



Beaver Valley Artists *Newsletter*

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Letter from the president



Hello everyone. The past six months have been a challenging time in so many ways. After quite a bit of discussion, the Board and I, along with consultation with some members, have concluded that meeting as we usually do will not be possible for the next few months. (If you didn't receive my recent email explaining our reasons for the decision, please let me know and I'll send it to you.) Please note that membership dues are not needed at this time.

We will tentatively plan to meet in February for our group critique, depending on how things go. We are also planning to have our show in April as scheduled. We have the option to postpone the show until summer this year if we need to.

It can be helpful to have a goal to work toward to get through difficult times. I hope our show will be an incentive to keep working on our art through the fall and winter.

Some of you have used extra time at home to create more art. That is wonderful! Others may find that stress is hindering our creativity and motivation. I admit that I have fallen more into the second category than the first.

When I lack motivation or inspiration, I try a few things. One is to read art books or art magazines. I also follow a few art blogs that inspire me. When I really need to de-stress with a calming art experience, I watch a YouTube channel called LearnFromMasters, which has extensive slide shows of master artists from the past accompanied by soothing classical music. Seeing beautiful art and reading about how other artists work can spark inspiration.

Even if energy is low, I can always do a simple drawing of a piece of fruit or any ordinary object. Playing with color inspires me too. Some artists recommend trying a new medium just for fun, like making small clay sculptures, making mono prints, sewing, or collage. For those who work in a realistic style, trying small abstracts (with guidance) could be refreshing. We have so much instruction available to us now. If all of that feels too ambitious, even a new kind of brush or brand of paint can give a lift. The important thing is to keep some sort of creative flow going.

Speaking of creativity, please see the profile of Dona Boots in this newsletter. Dona's painting won Best of Show in a recent BVA exhibition (she was 80 at the time!). Her work just keeps getting better. In addition to her serious work that often has religious themes, she has done some very funny 3-D and performance art. Her creative expression seems boundless to me, and I hope you will find her as inspiring as I do.

I look forward to seeing everyone when we are able to meet again. It will be interesting to see what artwork we will have produced during this time.

Jennie

MERRICK MASTERS AWARDS

The Fifth Biennial Merrick Masters Exhibition 2020, Pandemia, has given awards to two BVA members:

Congratulations to **Marge Gardner**, who received an Honorable Mention for her oil painting, Snow on the Trees.



Congratulations to **Vera Lovewell**, whose oil painting, Dean's House, received an Honorable Mention.



And a huge congratulations to **Laurie Fillinger**, who took on the planning and execution of the Merrick Masters Exhibition for the first time this year. In spite of the pandemic, or the "Pandemia," it's a great show! Thanks, Laurie.

The exhibition can be seen during gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00am - 4:00pm through September 17. Masks are required in the building.



Member Profile

MY PATH IN ART ~ Dona Boots

I am 82 yrs. old. When I was 13, I'd never seen an oil painting or known about great art. My adult cousin on a short leave from an Army hospital taught me to use oil paints. He went back to active duty and I never stopped painting, using library books and trial and error. While reading about famous artists, my new goal was to paint original ideas and to have my paintings be remembered. When I was 28, an older woman I met told me about Merrick Art Gallery. I clearly remember the first time I entered into the main gallery directly from the original entrance. I was overwhelmed, and tears came to my eyes seeing original masterworks for the first time. Eva Mae Merrick greeted me and became my friend as I went back again and again, hungry to learn. She invited me to join 5 older adults who got together there on Monday nights to paint and exchange ideas: the first Merrick Art Club. As our little group grew, we wanted to have an art show. Eva Mae told us how to go about it. Our group continued to grow, and the name was changed to Association of Valley Artists and Craftsmen (AVAC). Another change came later that became BVA. I started listing here all the groups and places I've exhibited over the years; I feel prizes and recognition are nice but do not matter. This is what does . . . advice I received from the older woman who 'sent' me to Merrick: I told her I felt so inadequate because I didn't go to college. She said, "Pray, as George Washington Carver did, 'Show me, Lord.' And He will!" I have continued this all my life and invite other young artists to do the same. My first answer for a meaningful painting was "HE'S MY FRIEND, TOO!" It was very hard for me to do, never having painted people. Another that came later was THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND. In January 2020 a large print of my painting, AMERICAN PARK ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON was purchased by The Mae Emma Hoyt Foundation and donated to the Lawrence County Court House in New Castle, PA for their permanent collection. A print of this painting is also in New Horizon School, Beaver, PA, donated by a retiring teacher, and is used for speech therapy. To see more of my art go to donaboosart.com .



The North Hills Art Center Annual Members' Show Sept 14 thru Oct 9

Gallery will be open to view show in-person Sept 14 thru Oct 9 : Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm; Tues, 7pm-9pm. View virtually on NHAC website, Facebook and YouTube starting Sept. 14.

Juried awards and people's choice! Amateur and professional artists can submit their 2D & 3D work to the Art Center for the show. This art show is for North Hills Art Center members only; those who are not members can join now to be eligible for participation online at: <https://northhillsartcenter.org> or call the office at (412) 364-3622.

Juror is Pittsburgh artist Holly Pultz.

**This is not a juried entry show. Artwork is juried for awards only. However, the Art Center retains the right to reject artwork that is deemed inappropriate.

Entry fee \$10 per piece. Maximum 3 pieces.
Drop off dates are: 8/31-9/4, 10am-3pm; 9/1, 7-9pm.
Pick up: 10/12-10/16, 10am-3pm; 10/13, 7pm-9pm.

For more info, visit: <https://northhillsartcenter.org/resources/Documents/Shows/MembersShowCall%202020.jpg>

Handmade Arcade VIRTUAL MARKETPLACE November 28 - December 6, 2020

We are excited to announce our brand new immersive, virtual marketplace designed to help crafters, makers, designers, and artists from Pittsburgh, Western PA, and the U.S. showcase and sell their products.

Strategically timed to run during Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, this event offers safe, engaging holiday shopping from home with features like interactive experiences and customized content, including hands-on demonstrations, behind-the-scenes studio tours.

Apply to be a vendor at Handmade Arcade Virtual Marketplace and crush your holiday sales! We'll help you every step of the way with press, advertising, free business resources, and more.

Application Deadline: September 7, 2020
Application fee: (non-refundable; no exceptions): \$15
Accepted Vendor Fee: \$150

<https://www.zapplication.org/event-info.php?ID=8663&fbclid=IwAR>

"Nature and Wildlife" Juried Exhibit October 8- 24, 2020

The Associated Artists of Butler County is hosting its annual "Nature and Wildlife" juried exhibit October 8- 24. Artists whose art falls within the theme of nature and wildlife may submit up to 10 artworks online for \$30.

Deadline: Midnight Sept 26. Artists will be notified of acceptance by September 30.

Prospectus:

The Nature and Wildlife 2020 Exhibit is a juried show. From the submissions, a juror will assemble an exhibit reflecting the highest quality and interpretation of theme conducive with the AABC's goals. An individual may submit up to 10 artworks for consideration. Deadline to apply is midnight September 26, 2020 .

Categories:

- **Painting:** oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, digital painting
- **Works on Paper:** drawings, pastel, mixed media on paper
- **Photography:** black and white and color
- **Sculpture:** carved or constructed three dimensional artworks.

Image requirements: clear digital images showing only the artwork. Please crop out any distracting background.

A minimum of 10 pieces must be entered in a category for a award to be given. Entry fee is nonrefundable.

Accepted artworks:

All artworks must be clean and free of dust and dirt. Works considered unsuitable for display will be rejected.

All 2D work must be ready to hang with wire or saw tooth hanger securely affixed to the frame. Artworks not prepared with the above stated hanging hardware will be rejected. 3 Dimensional work must be display ready and level.

The AABC retains the right to use photographs of entries in promotional materials.

Artists will be notified of acceptance via email by September 30. Accepted artwork should be delivered to the Art Center by October 5.

It is the artist's responsibility to deliver all accepted artworks.

Application link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/ButlerArtCenter1/Nature-AndWildlifeExhibit>



3rd Annual Lawrence County Art Show October 1 – December 31

The 3rd Annual Lawrence County Art Show invites artists to capture the people, places and events that make our region unique!

While cash prizes will recognize talent, a limited number of purchase awards will help build the County's Art Collection from the entries submitted.

- **Deadline:** September 11, 2020 (drop off Sept 7 – 11)
- **Notification of Awards:** by September 21, 2020
- **Awards:** 1st Place: \$175, 2nd Place: \$125, 3rd Place: \$75
- **Public reception:** Cancelled due to COVID-19. Awards will be announced virtually & in the newspapers
- **Pick up:** January 4 – 15, 2021

Works may be delivered in person to the Register and Recorder's Office at the Lawrence County Courthouse, 430 Court Street, New Castle from September 7 - 11, 2020 between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

ENTRY FEE: \$10 per work. No limit to number of entries.

<http://co.lawrence.pa.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Art-Contest2020Flyer.pdf>

Tuscarawas County Art Guild Fall Art Exhibit Opening November 14th, 2020

The Tuscarawas County Art Guild is providing an opportunity for artists to participate in our 5th juried art show. Artists 18 years and older and any TCAG member may submit a maximum of three original works of art.

Entry Date: Friday, October 30th 2:00pm to 7:00pm

Saturday, October 31st 9:00am to 3:00pm

Opening Day: Saturday November 14th 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Award Ceremony will be at 7:00pm

Exhibit Hours: Open Monday thru Friday (except Thanksgiving weekend) 10:00 am to 2:00pm, Saturdays 11:00am to 4:00pm. Closed Sundays

Eligibility: All Art Guild members and artists over 18 years old.

Entry Fees: Entry fee for TCAG members is \$20.00, \$25.00 nonmembers

Awards: Best of Show, Awards of excellence, Merit Awards, and Honorable Mention Awards – free TCAG membership. Number of awards will be determined by the number of entries received.

For rules, requirements and details, visit:

<https://www.tuscarawascountycastle.com/2020juried-show>

Sweetwater's Annual Holiday Mart: November 28th – December 19th



Sweetwater's annual Holiday Mart is a tradition in our community that we just can't skip this year! After much consideration we are planning to present Holiday Mart online in 2020. There will be some adjustments to our usual policies, so even if you are a returning artist, please read all the information for this year found on our website. We will also be preparing to create pop-up markets if the regulations at the time allow for in-person sales. (The status on the pop-up markets will not be decided on until late November.) The online sale will be three weeks long, from November 28th – December 19th.

Important Dates:

Last Day to Apply: October 12

Online Sale Dates: November 28 - December 19

Virtual Preview Party: November 27

For details and to complete the form online:

<https://sweetwaterartcenter.org/call-for-artists/holiday-mart/>

Holiday Mart 2020 will be limited to artisan made items in these 6 categories:

- **Jewelry** (ex: earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.)
- **Wearable Art** (examples: knitwear, crocheted and woven wear, other handmade clothing and accessories, etc.)
- **Ceramics** (examples: handmade mugs, bowls, cups, etc. All items must be created from raw clay by the artist, no cast slipware with artist designs or illustrations.)
- **Gifts for the Home** (examples: hostess gifts, candles, towels, cutting boards, aprons, non-holiday cards, etc.)
- **Holidays** (examples: ornaments, holiday cards, holiday décor and decorations, menorah, etc.)
- **Art** (paintings, prints, collage, 2D and 3D art works)

All artists must be juried in and apply through this call for artists page with photos of their work. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and artists will be notified within 5 days of their submission. The last day to submit an application is October 12th.



General Information

Website

beavervalleyartists.com

Email

beavervalleyartists@gmail.com

Facebook

[@BeaverValleyArtistsNow](https://www.facebook.com/BeaverValleyArtistsNow)

Beaver Valley Artists Board

[Jennie Johnstone](#) - President
jennjo@comcast.net

[Debra Tobin](#) - Vice President
debratobin@ymail.com

[Colleen Tittiger](#) - Secretary
tittiger@comcast.net

Lynn Roberts - Treasurer
724-480-7112

[Laurie Fillinger](#) - Programs
724-847-3495

[Mary Jane Hadley](#) - Membership
724-776-1955

[Kathy Bischak](#) - Publicity
kbischak@comcast.net
Phone: 724-728-4658



Membership Dues:

No payment of dues will be required until regular meetings resume.



Send Newsletter submissions to:

[Debra Tobin](#)
beavervalleyartists@gmail.com



Send Social Media submissions to:

Kathy Bischak

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR INSPIRATION

Pittsburgh artist Patrick Lee is participating in this online exhibition of still life that opens Sept. 3rd: <https://www.sugarlift.com/blogs/exhibitions/still>

Inspirational blog: The Painters Keys provides much food for thought on a variety of topics. The comments from artists are part of what makes it so helpful. <https://painterskeys.com/>

LearnFromMasters YouTube channel has slide shows of masters' works. <https://www.youtube.com/c/LearnFromMasters/featured>

Baumgartner Restoration YouTube channel. If you have ever wondered what is involved in restoring old oil paintings, you might enjoy seeing this fine art restorer who films his process step by step. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZe6ZCbF9xgbbbdkiODPKQ>

Jerry's Live weekly Tuesday demonstrations on YouTube. These are very casual and cover many different materials and techniques. There are plenty of videos in the archive to choose from. The latest one is on yellow pigment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5hSkuBGM2Y>

BUTLER ART CENTER

Come Join us!
Friday Night October
9th 5-9pm!
***Take a " Fall Crawl" through**
Downtown !
***Support our local artists and**
downtown businesses!

***Play business bingo!**
 Bring your FULLY stamped card back to the art center for chance to win one of three prizes!
 Winners to be announced on our Facebook page and via Email

Come Visit, Dine out and
See the ART!

Fall Art Crawl

Email: events@butlerartcenter.org Phone: 724-258-6922