

APRIL 2025

GASTON COUNTY



Inside this issue...

- ✚ Past Event Summaries
- ✚ Next Meetings
- ✚ Current and Upcoming Exhibitions/Events
- ✚ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✚ GCM of Art and History
- ✚ Plein Air Activities
- ✚ Looking Ahead
- ✚ Membership
- ✚ Community Contributions
- ✚ Non-profit Partners
- ✚ GCAG Officers

President's Message



Dear Members,

Nature never disappoints. As April becomes Mother Nature's muse, the freshness of Spring renews all of us. Lots of inspiration for artists! As this month unfolds, the Guild has some great exhibitions and events for the remainder of the season.

A huge thank you goes to Gloria Brinkman for spearheading our successful Watercolor Workshop and presentation with artist JJ Jiang. Also, thank you to Jason Hannusch and Anna Currie for their support to make it all happen.

The Guild's *plein air* group, with 30+ members, will exhibit regional paintings at Bliss Gallery along with some special artistic Holy Angels this month until May 10th. Our thanks to Gaye Dimmick with Holy Angels for bringing this to fruition. Please stop by to see the fabulous art!

We have two special events scheduled this month. They are our signature A Natural View Show at DSBG and the Garibaldi *plein air* Competition in partnership with the City of Belmont. Please refer to the newsletter for further info. I would like to thank the committee chairs for coordinating A Natural View: Janet Croog and Ethan Peeler. Also, a thank you to Jill Meeks and Richard Martinez for chairing the Garibaldi Competition. Stellar committee chairs!

The Guild has been invited to exhibit art at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History through August 23rd. It will be a curated event. Please join us for the reception on May 8th in Dallas, NC. You are invited to join us for our May presentation with speaker Richard Martinez on May 13th at the Gaston Public Main Library.

We are pleased to announce that we have nominated officers for next year. If you would like to be a part of our team please contact us. 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 and Watercolor Workshop with JJ Jiang

The Gaston County Art Guild welcomed internationally renowned North Carolina artist, JJ Jiang as guest speaker at our membership meeting on March 11th at the Gaston County Library in Gastonia. "Art must be rooted in life," Jiang explained. This philosophy was so beautifully demonstrated in the sharing of his personal artistic story and the captivating images shared.



Subsequently, JJ Jiang presented "The Simplicity of Watercolor Painting," a three-day workshop March 12-14 that took place in the Gaston County Library's auditorium. The workshop experience included daily masterful demonstrations by the artist in the use of watercolor medium focusing on the fundamentals of line, shape, color value, and color temperature in rendering selected subject matter inclusive of landscape, waterscape, and urbanscape. The artist's thoughtful preparations and professional rapport guided participants' individual understandings of the art of watercolor painting while motivating each toward the courage to see, think, and create with renewed artistic vision. For each participant, the workshop was truly motivating, inspirational, fun, relaxing, and productive. Several of JJ's original works of creative art were present for participants to view up close, stoking curiosity and stimulating conversation that flowed from his own artistic response to the beauty and joy of the medium of watercolor.



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



Calling all GCAG artists to submit to
 Gaston County Museum of Art and History's juried member Exhibit
 "Summer in the Carolinas"
 April 9 by 5 pm
 Exhibit to open April 25 – August 23
 Prospectus and specifications may be found on our Guild website.



Call to Artists

More opportunities in the month of May! **May 3rd** from 9 am – 12:30 pm, the Catawba River Keepers, Pharr Yarns, McAdenville Historical Society, and GCM will sponsor the **3rd Annual plein air Competition** in McAdenville, NC during Riverfest. More information forthcoming.



Anne Harkness

GCAG member, Anne Harkness, will be the featured speaker April 16th for the Charlotte Guild of Artists at the Mint Museum, 2730 Randolph Rd., in Charlotte, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

**Call to *plein air* Artists
 A Sip and Stroll in May**

Come paint in the garden at Stowe Manor, Belmont, NC Saturday, **May 3rd** 4 – 7 pm. Artists are free. Proceeds from \$10/pp cover charge and wine/beer sales go to SM. Art sold by artists goes directly back to the artist.

MAY'S MEETING offers a presentation by **Richard Martinez** focusing on "**Healing thru Art.**"



On Tuesday, **May 13th**, 6:30 pm, Richard Martinez will be presenting a special presentation on his journey of healing through Art and the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits from this practice! Richard's Art journey began in 2011 after a career in educational administration and religious life as a Franciscan monk. Personal work will be available for purchase. Proceeds will be equally split between GCAG and Michael J. Fox Foundation. The event will be held at the **Main Gaston County Library** on 1555 E. Garrison Blvd. in the Upstairs Conference Room. Refreshments will be provided.

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

April 5
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. **Bring your colors; water and comradery are supplied!**



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.





In coordination with the **City of Belmont**,
GCAG sponsors the
**4th Annual Garibaldi Festival *plein air* Competition and
 Wet Paint Sale**

April 25 - 26 in the scenic town of Belmont.

The prospectus, registration, and payment may be found at
www.gastoncountyartguild.org

There will be many awards and prize money!

**Local sponsors include Jerry's Artarama, City of Belmont,
 Johnathan Taylor, Belmont Bookshop, Simpson Group, Stowe
 Manor, Lauren Gibson Studio Di Sarlo.**

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



GCAG Board Officer Nominations 2025-2026

The following members have been nominated:

President - Anna Currie

Vice President - Dorothy Lodge

Secretary - Candy Thomas

Treasurer - Magie DeShon

ALL members are encouraged to volunteer and help plan our activities!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Gaston County Art Guild has an opportunity to apply for a grant from the City of Gastonia Arts Committee.

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 space is reserved for any future partners or business/corporate sponsors who would like to showcase our artists' work at your place of business or contribute to our mission!

**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”** is currently being exhibited at Loray Mills in Gastonia through May 10. Public viewing hours: Tuesdays - Fridays, 10 am - 5 pm and Saturdays, 11 am - 4 pm.



**GCAG member Juried Art Exhibit –
“Summer in the Carolinas”**
April 25 – August 23
Awards Reception May 8, 6 – 8 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 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.

Gaston County Schools Art Show – now through May 10

Loray Mills, Gastonia, NC

Slow Art Day – April 5

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

GCM – GGAG Member Juried Exhibit, April 25 – August 23

entry deadline April 9, Awards Reception May 8, Dallas, 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

Riverfest – *plein air* Competition and **Sip and Stroll *plein air***, May 3

McAdenville and Belmont, NC respectively

May Meeting – May 13 – Richard Martinez, Artist

Gaston County Library, Gastonia, NC

June Annual GCAG Picnic and Officer Vote – June 10

Home of Jason Hannusch, Gastonia, 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 New Members

Bill Scott
Rosemary Schudel
Doris Barahona-Burton
Richard Clewell
Heather Walton
David VanDyke
Frankie Kellum

February Renewals

Susanne Hawthorne
Jill Meeks
Jack Cloninger
Suzy Hannon
Renee Collins
Carol Carstarphen
Gaye Dimmick



WELCOME!

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.

COMMUNITY
CONTRIBUTION

FOLLOW OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNERS!



Gaston College



JERRY'S ARTARAMA® Retail Stores



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 Pruitt

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, 9 am, 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