love for nature and showcases the beauty of texture and asymmetry in each creation."



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

The Boys and Girls Club of Gaston County offers you an opportunity to share your art skills with our youth. You just need your time and skills to inspire our youth while exploring various artistic skills of your choice. Supplies will be provided. If interested, contact Meredith Pruitt at 704.689.2741 or email mrs.mpruitt@gmail.com



ATTENTION WATERCOLORISTS!

Are you a watercolorist? Would you like to get together with other watercolorists to share ideas, techniques, expertise, etc.?

GCAG member, Linda Pellerin, is organizing a watercolor group that will meet weekly at the Gaston County Adult Recreation Center from 9:30-11:30 am each Thursday.

There is no fee and attendance is not mandatory. This will be a casual group with the purpose of bringing watercolorists together to encourage the flow of creative juices. If interested or for more details, please contact Linda Pellerin, 704.648.1304 or lrpellerin@yahoo.com.



This page is reserved for any future partners who would like to showcase our artists' work at your place of business!

**Highlights from the
GASTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY
Dallas, NC**

A poster for a call for artists. The top half features a colorful abstract painting. Below the painting is a dark purple banner with the text "CALL FOR ARTISTS" in large white letters. Underneath the banner is a white box with a list of details and a "TO APPLY" section. The "TO APPLY" section includes the text "submit an artist resume, cover letter, artist statement, and 5-10 images of works you want to display to Alicyn.Wiedrich@gastongov.com".

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Gaston County Museum is seeking artist proposals to fill our 2025 and 2026 exhibition calendars

- Solo or groups exhibits
- All mediums welcome
- Exhibits last three months
- Stipend included
- Museum will provide an opening reception

TO APPLY submit an artist resume, cover letter, artist statement, and 5-10 images of works you want to display to Alicyn.Wiedrich@gastongov.com

The Gaston County Museum (GCM) of Art and History is collaborating with the Gaston County Art Guild (GCAG) and has been working on some exciting endeavors! One endeavor in particular is the “**Call for Artists.**” The GCM is currently showcasing the work of our very own Kit Kakassy through 1/4/25. Kakassy has been at the forefront of arts in Gaston County and the region for decades, and for good reason. Her current retrospective exhibit at the museum exemplifies the breadth of her career from intaglio and printmaking to photography, sculpture, and painted works. As an abstract artist, Kakassy’s works are bold and energetic, with atmospheric compositions that explode in seemingly three-dimensional forms on canvas.

ANNOUNCING THE JOHN T. BIGGERS COLLECTION

Last year, the GCM received a ground-breaking gift of 250 works by John T. Biggers from the Hazel Biggers Trust. This gift is one of the largest single collections of works on paper from the significant 20th century American artist and Gastonia native. The transformative gift consists of works of art on paper, mural sketches, paintings, and a selection of works from the personal collection of John T. Biggers. The museum hopes to display a portion of the collection in 2025 for the public to view.



PLEIN AIR ACTIVITIES

Please join us every Wednesday, year round, 9:00 am-11:30 am. Call Cam Tracy 704.616.2132 or email camilla.k.tracy@gmail.com to be included on the group text for the weekly painting venue. We will paint outside as weather permits. When the weather does not cooperate, we have fun at Art by J's in Belmont. Lunch generally follows at a nearby restaurant. Optional critique session is available the last Wed. of the month.



LOOKING AHEAD!

Specifics will be on our website, Instagram, or Facebook.

CM Kakassy Exhibit	current-1/4/25
Gaston County Museum, Dallas, NC	
In the Spirit of Miniature Art Show	current-1/2/25
Gaston County Library, Main Branch	
Annual Christmas Village Art Sale/Bavarian Holiday Fest	12/14
Old City Hall, Belmont, NC	
January's Meeting	1/21/25
Old City Hall, Belmont, NC	



MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations! GCAG Membership has grown to over 130!

Dues are paid annually as follows:

Individual	\$30	Sponsor	\$250
Individual +1	\$35	Business	\$500
Family 3+	\$50	Corporate	\$1000
Patron	\$100	Student	\$15

What a great DEAL!! Welcome Returning and NEW Members!!

November Renewals

Suzanne Neerincx || PATRON RENEWAL
Regina Bos
Jade Bos
Anna Currie
Charles Currie
Gloria Brinkman

Vince Brinkman
Maryjo Gunning
Helen Newton

November New Members

Michael Ericsson
Wallie Pasour



May your holidays be merry and bright!

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

As a group, we work very hard to advocate for art in our community by offering many arts related opportunities while working with diverse young and older ones.

Many members are generous stewards of our community which leaves an impact.

Members also donate their artwork to raise funds for other nonprofits.

Artists donate their time and art to the Gaston Literacy Council, Holy Angels via Bliss Gallery exhibits, Boys and Girls Club, and the Backpack Program.

GCAG wants to acknowledge and showcase your contributions.

Please contact the Gaston County Art Guild to be recognized for your artwork.

FOLLOW OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNERS!



Gaston College



GCAG Board Members

President-Cam Tracy
Secretary-Jill Meeks

Vice-President and Marketing-Carol Stowe
Treasurer-Dorothy Lodge

Members-at-large

Grants-Kathleen Boyce

Newsletter-Anna Currie

Special Events-Jason Hannusch, Richard Martinez

Membership-Ethan Peeler

Programs-Gloria Brinkman

Website-Janet Croog

Ambassador-Meredith Pruit

ALL Members are encouraged to be involved in planning our activities. GCAG Board planning meetings are held every 1st Tuesday of the month, 9am, at the Old City Hall building in Belmont. Contact any Board member for details if you would like to attend.

Our goal is to keep you updated on our community arts events as best as possible.

Stay in touch more frequently by following our **FB**, **Instagram**, and **TikTok** pages!

info@gastoncountyartguild.org