

NEWS

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NEW OFFICERS TO BE CHOSEN



Mary Whyte, Revisited

JRAL members took a road trip in April to Newport News to see Mary Whyte's "Working South."

Photos from the visit are on Page 3.

Elizabeth Hood reviews Whyte's book, "An Artist's Way of Seeing," Page 2.

The May 17 meeting of the James River Art League is perhaps the most important of the year, when we elect officers who will lead the group for the next two years – including the period when the League observes its 50th anniversary.

A three-member nominating committee led by Gigi Vranian will present a slate of candidates for consideration at the annual business meeting. The slate was approved by the board at its meeting on May 3. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

The officer slate is: Mary Kent, president; Sally Booth, first vice president; Jane Cox, second vice president; Pat Trgina, secretary; Maryanne Evans, treasurer.

Mary Kent has worked on the membership committee, served two terms as newsletter editor, has been vice president and program chair. Like many others in the league, she developed a love of creating art early on; but career and life kept her too busy to devote much time to it. She started taking water color lessons after she retired, and eventually began participating in group shows. She joined JRAL in 2005.

Sally Booth has been a JRAL member since 1998 and has

(Continued on page 5)



MAKING "SPLASH"

In 2014, Theresa Shepherd's "Unfurled Devotion" will be included in Splash, the national publication which annually showcases the best in water-color art.

She loves painting animals, but Terry rarely paints statues. "When I saw these three horses and the look of determination in their eyes, I knew I had to paint them," she said.

"My heart went out to the devotion of these horses" captured in a statue in Washington.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don't forget there are two important events happening at the May 17 Annual Meeting. We will vote for our new officers for the 2014-2015 term, and we will hold an Artists Challenge.

Bring your "River City" themed art, and watercolor artist, Christopher Wynn will be on hand to critique your work. You can come as early as 10:15 to set up your painting. If possible, bring a small easel (table or floor) for displaying your piece.

The first meeting of the 50th Anniversary Committee was held on April 16. We have started forming some ideas about how we want to celebrate this momen-

tous occasion during the entire year of 2014. If anyone else wants to join in on the planning, we will have our next meeting at 11 a.m., June 18, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. **Please let me know if you would like to help.**

Our last event until September will be our Annual Judged Exhibition and Reception at the James Center Atrium on June 9th. I hope you can attend this annual JRAL celebration. Bring your friends and family.

It certainly has been a pleasure serving as President of JRAL these last two years. It has given me a better opportunity to get to know more members and become acquainted with the diversity of your art and talents. I have had the privilege of working with and learning from a very creative and industrious Executive Board, who made my job very enjoyable and *almost* effortless. So, thank you to everyone!



Lois Shipley

INVITED ALONG ON AN ARTIST'S PERSONAL JOURNEY

By Elizabeth Hood

Do you sometimes feel like you see the world differently?

Mary Whyte's book, "An Artist's Way of Seeing," is a lyrical look into how she sees her subjects and the world around her.

As artists, we often focus on how we paint rather than our motivation and what sets us apart from others. Mary Whyte takes us on a personal journey into what inspires her work, talking about the "why" of what she does instead of the "what" or "how."

This little book is filled with inspirational passages that touch on our emotions as artists, spur us to examine our own personal motivation, and urge us to move beyond techniques and tips.

As she advises us to "become masters at observing and feeling the world around us before we can begin to express it on an easel," she offers her own personal stories and observations about her subjects and the paintings they inspired.

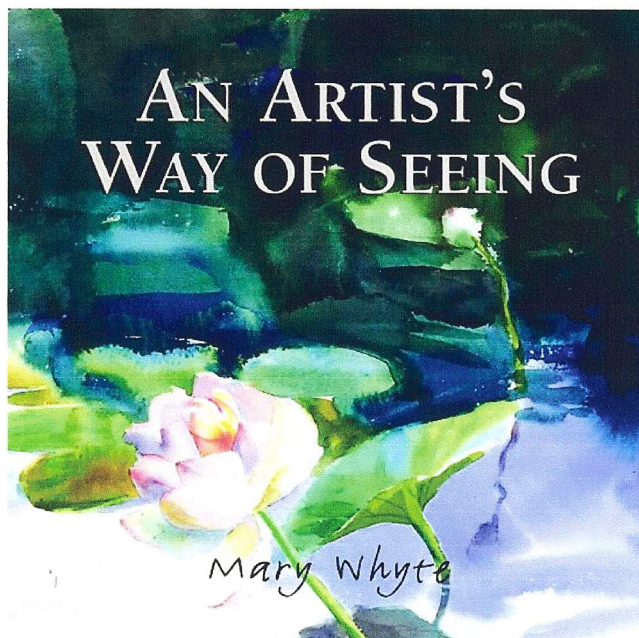
She includes images of those paintings, studies and sketches and has organized the book by chapters titled by color, with engaging and lyrical stories of her life, travels and encounters as an artist. She also offers thought-provoking observations about painting and art, such as "every unsuccessful painting is a stepping stone to your very best", and "creating from the heart is the only way authenticity will happen."

She has a knack for capturing what artists feel but often can't express clearly. Writing about why we paint, she says "I think artists paint simply because it feels good, like sun on the back of the neck. Making art fills us with a surprising and unexpected happiness.... For artists, our work nourishes us and fills our senses. Every aspect of creating a painting is pleasurable; the feel of the brush in your hand, the smell of paint, the sound of a pencil moving across paper. Mixing

color on the palette is like watching butterflies come to life."

Something that unifies us as artists is our innate need to express to others what we see and feel; about this Mary writes, "Although we may be able to control and improve the quality of our work, the substance of what we ultimately express was embedded in our genes long ago. The sooner we come to realize and embrace this notion, the more original and engaging our creations will be."

In Mary's words, "Real art happens when we step out to the unknown, venture into new territory, and take a chance on where our senses will take us". This book engages our emotions as artists, and is a must read for artists who want to create from their heart.



(Note: Although out of print, *An Artist's Way of Seeing* can be downloaded as an e-book from iTunes or Amazon, and hardbound copies are available from Books-a-Million's online store at a reasonable price.

Also, for those who were unable to purchase copies of the soft cover book, "Working South, Paintings and Sketches by Mary Whyte," it may be ordered through Barnes & Noble.)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



| Date | Type | Details |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 11 a.m. May 17 | Annual Meeting | Share results and enjoy critiques of work from the annual Member Challenge. Outer dimensions of artwork and frame: 20"x24" |

Programs and schedule are subject to change. For updates, visit the website: www.jamesriverartleague.com

A JRAL Road Trip

Mary Whyte's "Working South" at Peninsula Fine Arts Center



On a field on April 19, James River Art League members enjoyed an exhibit of watercolor artist Mary Whyte's extraordinary work. Clockwise from top, JRAL artists viewed the artwork in the galleries after a pre-tour briefing by the docent. As a side trip into the Ascending Gallery, members also got the chance to see "Genesis 2013," an exhibit of artwork by Peninsula area college students. Anne Negus explained why she was drawn to Inhye Hong's acrylic called "Attraction." Meanwhile, Karen Witthoefft considered Jennifer Frazee's best-in-show sculpture, "Walking Man."



ASCENDING GALLERY

IN HONOR OF
DOROTHY ROUSE BOTTOM

NEWS, NOTES FOR AND ABOUT JRAL ARTISTS

Awards and Honors

Four JRAL members have paintings in the 34th annual juried exhibition of the Virginia Watercolor Society.

They are: **Anita Baker**, **Nancy Foley**, **Nidhi Misra** and **Theresa Shepherd**.

The show continues through May 26 at the Charles H. Taylor Arts Center in Hampton.

Sandy Basham received honorable mention in the recent Uptown Gallery show, "How Does Your Garden Grow?"

Recent Sales

Anne Twisdale sold a painting at the recent JRAL show at For Art's Sake.

Dani Ashbridge sold two paintings from her show at Capital One.

Pat Trgina sold two paintings, one at Glenmore Yoga and the other at Crossroads Art Center.

Open Shows

Uptown Gallery is having a judged show for June/July.

The title of the show is "Where Did That Come From?" The judge is Chris Wynn.

Drop date is June 1st and the First Friday receptions will be June 7 and July 5. Cost for entry is \$10 each for first and second pieces and \$5 for any additional piece.

For more information, contact **Rosemary McKnight** at (804) 314-4153.

The Central Virginia Watercolor Guild is calling for art for its 22nd annual exhibition.

The show will be in the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville, September 6-29,

The competition offers \$3,000 in prizes, and Jan Ledbetter is the juror. Deadline for entering is June 7.

For a prospectus and other details, go to the group's website:

www.Central-Virginia-Watercolor-Guild.org.



PEDINI EXHIBIT

"Recent Work" by **Mary Pedini** is being featured at the Chester Library until May 29, through the Chesterfield Center for the Arts.

Mary, who joined JRAL last year, is a classically trained portrait artist who strives to capture the spirit as well as the likeness of her subjects.

Recent honors include: finalist in "Expressions 2011" portrait competition in Herndon, and a juried member of "Plein Air Richmond 2012."

At left is her portrait, "Teddy."

HONORING BABS BOWIE

For Art's Sake, at 9770 Gayton Road, will have a special exhibition honoring **Babs Bowie**, a JRAL member who died last year. The show runs July 8-29, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m., July 12.

Babs, who had been a school teacher in Northern Virginia, pursued her art throughout her life. She studied at the Torpedo Factory, the Corcoran Gallery

and elsewhere, but found a home at Discover Graphics in Alexandria where she worked for more than 20 years and developed her printmaking skills.

After moving to Richmond in 2008, she studied at FAS and Crossroads Art Center and joined the art league, bringing a fresh perspective with her practice of collage and her newly found affinity for abstract art.



Arlene DeConti and **Helen Sanders** recently attended a workshop in Myrtle Beach, SC, with **Eric Wiegardt**. Helen describes him as a wonderful watercolor artist and teacher who emphasizes painting loosely.

SERPENTINE ART

Beverly Bley and a group of her Fredericksburg art friends make an annual trip for Kanuga Watermedia Workshops in the mountains of North Carolina.

This year was a bit later than usual, and the warming weather had drawn out some of the local wildlife.

On the second day of the session, a four-foot black snake appeared in the classroom.

Apparently, no one sketched it from life.



Susan

NEWEST MEMBERS

Susan Fisher and Tom Burns were voted into the James River Art League at the May 3 meeting of the Executive Board.

Susan, who works in oils and pastels, studied at For Art's Sake and is a members of Virginia Plein Air Painters.

Tom, chairman of the St. Paul's Arts Group, has studied at VCU, VMFA and the Visual Arts Center



Tom

NEW OFFICERS TO BE CHOSEN

(Continued from page 1)

held various positions, among them President, Vice President/Program Chair and Secretary. She holds a BFA from VCU. He had specialized in water media, but has moved into mixed media and is dabbling in oil.

Jane Cox has been in JRAL since 2007 and was president in 2009-11. She said she was a little concerned when asked to serve as president in that term, since she had not been in the group very long; but the board and the members made it easy and enjoyable. She has been recording secretary for the past two years. Originally an oil painter, she took on the challenges of watercolors about 12 years ago.

Pat Trgina's love of art began in her childhood in England. For many years she made porcelain dolls but later expanded her work into virtually all mediums and subjects. She joined JRAL about four years ago and enters many of our shows as well as displaying in many other venues around Richmond. She has a permanent wall display at Crossroads Art Center.

Maryanne Evans is standing for re-election as treasurer. She has initiated steps through the IRS to get JRAL certified as a non-profit organization and is looking toward completing the process. She has been in JRAL since 2008, after rekindling her interest in art. As a teen, she loved charcoal sketching, but now she finds "the beautiful clear colors of watercolor call to me."

Officers will serve two-year terms beginning on July 1, and are members of the JRAL Executive Board. The newly-elected president will appoint chairmen of the various standing committees who will also be on the Executive Board. The chairmen appoint members of their committees.

The standing committees are: Program, Membership, Exhibit, Gallery, Hospitality, Publicity, Communications, Newsletter, Archivist and Outreach. (The First Vice President chairs the Program Committee).

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE



Location

About This Exhibit

Important Dates and Info

SPRING / SUMMER

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <u>Our Lady of Hope Ctr</u> 13700 N. Gayton Rd. Richmond, VA | May 4-30 No Commission 20-23 Artists / 2 paintings each | Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., May 4 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., May 30 Reception: 6-8 p.m., May 9 |
| <u>CAPITAL ONE West Creek</u> 15000 Capital One Dr. Richmond, VA | May 3-Aug. 30 No commission 40 artists, 1 painting each Max: W=32/H=32 All paintings POR or NFS | Drop off: 2-2:30 p.m., May 3 Pick up: 4-4:30 p.m., Aug 30 Not open to public Guests may call 804 284-6015 to visit exhibit |
| <u>James Center Atrium</u> 1015 E. Cary St. Richmond, VA | June 1-22 Annual Judged Exhibit 65 Paintings-1 per artist No commission Max: W=34"/H=37" | Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., June 1 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., June 22 Reception: 2-4 p.m., June 9 |

FALL / WINTER

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Suntrust Bank</u> 919 E. Main St. Richmond, VA | Sept. 3-30 No commission 30 Artists / 1-2 paintings No commission Note: No prices on tags | Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 3 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 30 No reception |
| <u>Montpelier Center</u> 17205 Mountain Road Montpelier, VA | Oct. 1-29 30% commission 75-80 paintings Max: W=36/H=36 | Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Oct. 1 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Oct. 30 Reception: 2-4 p.m., Oct. 6 |
| <u>Tuckahoe Library</u> 1901 Starling Dr. Henrico, VA | Dec. 2-30 No commission 30 artists, 1-2 paintings Maximum 60 paintings | Drop off: 1-1:30 p.m., Nov. 30 Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Dec. 30 No reception |

Diana Robinson, Gallery Co-Chair: 741-5550 (H), 512-9389 (C); dnr36@comcast.net

Kate Towler, Gallery Co-Chair: 565-2606 (H), 432-4188 (C); katetowler@verizon.net

Gigi Vranian, Exhibit Chair: 784-8087 (H), 337-3720 (C); vraniangigi@comcast.net

NOTES: Sign-up is a must for all exhibits. Please call Gigi if you sign up but can't make it. Schedule is subject to change. Please visit the website, www.jamesriverartleague.com, for most current information.

Receptions: Food provided by exhibit participants, unless otherwise notified by the Hospitality Committee.

Entries in the Fall/Winter shows will be credited to the 2013-14 exhibit year.



James River Art League

Lois Shipley
President

Janice Clark
1st Vice President
Program Chairman

Collin Hoskins
2nd Vice President
Parliamentarian

Jane Cox
Recording Secretary

Sally Booth
Corresponding Secretary

Maryanne Evans
Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Elizabeth Hood
Membership

Suzanne Spooner-Munch
Publicity

Diana Robinson
Kate Towler
Gallery

Gigi Vranian
Exhibit / Contact

Stella Jones
Historian / Archivist

Lisa Nye
Pam Roach
Hospitality

Sandy Bruton
Telephone

Mike Steele
Newsletter

Our Mission:
To encourage the creation and
appreciation of good art.

SALLY BOWRING TO JUDGE THE JUNE SHOW

Sally Bowring, a internationally known artist who teaches painting at VCU, will judge the James River Art League's annual exhibition at the James Center Atrium, June 1-22.

The awards reception will be 2-4 p.m., June 9.

The show will have a maximum of 65 paintings, one per artist. Prizes are awarded in three judged categories: oil and acrylic, watercolor, and other media.

Please see Page 5 for drop-off and pick-up times, size restrictions and other information about the exhibit.

ARTIST CHALLENGE

The annual JRAL Artist Challenge will be featured at the May 17 meeting.

The theme this year is "River City," and participating members will bring works of art that reflect various Richmond subjects.

The artwork will be discussed and critiqued by guest artist Christopher Wynn.

Program chair Janice Clark requests that entrants arrive early (10:15-10:30 a.m.) in order to set up and view the paintings. If you have a portable easel or stand, please bring that with you.

To speed things along, please provide an index card with the name of your painting as well as two or three

sentences about your inspiration or other comments about your artwork.

Gigi Vranian has scheduled a special exhibition of the Richmond works at Crossroad Art Center in March 2014, in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the James River Art League.

FAS MOVES

For Art's Sake has moved to 9770 Gayton Road in the Gayton Crossing Shopping Center.

An open house will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, May 17.



Hat Parade by Elizabeth Hood

Our Lady Of Hope Health Center

May 4-30

Reception:
6-8 p.m.
May 9

