

FEBRUARY 2025



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President's Message



Dear Members,

By this time of the year, we are all ready to jump into Spring. With subtle signs of daffodils peeking forth and warmer weather, spring fever is rampant especially among artists who seek new inspiration.

Our months ahead are packed full of opportunities for all creative souls. Be sure to attend our presentation with Mike Daikubara on Urban Sketching next Tuesday evening, the 11th, at Belmont City Hall. You are invited to attend the reception for our 2025 High School Senior Art Show on February 20th at the Gaston College Rauch Gallery. Thank you to Trey and Meredith Pruitt (Digitrol, Inc.) for sponsoring our awards and to Gloria Brinkman, Board member, for working with our local schools to create this event. A huge thank you to Ethan Peeler and Janet Croog who are heading up the Natural View Show at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens this Spring! **The prospectus is included in this Newsletter.** We still have room in the Watercolor workshop with JJ Jiang this March. Please refer to the Newsletter. Thank you to Gloria Brinkman and Jason Hannusch for orchestrating this event. We are excited to begin working on the 4th Annual Garibaldi plein air competition with the City of Belmont on the weekend of April 25th and 26th. Thank you to Jill Meeks and Richard Martinez who are chairing this huge event. The prospectus will be unveiled in our March Newsletter and on our web site March 10th.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication. We invite you to participate, as we are looking for additional committee members for next year. Please contact me.

Artfully Yours,

Cam Tracy, CGAC President
info@gastoncountyartguild.org

gastoncountyartguild.org

**“Perpetuating
and Supporting
the Visual Arts
in Our Community”**



LAST MEETING

January's meeting featured Debbie Heatwole, silversmith and designer of handcrafted unique jewelry, regarding "how a left-brained thinker found her creative side." After a long career in nursing, and later as a specialist in computer medical systems for hospitals, Debbie pursued her interest in creative jewelry design. Debbie attended a few workshops on silversmithing but ultimately became self-taught as she explored the tools, materials, and resources inherent in jewelry design. She has traveled out west to source silver and semi-precious stones. Debbie offered insights into how she grew her creative passion into a small business. Original jewelry designs were available to enjoy and purchase. Guests were invited to touch and try on her designs.



Our very own members...

A poster for the "Taking Root" exhibition at Bliss Gallery. It features three abstract paintings: a blue and white textured piece, a yellow vase with colorful flowers, and a green and blue abstract piece. The text includes "Bliss GALLERY Presents Taking Root", "Featured Holy Angels Artists: Mary Ellen, Mike, Maria, Tom, Amy, James, Drew, Elise, and Taylor", and "Holy Angels established Bliss Gallery to offer persons who are differently able the opportunity to share creative abilities and showcase their art alongside the works of guest artists during special exhibitions."/>

Bliss GALLERY Presents

Taking Root

Featured Holy Angels Artists:
Mary Ellen, Mike, Maria, Tom, Amy,
James, Drew, Elise, and Taylor

Holy Angels established Bliss Gallery to offer persons who are differently able the opportunity to share creative abilities and showcase their art alongside the works of guest artists during special exhibitions.

A poster for the "Taking Root" exhibition at Bliss Gallery. It features three abstract paintings: a butterfly on a flower, a yellow and green abstract piece, and a white and black abstract piece. The text includes "Bliss GALLERY Presents Taking Root", "Artwork By: Regina Bos, Anne Cowie, and Teri Fridley", "January 23 - March 1, 2025", "Opening Reception January 27, 2025 6:00-8:00 PM", and contact information: "www.HolyAngelsNC.org", "BlissGallery@HolyAngelsNC.org", and "21 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC". A QR code is also present.

Bliss GALLERY Presents

Taking Root

Artwork By:
Regina Bos, Anne Cowie, and Teri Fridley
January 23 - March 1, 2025

Opening Reception
January 27, 2025
6:00-8:00 PM

www.HolyAngelsNC.org
BlissGallery@HolyAngelsNC.org
21 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC

Currently exhibiting through 3/1 at the Bliss Gallery, downtown Belmont. Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, February 22, 10-12 noon.



FEBRUARY'S MEETING

Urban Sketcher, Mike Daikubara, will be our featured speaker February 11th
Belmont Old City Hall, 115 N. Main Street, 6:30-8:00 pm.



Mike is an artist, author, and educator based out of Charlotte, NC who first began sketching in 2000 to communicate better and faster at his design job. He continues to sketch daily to see, understand, and enjoy life. He is an author of 10 books on urban sketching, including 2 titles published from Quarto called "Sketch NOW, think Later" and "Color First, Ink Later." He has taught Urban Sketching to hundreds of students both domestically and internationally, including symposiums at Manchester UK, Porto Spain, and Chicago IL. He continues to teach at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC.

MARCH'S MEETING

Meet our upcoming watercolor workshop Artist, JJ Jiang, at the GCAG March 11th general meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm
Gaston County Public Library, Main Branch
1555 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054
See also <https://www.jjjiang.com/> to view his work.
March watercolor workshop details are below.





2025 GASTON COUNTY
High School
Senior Art Show
February 10– March 7, 2025
Reception and Awards:
February 20, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Entries accepted
Friday January 31, 4 to 5pm
or by appointment Monday February 3
Jeanne Rauch Gallery
Gaston College, RCB Bldg
478-492 Tower Blvd, Dallas, NC 28034

A juried art exhibition sponsored by
Gaston County Art Guild and **Digitrol HVAC Services**
at the Jeanne Rauch Gallery Gaston College, Dallas, NC



The 2025 High School Senior Art Show will be juried by Janet Croog, a Gastonia-based paper artist and illustrator, who was awarded Best in Show at the 2024 Natural View exhibition.

CALLING ALL 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 lpellerin@yahoo.com.



ANNOUNCING a workshop sponsored by your GCAG...



The Simplicity of Watercolor

**Three-day workshop with internationally renowned
Watercolorist JJ Jiang
March 12-14, 2025
10:00 am-4:00 pm
Gaston County Public Library
Main Branch
1555 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
Cost: \$400.00
Materials list will be available upon sign-up.**

JJ Jiang is an award-winning artist and gifted instructor. A North Carolina resident, Jiang is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, a signature member of Oil Painters of America, and a North Carolina Watercolor Society Master Member. In this 3-day watercolor workshop, JJ will offer daily step-by-step demos, give clear, brief talks, and provide individual guidance tailored to your level. In addition, attendees will focus on landscape, waterscape, and urban scape painting with a maximum of 20 participants.

Look for more information about the workshop and sign-up on the GCAG website.

JJ Jiang will also be our featured speaker at the

GCAG March 11th general meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM (at no cost to you)!

Gaston County Public Library, Main Branch, 1555 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054

See <https://www.jjjiang.com/> to view his work.



A Natural View

Annual Juried Nature Exhibition Since 1998

April 17 – June 4, 2025

THEME: The Gaston County Art Guild, in collaboration with Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, presents A Natural View; a juried exhibit celebrating the beauty of wildlife and natural landscapes. While this theme allows for diverse artistic interpretations, submitted works should capture the essence, complexity, and wonder of nature, inviting viewers to observe and appreciate it with fresh perspective and admiration.

ELIGIBILITY: Artists 18 years or older residing in Gaston, Cleveland, Catawba, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and York Counties are eligible to participate. Each artist may submit up to two entries upon payment of a non-refundable entry fee.

JUDGE/JUROR: Logan Dix - Gallery Director, Anne Neilson Fine Art.

SPECIFICATIONS: Both 2-D and 3-D artwork completed within the last three years may be submitted. Due to limited space, artwork must not exceed 40 inches in any direction, including the frame. Artists may submit one photo per 2-D entry and two to three photos for 3-D work if needed. All artwork must be original - photocopies and AI-generated art will not be accepted. 2-D work must be wired and ready to hang; string and sawtooth hangers are not permitted. Watercolors, pastels, photographs, prints, and drawings must be protected by glass or plexiglass and mounted with a neutral mat in white, beige, or gray. Canvases must not have side staples. All artwork must be available for purchase and remain on display for the entire duration of the show.

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY:

- **March 7 - April 11, 2025** — The entry form, high-quality photos of the artwork, and payment can be submitted through the website. The entry fee is \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. Online submission is used for the purpose of paying fees and cataloging the entries.
- **April 14, 2 PM - 7 PM** — The actual artwork must be delivered to Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Juror selection will take place in person.
- **April 15** — Artists will be notified of juried results via email in the evening.
- **April 24** — Declined works may be picked up at DSBG between 6 PM and 8 PM during the reception and awards ceremony.

AWARDS: Best of Show: \$500, First Place: \$400, Second Place: \$300, Third Place: \$200, Merit Award: \$100. Awards will be announced at the reception. Artists will receive 70% of the sale price of their artwork.

RECEPTION & AWARDS: DSBG, 6500 S. New Hope Road, Belmont, NC 28012 --
April 24, 6 - 8 PM

PICKUP OF WORK AT SHOW END: June 5, 2 - 7 PM.

LIABILITY: Entries will be treated with care, but each artist retains liability for their work.

Ethan Peeler, Show Chairperson, PeelerER@gmail.com

Or info@gastoncountyartguild.org
for general inquiries.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

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



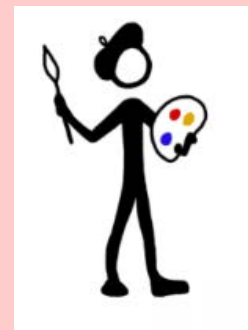
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Gaston County Art Guild has an opportunity to apply for a grant from the City of Gastonia Arts Committee. In order to do so, we need volunteers to lead a plein air or art stroll event to be held in downtown Gastonia sometime next fall. Parameters for these events are wide open, so volunteers can decide any details. We would plan to hold the event regardless of whether we receive the grant. If you are interested, please contact Cam Tracy 704.616.2132 for more details.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Jeaniene Dibble of **Art by J** is looking for teachers for her children's Art classes. The classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3-6 pm. If you are interested, contact Mrs. Dibble at 704-718-4330.



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



In collaboration with the GCAG and the GCM, the **Gaston County Schools Art Show** themed “Through an Artist’s Eyes” will be held at Loray Mills in Gastonia, March 25-May 10. Reception and awards will be held on March 23rd, 2-4 pm.

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

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.



Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens

[Sip and Stroll in the Conservatory](#)

February 22 and March 1

As a part of our *Trip to the Tropics* series to celebrate our Conservatory, we're inviting you to Sip and Stroll! On [Saturday, February 22](#) and [Saturday, March 1](#) at 4 p.m., we invite you to enjoy an after-hours visit to the Williamson Conservatory during the golden hour and escape from the winter chill into a cozy oasis. Featuring a cash bar with beer, wine and a delicious themed cocktail, light complimentary charcuterie to pair with your beverage, and live acoustic music from guitarist Aaron Denver Crites, you'll experience the Conservatory in a whole new light! Mingle with friends amongst artwork painted *plein air* by the Gaston County Art Guild and hand-selected tropical displays arranged with love by our dedicated Horticulture team, and rediscover your path to nature in our tropical hideaway!

LOOKING AHEAD!

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

February Meeting – February 11

Belmont Old City Hall, Belmont, NC

Gaston County High School Senior Art Show – February 10-March 7

Jeanne Rauch Gallery, Gaston College, Dallas, NC

March Meeting – March 11

Gaston County Main Branch Library, Gastonia, NC

Watercolor workshop with JJ Jiang – March 12-14

Gaston County Main Branch Library, Gastonia, NC

Gaston County Schools Art Show – March 25-May 10

Loray Mills, Gastonia, NC

A Natural View – a juried art exhibition – April 17-June 4

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont, NC

Garibaldi Plein Air – April 25-26

Downtown 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

January Renewals

Earnie Heatwole
Suzanne Wilson
Stephanie Newman
Lesley Luciano
Sandra Krumpus
Tiz Johnston
Janet Croog
Brandon Featherston

Karen Franklin
Suzy Hannon
Richard Martinez
Mark (Tim) Heafner



January New Members

Debbie Heatwole
Dan Brooks
Wendy Accetta
Meagan Ruiz

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.

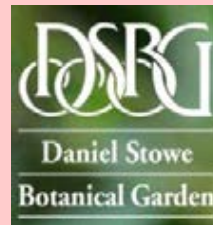
GCAC wants to acknowledge and showcase your contributions.

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

Membership-Ethan Peeler

Special Events-Jason Hannusch, Richard Martinez

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 **Webpage** pages!

info@gastoncountyartguild.org

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