

HAL Art LEAGUE news

HUNTSVILLE

LEAGUE

news

WHERE LOCAL ART MEETS THE COMMUNITY

November 2009

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Tracey Allyn Greene

Recently I decided to embark on a creative challenge. Then, I decided, hey, why not involve HAL members in this very challenge??

It has to do with interpretation. I mean, really, all of us see things in different ways. Doesn't matter the medium. All of us artists look upon a subject in our own way, and one of the most interesting things in art is how each artist interprets the subject at hand. Buildings, landscapes, figures, still lifes.....what garners the interest of the viewer is the unique way each artist portrays any given subject.

I came upon an interesting Internet artist blog not so long ago, titled "Different Strokes for Different Folks". The purpose is to bring to light how different artists portray one photographic image. It intrigued me. The artistic references are quite varied and can pose a challenge to any artist at any given point in time, which, I think, is a good thing. I believe most artists enjoy a challenge, something that stretches one's creativity. And, having a deadline is always a good thing as well. These challenges generally run bi-weekly, so one has to have a work completed in a relatively short period of time. In short, a photographic image is uploaded to the Different Strokes blog, an image that the owner of the blog, Karen Jurik, has taken herself, and thus, the challenge begins. The artist participating in the challenge then downloads/prints the image, paints their interpretation of it, shoots a digital copy, submits it to the Different Strokes website, and then at the end of that particular challenge all the images are posted by the artist running the blog to the Different Strokes blog. These paintings are not critiqued, simply displayed for all of the participating artists and the blog followers to enjoy. The original photographs remain the property of Karin Jurik, but the original art resulting from these images is each artist's to keep, sell, or give away. Any digital copies of the photograph are not to be sold by anyone participating in the challenge.

So, I am offering up this challenge to HAL. I am going to start taking part in this project, and I'd like to invite HAL member artists to do the same. The artist who runs this blog, Karin Jurik, is a fabulous artist based in Atlanta who has really come up with a fantastic concept, and publishes

November Limelight HAL Instructors



The **Art Instructors of HAL** will be the Limelight Exhibitors for November.

We proudly showcase the fine artists/teachers who provide quality instruction to students of all ages and abilities during this month. HAL teachers range from professional artists who share their experiences and talents to University Art Professors, and we are thankful for their willingness to provide classes to our community. Art media range from photography to egg tempera, from watercolor to hand painted silks, jewelry, acrylics, and more!



Please join us on **Sunday, November 15** for a special Teaching Artists' Reception at HAL from 2-4 PM.



Samples of artwork by HAL Instructors. Works (clockwise from top) by Renee Prasil, Harriet Dobbins, Walt Schumacher

President's Column *continued on page 3*



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Ad Hoc Shows *

Grants *

* Open - Please call Walt or Tracey

FROM THE GALLERY DIRECTOR

Back and Forward

by Walt Schumacher

There is always a lot going on at HAL. It's hard to keep it all straight, so you might want to get out your calendar while you read this!!

Looking back, we had a great exhibit at the museum. I always have to start by thanking **Billy Herrin** for creating "Unique Views of Huntsville", and the **Huntsville Museum of Art** for giving us the "non-profit" rental rate on the rooms. **Dynetics** is our champion for footing most of the bills, and **Torch Industries** is our other much needed sponsor.

Thanks also to our 3 distinguished judges. **Dana Brown** is well known in and outside of Huntsville for her distinctive style and no one knows the art circuit better. **David Edwards** with Lowe Mill did the honors of judging our 3-D work this year, and **Eric Mittman** took a break from his photography classes at Sparkman High to do our photo judging. Also thanks to **S. Renee Prasil** for facilitating the judging while I was out of town!


Thanks to our "invitation stuffers" **Heike Covell, Martina Dyer, Terry Ann Sampson, Dan Tatum, and Mark Teague**. Our art hanging team was: **Heike Covell, Martina Dyer, Janet Schumacher, and Mark Teague**. Publicity was handled by **Maite Clyatt** and **Sam Tumminello**. Data entry and art labels were taken care of by **Heike Covell**. **Peter Grant** coordinated with the caterers, **Chef's Table**, who made us some tasty hors d'oeuvres. Maria West made the reception extra-special, as usual. **Renee Prasil** coordinated the helpers at the Museum, and **Sam Fara** shot pictures this year. Take down was facilitated by **Tracey Greene** and **Janet Schumacher**.

Thanks to 70 local artists for 130 of pieces of great artwork!

More recently, our first **Providence Art Market** tent sale went very well. Thanks to **Tracey** for heading that up.

Thanks to **George Kost** who was the speaker at the last HAL Members' Meeting. Don't forget, that happens every third Tuesday, at 7 PM! Other regular, and very worthwhile activities are: Peer Critique, every first Wednesday at 7 PM; Figure Drawing, every Monday at 9 AM, and the Heritage Club receptions, 4:30 PM on the first Friday of every even numbered month. We also have constantly changing exhibits at the Huntsville Times, the VBC, and the auditorium of the Huntsville Main Library.

The first three weeks of November we will feature "The Committee" on the Visiting Artists wall at HAL, and then Thanksgiving will kick off our annual Christmas Boutique, where HAL member artists offer gift-priced art. Thanksgiving also starts our annual Collector's Draw ticket sales.

A well-deserved Limelight for our talented HAL teachers is in November, and December 3rd is the next Gallery Tour. If you have trouble keeping track of it all, you can always check the back page of the newsletter, or the HAL website to find out all the current events! 

Message from 2D Judge Dana Brown

Having the opportunity to get a peek at the work submitted for the Unique Views Exhibition and then seeing it at the museum was a wonderful experience. I truly appreciate being asked to help. I've always avoided "judging" events because I feel strongly that all of our insights, techniques, and progress are so highly individual. I accepted this invitation with trepidation!

As it turned out, it was enjoyable and educational for me as well. My criteria for rating work were handling of materials, technique, and clarity of message. Many pieces nailed two of the three but were still on their journey toward the third. And the key is the journey. Exhibitions should encourage us to reach beyond our current abilities — the public might think they are for them but they are really for us!

Seeing so many personalities and viewpoints expressed through art was inspiring. And seeing so many wonderful art pieces encouraged me to head straight to my studio! Thank you all for allowing me to be involved.

Happy painting! Dana


FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

by S. Renee Prasil

We are well into our Fall Schedule, and HAL art instructors are the Limelight Exhibitors for November! If you are curious about what our teachers do artistically, or what level of art instruction HAL has to offer students, please come in for a view!

Speaking of classes, it is time for a gentle reminder: "Early registration" is for everyone's advantage! The number of students registered for a class affects your reserved spot, the amount of materials ordered, teacher schedule, and even other HAL functions for the space. So, please register with payment as soon as you are interested in a class.


If there are classes in particular that you wish to see offered at HAL, please let us know. Our contacts with art professionals and instructors across the area are wide and varied, and we make every attempt to offer the classes you are asking for!

At this Thanksgiving Season, it seems especially appropriate to express my personal 'thank you' to our instructors, students, and patrons/customers! You play a major role in our art cooperative — The Huntsville Art League (HAL). 

President's Column *continued from Page 1*

these works on her blog that is followed by many people, so it is a great marketing tool for artists as well. The blog address is <http://differentstrokesfromdifferentfolks.blogspot.com/> There are very specific instructions regarding this project, mainly, it is open to traditional media only, no digital interpretations or photographs. And no painting over a digital photograph.

There are also very specific instructions regarding digital uploads, though I am sure if we can cajole/strong-arm/beg Walt Schumacher at HAL, we could get good digital files to upload for these challenges, for a very reasonable fee (ha, and I am told at the writing of this article that yes, Walt will indeed offer a fee of \$3 to shoot these photos, yay!). I am envisioning an interesting Limelight exhibit at HAL in 2010 for artists interested in this challenge. Perhaps even a new group to start! Wouldn't that be fun?? I would like to publish these challenges in the HAL blog. And I'd be willing, for anyone participating, to upload these images myself to the Different Strokes blog after the digital images are taken of a finished piece.

Get in touch with me to take part in this project, I'd love to make it a part of a HAL exhibit and HAL group!! If you don't have Internet access, no worries. I am happy to print up an image of the current challenge for someone. I think this is a wonderful opportunity to open up HAL members to the Internet community! And, I'd love to see what HAL artists come up with on any given subject! Let's have some creative fun!! 

Artistic Value and Donations

By S. Renee Prasil

Among the many blessings that an active arts community brings to an area is the donation of original visual art to many civic organizations during their fundraising times. As we know, artists typically have big hearts and are generally very community minded. A few years ago, our HAL artists figured up the retail dollar amount of their donations to our local groups. It came out to an average of over \$1500 per artist annually! What a blessing for Huntsville!

But it is a mixed blessing. Although art donations have 'carried' more than a few of our local fund raisers, rarely do the artists themselves see financial benefit from their graciousness. Most people do not know that we can only count the amount of the art supplies involved in creating a donated work of art, not the retail value, nor the amount of our time devoted to what occasionally amounts to a commissioned piece. Resale/yard sale items are allowed to be deducted at 'fair cost value'. But not our original art! If we break down the retail value of the art, the artist's income is often far below the level of minimum wage. Yet when we compare the price of an original HAL piece to a framed reproduction at a local shop, it is our work that is the true value (and often the less costly!). Hand wrought jewelry is compared to pieces made overseas in what amounts to 'sweatshops' (illegal in the USA). Artists as a whole are the least able financially to donate to causes, yet according to studies (including our own), artists' donations play a major role in raising funds for others.

How can we make the 'playing field' of donations more equitable for all involved? First, realize that when you as an artist donate to a cause, you

Awards

Tracey Allyn Greene won Member's Choice award for her portrayal of a guinea pig in the EBSQ online show, "Rodents." See the show here:

http://www.ebsqart.com/ArtShows/sh_226.htm

Tracey also won Member's Mention award for her oil painting entered into the EBSQ September Flower of the Month Show: Butterfly Bush. See the show here:

http://www.ebsqart.com/ArtShows/sh_229.htm



HAL Members won several awards at the Watercolor Society of Alabama Member Show in Birmingham. **K.M. McWhorter** won second place for 'Pond Series XIII' (shown right), **Terri Shows** won third place for 'Edgy' (shown above), and **Shirley Barnes** won Honorable Mention.

We'd like to give an award to **Janie Byers** for donating 100% of the proceeds of her picture "First United Methodist Church" to HAL. This was sold at UVH to Mrs. James M Merrell. Thanks!!

EXHIBITIONS

Heritage Club

Kay McWhorter and **Judith Fields** continue their exhibit at the Heritage Club during November.

The Heritage Club is located at 111 Washington Street, Huntsville, 35801.

Times Gallery

Renee Prasil is the November Exhibitor at the Huntsville Times Gallery.

The Huntsville Times Gallery is located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free Admission. Further information: Times at 532-4494 or HAL at 534-3860.

Library

Doris Sisk and **Dan Tatum** continue their exhibit at the Huntsville Madison County Main Library Auditorium.

HAL Visiting Artist

"The Committee " presents an exhibit "Portals" at HAL from 1-21 November.


A reception is held on 6 Nov, 6-8 p.m.



have the unique and valued opportunity to educate others to the situation. "You" represent the visual arts community and other artists at that moment in time. If you are uncomfortable requesting fair compensation for your art, remember, you are also being a voice for others.

Here are some options to make 'fair compensation' a win-win for all.

- request a check in the retail amount be made to you and you may then sign it over to the organization/charity thereby allowing you to claim full retail value and no 'out of pocket' for the organization! That is a true donation of your time and talents!
- declare a minimum amount for acquisition of your valued art. Should the bidding not reach the minimum, request the return of the art.
- donate for a set return to equal 50% of the amount received for the piece. You may even place a maximum figure on this, if you wish. This option is growing in popularity among some of the local fundraising organizations.

I'll be encouraging you more in future issues to place value on what you do! You are each unique in what you have to offer through your art! Next time: "What is the True Value of 'Exposure'?" 

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 email: mail@huntsvilleartleague.org
 Mon-Fri 10 AM-6 PM • Sat noon-6 PM

WHERE LOCAL ART MEETS THE COMMUNITY



HAL Members' Meeting
 17 November, 7 PM, HAL

UPCOMING DATES

Gallery Change-out
 All "2D" (hanging art) is usually changed at the end of every even numbered month (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Dec.)

Figure Drawing Group
 Mondays 9-12, Clothed Model
 Fee: \$6 Members, \$7 Non-Members
 More info: Terri Shows, 256-651-7450
 terrishows@comcast.net

Plein Air Group
 Call Janie Byers for details, 539-3175

Peer Critique
 Every 1st Wed., 7:00 p.m., HAL Gallery
To Exhibit at HAL Gallery
 Applications at HAL or on Website
 www.huntsvilleartleague.org

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit articles and digital photos for next month's issue of the HAL newsletter by the 15th of the month to
Martina Dyer
 yngluke@bellsouth.net

Submissions on paper should be put in an envelope marked "For Newsletter" and put in the slot in the office door.

Send us information on recent acceptances into local/state/regional/national/international juried shows along with any awards/recognition received. We want to acknowledge your achievements.

Publicity Reminder — Please get any publicity items to be sent to the newspaper, radio, or TV to **Maite Clyatt** at maiteclyatt@bellsouth.net by the 14th of the month.

WELCOME!

New and Renewing Members

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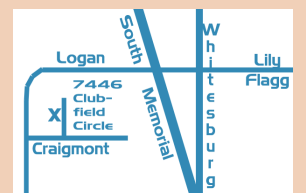
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HAL 2009/2010 CALENDAR

November 2009

Limelight: HAL Teachers
Heritage Club: Kay McWorter, Judith Fields
Huntsville Times: S. Renee Prasil
Visiting Artist: The Committee

6 Nov. — "Committee" Reception, 6-8 PM
 15 Nov. — Limelight Reception, 2-4 PM
 17 Nov. — HAL Members' Meeting, 7 PM

Thanksgiving: Start of Christmas Boutique and Sale of Collectors Draw Tickets

December 2009

Limelight: Tracey A. Greene
Heritage Club: Martina Dyer, Maria Morando

Huntsville Times: Don Broome

3 Dec. — Gallery Tour
 4 Dec. — Heritage Club Reception, 4:30 PM

January 2010

Heritage Club: Maria Morando, Martina Dyer

WORKSHOPS

HAL is always looking for qualified workshop instructors to bring to Huntsville. If you have had a workshop recently or know of a great teacher you'd like to see, please contact the Gallery Director or HAL President.