

JANUARY 2025



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President's Message



Dear Members,

As our New Year unfolds, I want to thank you for your participation and support! May this January be a time to slow down and follow your artistic muse. Our dedicated Board has been busy planning our Spring months with plenty of opportunities to provide art experience through juried shows and presentations.

On January 21st, I would like to invite you to our monthly presentation by Debbie Heatwole, who is a fabulous jewelry designer. She will share her passion and how she markets her art. More information in this newsletter.

Our Senior High show, under the direction of Gloria Brinkman, will be exhibited at Gaston College Rauch Gallery. Please join us at the reception on February 20th.

Other events to look forward to are: the Watercolor workshop in March, and our juried Natural View Show April through June, hosted by the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, in which the theme focuses on wildlife and natural landscapes in an array of interpretations. Our 4th Garibaldi plein air competition, in collaboration with the City of Belmont, will take place in late April. More information to follow with the prospectus for each event.

A huge thank you to all who participated in the successful Christmas Village and Bavarian Festival and especially to Jill Meeks who orchestrated the events!

We invite your participation, creativity and ideas!

Artfully Yours,

Cam Tracy, CGAC President
info@gastoncountyartguild.org

gastoncountyartguild.org

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



LAST MEETING

December's meeting was spent sharing Holiday cheer and fare with our members. We enjoyed homemade soup, salad, and many desserts with Jason at his Historic home in Gastonia who graciously hosted the event.



Belmont's CHRISTMAS VILLAGE SALE and BAVARIAN HOLIDAY FEST offered many art lovers an opportunity to purchase GCAG fine art gifts and personal items.



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."



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 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



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...



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.



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



This spot 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 rectangular area with white text. The text includes the title 'CALL FOR ARTISTS', a paragraph about seeking proposals for 2025 and 2026, and a bulleted list of details. At the bottom, there is a white box with the text 'TO APPLY' in red and black, followed by instructions on how to submit an application.

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

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.

January Meeting – January 21

Belmont Old City Hall, Belmont, NC

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

A Visual Harvest – 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

December Renewals

Kathy Holbrook

Dunja Earley

Jason Hannusch

Pat Pieteron

Alex Pieteron

Ronald Shepard

Mike Corwin

Joseph MedinaDaSilva



December New Members

Rick Reckmeyer

Mary Grob

Elizabeth Welker

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

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 **Webpage** pages!

info@gastoncountyartguild.org

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