

SAG NEWSLETTER

SPRINGFIELD ART GUILD



This month RUTH ENSLEY
will talk about:

IDEAS TO KEEP YOUR CREATIONS LOOKING FRESHER AND MORE EXCITING

Ruth will show, share and discuss ideas that she has used throughout the years to keep her work looking more exciting and ideas that have helped the process of creating and painting. She has used these techniques while working in several different media: collage, batik, mixed media and watercolor. Bring your ideas to the meeting and we can all share.

Working as a professional artist since 1966 both abroad and in the States, Ruth began exhibiting once again in Northern Virginia in August of 2010. Since then her work has been juried into several shows: Two juried shows at Green Spring Gardens Park with SAG, Two Treasury of the Arts Shows with VAS. Ruth has had two solo shows: One at the Historic Manor House at Green Spring Gardens Park, March-April of 2011. The exhibit was: **EXOTICS ET CETERA** which consisted of 27 watercolors of orchids and other exotic flora and fauna. In August of 2011, she exhibited 26 watercolors of parrots, macaws, toucans, and toucanets titled: **BIRDS OF A FEATHER** at the Vienna Arts Society Art Center. In October, Ruth was the featured artist at the Vienna Arts Society Art Gallery. In December she was juried into Potomac Valley Watercolorists.

The Franconia Government Center Show

**Will be taken down
on Saturday Feb. 4th 2012 at 10am**

Our next meeting will be on

Wednesday, February 8th -7 PM
in the Springfield Mall Community Room
6500 Springfield, VA 22150
on the lower level close to JC Penney's
<http://www.springfieldartguild.com>

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Here's Your Chance!

A call to all members: Now is the time to plan to join our Board of Directors! Come this June there will be vacancies on the Board due to terms winding up. This is your opportunity to volunteer or say 'Yes!' if you are asked to run. The guild relies upon its members to fill slots to support our efforts to have a vibrant and thriving organization. You can be part of that team!

No special skills or experience are required, just a willingness to pitch in and assist with events or fill an office or have a desire to work with the group that steers the direction of the guild based on its mission statement.

Start thinking about it now, where can YOU help out? If you already know you'd like to join in,

contact Stephanie Bianco or Gloria Benedetto. At the June Annual meeting, all candidates are put before the attending members. So, if you're a team player who enjoys making good things happen, get in touch!

sbianco@aol.com
glbene1123@yahoo.com

Help Wanted! We're Building a Zoo!

In planning ahead, here's the scoop on what's coming in April. Our show theme will be 'Animals' to coordinate with our very special and uniquely talented guest speaker, **Erica Exline**.

The April show will be calling for animal subjects in all mediums for the

gallery wall. Space is also available for 3D representations of animals should that be your specialty.

Start looking about for an animal subject you'd like to add to 'the zoo'!



Our Fairfax County Student Art Show.

Will be held on March 3, 2012
in the Springfield Mall Community Room
6500 Springfield, VA 22150
on the lower level close to JC Penney's

This show is part of the Springfield Art Guild Community Outreach Program. The artwork will be submitted by the students of Wayneood Elementary school. Music for the reception will be provided by student musicians from Wayneood Elementary as well. This will be a great event to bring the whole family to.

Come out and see what our young artists are up to!

Our Business Card Rack Has Been Installed.

A new business card rack was generously donated by Jobin Realty in Manassas and was installed by Deane Allen next to the Welcome table. We would like to thank Jobin Realty for their generous donation. If you are a SAG member and would like to display your business card feel free to do so. This card rack is just one more opportunity for each of us to keep in touch with our community and the buying public.



A HUGE THANK YOU!

Many, many thanks to Reggie Garrett for designing and building our new pedestals for the upcoming 3D show and other events in the future!

Reggie brought a plan to the Board on January 16 and has completed the task, with the able help of Lydia and Ray Jechorek, on January 24. Great job, folks!

Thank you again for your dedication to SAG.

AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT

ANOTHER HUGE THANK YOU!

Lydia Jechorek's husband, Ray continues to lend a hand in support of our group. His latest effort (not solicited, I might add) led him to take a look at our overhead lighting problem. Ray placed new bulbs in what we all thought were nonfunctional sockets and they worked. This brings much needed light to the dark areas over our painting display wall giving us additional quality display space!

Thanks so much Ray!



Terry Anstrom Announces her acceptance in The Fifteenth Annual National Competition at Gallery West

Her watercolor,
"Big Red Tulip"

Will be on display at the gallery from
February 8 and ends March 4, 2012

with an artists' reception
February 11, from 5-8 pm.

The exhibit will display oils, acrylics, and
watercolors, plus ceramics and 3-D pieces.

Most of Terry Anstrom's paintings
are available at her studio in Building 6 at the
Lorton Art Center or online at:
www.watercolors-byTerry.com

Gallery West

Is located at:
1213 King Street • Alexandria, VA 22314

THE SPRINGFIELD ART GUILD Community Outreach Program At Work!

Our Scholarship Program

It was approved by the SAG Board to continue giving a \$750 annual scholarship to a deserving Virginia art student. These students are nominated by a group of teachers and faculty of the Virginia educational system. Two members of our Guild will review all of the participating students art work and determine a worthy recipient. Several area scholarships of varying amounts are donated by local businesses and civic organizations each year. Our scholarship is one of many.

Monies for Veteran Arts

The SAG Board approved an award of \$250 in money or art supplies to the Veteran's Program in West Virginia. Lydia contacted Dick Blick and discovered that SAG could get a discount on the purchase of art equipment for the veterans.

Both of the above awards are a part of our Community Outreach Program.



Artomatic is back

By Stephanie Bianco



Art-o-Matic is a huge art show! **YOU** can be in it!! It's coming to Crystal City (Arlington) Virginia this spring. It's an exciting, unjuried five week show put on entirely by the artists, who volunteer a few hours of their time to accomplish being open to the public 7 days a week with their imaginative 2D and 3D artwork of all kinds, and live music.

For your curiosity I will describe my own experience with the 2009 show. Here I am, pictured above, just after spending about eight hours in a large new office building still under construction at 55 Mass Avenue in Washington, DC. About 999 other participants sweated through their installations too; the air conditioning wasn't functioning until the show opened.

Eight hours? Yes. I finished painting my 8x8 wooden partition "wall" as I wished--neutral paint

frosted with spray on glitter. Next I attached the name sign I speed-painted that morning on foam core, and hung my freshly framed photography and collage pieces as you see. You won't be able to tell from this picture, but each piece has an optional anti-theft device behind it purchased at a nominal fee from Artomatic. They also offered optional lighting which I purchased from them and we installed above the wall on a scaffold that was provided. I could have devised some other lighting (or skipped it) but I had not done this before and didn't see anything at Home Depot that was any better than this relatively inexpensive solution.

Did you notice the "we" that slipped into my sentence about lighting? That's because I could not have done this alone! My husband helped me carry each element up from the parking garage to the sixth

floor location via freight elevator. He let me tackle the painting because I wanted to do it, then we hung the pictures together and he patiently installed the lighting. We brought our own stepladder, tools and paint. Some artists donated their leftover paint which was freely available to anyone via the Gallery Manager's office.

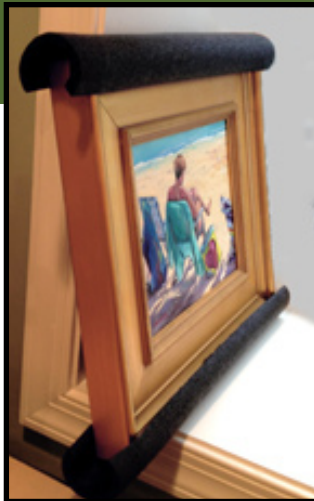
What I could have done better: A container for business cards--better business cards. A website address for the wall, so people could find me online later. (Alas, I still don't have one.) A larger mailing list for the snail mail postcards I could have sent out three weeks before the opening.

What I did well: I provided a chair for people to sit and leave me a message, and provided the book and pen to do so, and followed up with those who left contact information. I enjoyed every minute of my hectic Gallery Manager volunteer time, a cash bar night staffed by volunteers, meeting so many other artists and discussing ideas, and being a part of it all. Well worth the effort!

Again, I am encouraging **YOU** to participate if this sounds like your kind of thing. It's publicized in the media, you have the benefit of learning from my experiences shared here, and don't just take my word for it, talk to Reggie and Skeeter, who were also participants!

Check the coming March article for specific details about Artomatic 2012.

ART TIPS



Protect the edges of your art work when transporting them

Here is a great idea one of our members came across while showing her work at one of our venues. To keep your art work safe while transporting it from home to show use some insulation pipe tubing.

This pipe insulation will protect your frame and canvas edges from being damaged. Place the pipe tubing on the sides of your artwork. It is already split and will open to fit the average frame or canvas edge. Now is a good time to find this product. Since we are now in cold weather season, Home Depot has it right up front in packages of 4 for \$2.47



This tip was brought to you by Lydia Jechorek

SAG Board of Directors

Co Presidents: Gloria Benedetto / Stephanie Bianco

Vice President: Mary Exline

Secretary: Roxanne Himmelberger

Treasurer: Lydia Jechorek

At large: Reggie Garrett, Deane Allen,
Judy Isaacs, Jefferson Evans,
Bonnie Ferguson Butler

SAG Volunteers

Advisor: Judy Wengrovitz

Franconia Gov. Center Show Chair: Reggie Garrett

Webmaster: Reggie Garrett

Gmail account: Carolyn Walters

Hospitality: Andrea Steele and Carol Zeitlin

Librarian: Barbara Aigen

Membership: Lydia Jechorek

Newsletter: Reggie Garrett

Contributing Editor: Stephanie Bianco

Contributing Photographer: Jon Strother

Publicity: Mary Exline

Programming: Mary Exline

THIS MONTH SAG IS PRESENTING OUR PHOTOGRAPHY AND 3D ART EXHIBITION.

All artists interested in participating in this show are asked to bring 3 pieces with the possibility of 2 being installed. We are debuting our new 3D pedestals at this event. There are currently four pedestals to be used by the first four artists who come forward for this show.

The Art will be hung on February 4, 2012. The reception will be held February 11, 2012 from 1-3 pm. The take-down for this show will be March 3, 2012.

The labels need to show:
Title of the Piece, Artist's Name, and the Medium

Please contact Jon Strother with label information.
snowcap01@aol.com

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST MONTH'S GUEST CRITIC EILEEN OLSON

Eileen Olson was our guest for art critique last month. This was her first time visiting the Springfield Art Guild family. She brought with her a special humor and energy that made her presentation all the more special. Her critique of the art work on display was beneficial and met with appreciation from those whose work she discussed. With such an abstract background one might expect Eileen to have a bias for the genre. She in fact was most open and appreciative of the techniques used in the representational works of many of our members. We would love to have Eileen return for another art critique session.

By *Reggie Garrett*



Photos by *Jon Strother*



CORRECTION ABOUT Our New Hospitality Committee

Skeeter Scheid, Donnalyne Lafever and Barb Aigen will be taking over the refreshments concerns for the Monthly Meeting not the Hospitality Committee in total. Our guild is looking for a person of contact for receptions. This is an 'overseer' position, providing guidance for refreshments provided by participants, demonstrators and activities artists. If you're a natural party planner, we need YOU!



Tea, Houses

By Stephanie Bianco

What is this???

Why, it's three seasons of houses, part of a whole series of houses. Don't they look like pumpkins? Well they're rocks. Meticulously and beautifully painted by Barb Aigen, our February Artist of the Month.



Here's another three dimensional house: A house of cards!

Over two months of Wednesday afternoons last fall, Barb and I filmed a video now called Finding Tea. The humorous story foreshortens a couple hundred years into nine minutes, and features Barb's History Rock characters pictured below. You may have witnessed a "version in progress" shown during our January 2012 meeting. Working with Barb, I discovered with pleasure our SAG librarian and Artist of the Month to be an intriguing person on many levels, and inquiring about her painting on rocks for this article revealed some more of her geography.

She acquired some direction in

folk art painting with our member Susan Johnson about ten years ago, and while it was meant for canvas, Barb came to interpret it on rocks. Why?

"Partly poverty," she confides. "At that time, a continuing supply of canvas was out of my reach, but I pondered the idea as I walked around outdoors, and intuitively felt that rocks might work for me."

She says the first part of her process is to thoughtfully choose the rocks that might work for her vision. Then, she carefully paints the scenes from her mind's eye, allowing the contours of the rock to reveal the dimensions of the scenes. She never paints the bottoms of her chosen rocks, in tribute to their original identity.

Barb feels strongly about this issue: it's very significant to her to be recognized as an authentic artist! Even though much of her work is not on canvas, her expression though untraditional in that sense, is still valid.

"My personal view is that the same twinkling font of interior vision that engenders outward expression defines us as artists," I tell her. "It's who you are more than just a craft you do, even if you do it very well."

Why else has she chosen to enliven rocks with a history theme?

"I wanted to give boys a chance to become engaged with history through hands on interaction. Action figure rocks! Books are not exciting for some students; they prefer action."

"Did it work?" I ask.

"Yes!" replied Barb, whose background includes being a Brain Gym instructor. "You see, the left side of your brain has words to express itself, and also urges you to be accurate about facts, while the right side has no words, only pictures and action, and prefers to engage with a series of present moments. This is why some students truly benefit from physical interaction with the subject."



This is the cast of Finding Tea. (Those numbers on the wall behind them are inches.) The final version is ready to be shared after the February meeting with anyone who'd like to see it.

With Much Appreciation To The Members of the Springfield Art Guild

On behalf of Supervisor McKay (and me!), please let the members of the Springfield Art Guild know how much we appreciated their participation in our open house.

In spite of the weather, we had a packed room and the art show, raffle, and presence of some of the Art Guild members helped to make this event a success.

Thanks for all you do for the community!

Linda Waller
Director of Communications
Office of Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
The Franconia Government Center



The winners of the Viewer's Choice Awards from the Franconia Government Center show this year are:

First place: Donnalyne Lefever For "The Fire Beneath"

Second place: Lydia Jechorec For " Fall in Waterford"

Third place: Done Allen For " We The People"

Congratulations to all our winners



Ninety-Nine Years and Counting:
An Exhibition By

The Washington Society of Landscape Painters

Tuesday, January 17 through February 16
Reception: Thursday, February 9, 6-8 pm
(Snow date: February 16)

Prince George's Community College
Marlboro Hall Art Gallery
301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20477

Image shown here - *Enchanted Evening* by Barbara Nuss

A NEW ART CHALLENGE

Get Ready For This Show! It's Something New.

Starting with this February issue of SAG online, we will publish a photograph or two in each issue through June with these purposes: to stimulate your artistic vibe, and to create a new show. Here's what we have in mind.

You may interpret the photo artistically in any way you wish, 2D and 3D; realistically or abstractly; in whole or in part; medium of your choice. Even do it two or more ways if you're inspired! Then, Stephanie Bianco will announce a call for entries via email about July 15th, to create a September show in our community room. You can show any of the work that you have done as it relates to the inspiration photos.

Our members will be the judges in an open vote for prizes in:

- 1) **Crowd Favorite**
- 2) **Most Creative**
- 3) **Best use of materials**

Prizes will be awarded!

If you have an original photograph that you would like to see others interpret please send it to our Newsletter Designer, Reggie Garrett at: reggiedrew@aol.com All the photos used in the challenge will also be on display at the final showing.



Artomatic Returns to Crystal City in 2012! ***Free and Open to All, May 18th - June 24th***

Artomatic returns to Crystal City in 2012 for our signature free arts event, to be held in the biggest Artomatic building ever, from May 18 - June 24.

Artomatic will partner with the [Crystal City Business Improvement District \(BID\)](#) to transform the Transwestern Presidential Tower at 2511 S. Clark St. in Crystal City into a vibrant arts community that celebrates creativity and creates a unique and exciting event for tens of thousands of visitors - all free to visit.



Registration information to exhibit work at Artomatic will be available soon. To get the latest updates, keep an eye on your email, and subscribe to Artomatic by [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#).



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