

NOVEMBER 2024



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President's Message



Dear Members,

Our magical Autumn season has transitioned into November, and we surge forward preparing for the holiday season. Our team of dedicated GCAG Board and committee members have been busy planning fabulous opportunities for the remaining of this year.

Our Visual Harvest show was a great success and a huge thank you to Dorothy Lodge for orchestrating this Fall event. In addition, congratulations to all of our award winners. Our member annual "Spirit of the Miniature show" will be exhibited at the Gaston Public Library Nov. 7th through January 2nd. You are invited to the reception, awards, and presentation by our judge, artist Lisa Livengood, on Tuesday, November 12th from 6-8 pm. Please stop by and view this wonderful exhibit by our talented Guild artists and treat yourself to some holiday shopping!

We would also like to celebrate the efforts of Meredith Pruitt and Anna Currie who created and submitted "Artina" the GCAG scarecrow into DSBG's Lost Hollow event. We received a 3rd place award for their submission into the non-profit category!

Going forward, we are excited to collaborate with the City of Belmont for our Christmas Village Art Show and Bavarian Holiday Fest in December. More info in this newsletter. We thank you for your support and invite your participation and creativity!

Artfully Yours,

Cam Tracy, CGAC President
info@gastoncountyartguild.org

gastoncountyartguild.org

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



LAST MEETING

Bookbinder and Papermaker Jackie Radford presented a spirited discussion on Artist Books. We started our discussion by attempting to define what is an artist book. Then, using examples from an extensive body of work, Jackie led our exploration on how the structure of an artist book is influenced by content and how content can influence structure.



A VISUAL HARVEST

A Visual Harvest Juried Art Show was displayed at Gaston College's Rauch Gallery last month. We have so many talented artists in the area! **Congratulations to the following winners!**

Randy Keller **Best in Show**
Jason Hannusch **First Place**
Candy Thomas **Second Place**
Gina O'Donoghue **Third Place**
Tim Stiles **Merit Award**



DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDENS Scarecrow Hollow Contest

Special thanks to Anna Currie and Meredith Pruitt for their creativity and talent in creating our very own GCAG Scarecrow “Artina” for the DSBG’s “Scarecrow Hollow” Contest held at the Gardens the month of October. Our efforts rendered **3rd place** in the non-profit category!



Holy Angels' Got Talent Fundraiser

GCAG members, Gaye Dimmick, Kathy Holbrook, and Jill Meeks assisted several residents at Holy Angels to paint an abstract, gallery wrapped canvas which fetched \$7500 at the **Holy Angels' Got Talent Fundraiser** held on November 2. Gaye is the Director of Creative Arts and Bliss Gallery and is shown with Larry Sprinkle auctioning the residents' artwork.



NOVEMBER'S MEETING

Join us at the
Gaston County Public Library Main Branch
November 12th, 6-8 pm
1555 E. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC
Library Conference Room


We will feature the GCAG's Member "*In the Spirit of Miniature*" Art Show.
NC Judge, Lisa Livengood, will have a Presentation and share Awards.
Take time to visit the show 11/12/24-1/2/25!



Coming up...

ANNUAL CHARITY ART SALE
November 23, 1-6 pm
501 West 3rd Ave.

RICHARD MARTINEZ CORDIALLY
INVITES YOU TO



**3RD ANNUAL OPEN
HOUSE ART SALE OF
MY PAINTINGS**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
1:00-6:00 PM

501 WEST THIRD AVE
GASTONIA, NC

ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, WE WILL ALSO HAVE A SILENT
AUCTION OF LOCAL ARTISTS WORK.

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH
CHECK/CASH ONLY
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Calling members to submit to our Annual Christmas Sale!

Please go to our website for specifications, dates, and entry fee.



PLEASE JOIN GCAG AT
BELMONT'S

Christmas Village on 12/7 and Bavarian Holiday Fest on 12/14, 3-7 pm

Old City Hall, Belmont, NC

Fine art and gift items
made by Local
ARTISTS available!

10% of ALL SALES will go to the
NC Arts Disaster Relief Fund



BELMONT ABBEY collected Gaston County Art Guild plein air paintings for their upcoming 2025 calendar year. It features artwork by Guild members: Manny Maldano (calendar cover), Carol Stowe, Jill Meeks, Cam Tracy, Mike Corwin, Dorothy Lodge, and Mary Jo Gunning. **Congratulations Plein air painters!** *Contact the Guild if interested in purchasing a copy.*

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 lpellerin@yahoo.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 with the text 'GASTON COUNTY MUSEUM' in the upper right corner. Below this is a large orange banner with the words 'CALL FOR ARTISTS' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath the banner is a dark purple box containing white text and a bulleted list. At the bottom of the poster is a white box with the text 'TO APPLY' in large, red, bold letters, followed by smaller black text providing submission details.

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

11/12-1/2/25 (reception 11/12)

Gaston County Library, Main Branch

Two Signatures/ Portraits of Iconic Musicians

opening date 11/14

Bliss Gallery, Belmont, NC

Annual Open House Parkinson's Fund Raiser

with Richard Martinez 11/23/24

501 West Third Avenue, Gastonia, NC

Annual Christmas Village Art Sale and Bavarian Holiday Fest

12/7 and 12/14

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!!

October Renewals

Marie Freudenberger

Tory Borne

Linda Pellerin

Margaret Takas

Charles Debelius

May Barger

Booty Moran

Madeline Busch

Desiree Sterbini

October New Members

None



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 **TicToc** pages!

info@gastoncountyartguild.org