

**MARCH 2025**



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## President's Message



Dear Members,

On behalf of the GCAG board members, I want to share with you a few exciting highlights of our upcoming Spring and Summer events.

Our GCAG Senior High Art Show, in collaboration with Gaston College, held their award ceremony last Thursday evening. The show was made possible by the generous support from our sponsor Digitrol, Inc. (thank you Trey and Meredith Pruitt.) Also, a huge thank you to board members, Gloria Brinkman, show chair, and to our judge, Janet Croog. Stop by to see this amazing show at Rauch Gallery.

Our signature Natural View Show at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden and Garibaldi plein air competition in partnership with the City of Belmont, are both scheduled for April. Please refer to the newsletter for further information. The GCAG plein air group was invited to paint at the DSBG Orchid Conservatory recently and the art was show-cased at the Orchid Conservatory celebration. In addition, in April, the group will be holding an exhibit at Bliss Gallery in Belmont.

Please join us for the March GCAG monthly presentation and reception for renowned watercolorist JJ Jaing, the featured guest, at the Gaston Public Library on March 11<sup>th</sup>. We are requesting that members bring an appetizer to share. Artist Jaing will be facilitating a workshop that week here in Gastonia. More info to follow in the newsletter.

The Gaston County Museum of Art and History in Dallas has invited us to have a juried show from April 25<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The museum will provide the reception, judge, and awards. This will be an awesome opportunity and we will share more info once details are finalized.

We invite your participation, creativity, and ideas!

Artfully Yours,  
Cam Tracy, CGAC President  
[info@gastoncountyartguild.org](mailto:info@gastoncountyartguild.org)

[gastoncountyartguild.org](http://gastoncountyartguild.org)

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



## LAST MEETING



**Mike Daikubara's** Urban Sketching presentation at February's monthly meeting was greeted with such enthusiasm that he wants to conduct a future workshop!

Mike reviewed his personal Urban Sketching story and shared his methods, practices, and tools. He brought his humor, zest, and books he authored which are very informative and widely used. Thank you, Mike, and we plan to see you again!

Visit Mike's website at <https://www.daikubara.com>

## MARCH'S MEETING

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



**APRIL'S MEETING** will be held during the reception of **A Natural View**, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm, at DSBG. Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

## IN MEMORIUM



Our heartfelt condolences are offered to the family of one of our strong and gifted members, Michael Phillips, who passed away recently. "Since retiring to Clover in 2019, SC, he exhibited and sold his artwork throughout North and South Carolina."

## 2025 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ART SHOW AWARDS

A collaboration between GCAG, Gaston College, and  
local Gaston County High Schools.  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

**Emory Ivie**

*Native American Paint*

Medium: Graphite

School: Piedmont Community Charter HS

Teacher: Danielle Williams

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

**Mary Stewart Efird**

*Don't Slip!*

Medium: Acrylic

School: Gaston Day School

Teacher: Travis Johnson



### BEST OF SHOW

**Chloe Sorrell**

*If I Hold Back My Tongue,  
Do You See Me More or Less?*

Medium: Red Earthenware Clay

Teacher: Mrs. Jill Overton

School: Gaston Christian HS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

**Alex Ciccarelli**

*Lurks*

Medium: Acrylic Paint

School: Gaston Day School

Teacher: Travis Johnson

### MERIT AWARDS

**Janaiya Glenn** *Music Within*

Bessemer City HS

Sharon Capps

**Ellory Lamp** *The Mockingbird*

Stewart Cramer HS

Mr. Stiles

**Amaiya Endsley** *The Woman and the Moon*

Bessemer City HS

Sharon Capps

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Jasany Johnson** and **Carolina Lara-Terrones**, Carolina Lara-Terrones, East Gaston HS; **Brady Scott**, Ashbrook HS; **GCAG BOARD PRIZE** - John Gonzalez-Ochoa, Hunter Huss HS



An event  
sponsored by  
Art by J's  
and the  
City of Belmont!

10 am at the Old  
City Hall or 2 pm  
at Art by J.



## 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, has organized a watercolor group that meets weekly at the **Gaston County Adult Recreation Center, 519 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia from 9:30-11:30 am each Thursday.** There is no fee and attendance is not mandatory. This is 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](mailto:lpellerin@yahoo.com). **Bring your colors; water and comradery are supplied!**



**A few spots are left for our 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.**

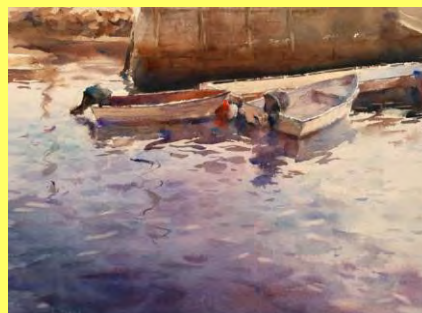
JJ Jiang is an award-winning artist and gifted instructor. A North Carolina resident, Jiang is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, a signature member of Oil Painters of America, and a North Carolina Watercolor Society Master Member. In this 3-day watercolor workshop, JJ will offer 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 11<sup>th</sup> general meeting, 6:00-8:00 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.

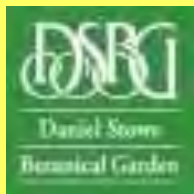
**RECEPTION & AWARDS:** DSBG, 6500 S. New Hope Road, Belmont, NC 28012 --  
**April 24, 6 - 8 PM**

**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](mailto:PeelerER@gmail.com)**

Or [info@gastoncountyartguild.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 or corporate sponsors who would like to showcase our artists' work at your place of business!**

**Highlights from the  
GASTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY  
131 W. Main St., 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 - 4 pm. Public viewing begins March 25<sup>th</sup> (hours: Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 am - 5 pm and Saturdays, 11 am - 4 pm).



**Timeless Elegance: Ballet Meets Architecture Exhibit,** a Robb Webb photography show closes April 12.

Enjoy the **Tony’s Ice Cream Story** currently on display through July 2026.



**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

### 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

### Slow Art Day – April 5

Old City Hall and Art by J's, Belmont, NC

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

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont, NC

### April Meeting – A Natural View Reception, April 24

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont, NC

### Garibaldi Plein Air Competition – 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   |

### February Renewals

Martha Mabe  
Marygrace Bianco  
Travis Johnson

### February New Members

Jennifer Schraw  
Joanne Sherlock  
Edward Ward



## WELCOME!

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 invited and 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](mailto:info@gastoncountyartguild.org)

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