

Williamson County Art Guild

Building Community Through Creativity

February 2008

BUILDING A BODY OF WORK, Part I By Jackie Tarter

What is a body of work?

Obviously, a body of work is a group of pieces by one artist. Technically it could mean everything ever done by that artist, but this is not usually the way the term is used. Usually, it means a large group of pieces that are unified in some way and that, when seen as a whole, distinguish the artist from others. Each piece is recognizable as belonging to the whole. Each piece shows the same approach or artistic concern.

What a body of work is not.

It is not a large group of pieces by one artist that are very different from one another in style and concern, in intention. It is not a group of pieces that are all over the place in terms of approach, color, or subject matter...EVEN IF the pieces are very well executed in terms of technique. Such a group would not tell us who the artist is and what his or her interests and concerns are.



Claude Monet "Haystack, End of Summer ... Morning" 1891

Why does it matter if the pieces from one artist are unified?

From our study of art history and our visits to art museums and galleries, we know that successful and well-regarded artists have identifiable styles, and they have particular artistic concerns – concerns that are specific to them or to their group if they are part of an art movement. For example, in a museum we can see a painting of light falling a certain way on a haystack or on the side of a cathedral and know it's a Monet. We can see a highly structured still life or landscape and, just by the way it's constructed, know it's a Cezanne. The point is that what is important in art is the transfer from artist to viewer of the way the artist sees and thinks about the visual world. One artist might be concerned with the subtle movement of light like Monet was. Another, like Cezanne, might be most taken with the structure of everything. Some other artist might focus on the surface patterns of paint on canvas as Jackson Pollack did. It's these types of concerns that are the real content of art. And it's this kind of personal expression that leads to the creative images we all admire.



Paul Cezanne "Still Life with Apples and Oranges" 1900

To identify these personal concerns you have to look at a lot of work by one artist.

You have to look at a body of work. Not two or even three pieces, but many pieces. This gives the opportunity to search for the commonalities and to see what is important visually to the artist. That's why if you're a student seeking acceptance to a competitive art college or to an MFA program, it's necessary to have a body of work for the application. If you're an artist looking for gallery representation or applying for a grant, you will have to have a body of work. The people at the college or the gallery would want to see your artistic interests and the types of artistic problems you deal with. The work would have to say something about you as an artist, and the more focused the content of your work, the stronger the statement about you will be.

Certainly, there is no one type of approach or concern that's better than others. The important point is that narrowing focus to create a body of work goes beyond having a high level of technique and skill. Of course, the work would have to show that the artist has control of materials and the principles of design, but the work would also have to show thought and some degree of personal involvement; it would have to show that the artist had made choices and had developed focus. In the next issue, I'll suggest some ways to narrow your focus and go about creating your own body of work.



Jackson Pollack "Galaxy" 1949

WOW! New Members

Dorian Price, Floyd Riley, Delyce and Phil Brubaker Ruyle, Jessica Schatz, Joyce Seebock, Alice Smith, P. J. Stover, John Vargo, Jane Voltz, Lowana Carter, Kathy Charmello, Nancy Hunka, Kristine Kainer, Natalie Katalena, Gail King, Diana Kipfer, Janet McGuffin, Natasha Mylins, Pat Proesel, Jill Strong, Max Gordon, Myra Hill, Kathleen Hornyak, Janette Hastings, Nick Ramos, Allen Lenth and Wes Odell

If we have missed anyone, let us know.

WELCOME TO WCAG!

Calendar of Events

Feb 27th Wed and 28th Thurs Gallery takedown and rehang. Contact Gallery Chair Sonia 863-2214 in the mornings at the gallery for more information

Feb 7th to March 27th WCAG Exhibit at St David's Hospital, Healing Arts Gallery.

March 4th: General Meeting Windberg Art Center. Program: Laurie Mann "Collaging a Dream" Laurie Mann has taught at the college level, but now enjoys teaching smaller groups of students at LagunaGloria, 8th Street Studio and other places. She will explore "Collage a Dream" at our March 4th WCAG meeting. To read more about Laurie, be sure to visit her at <http://mannlaurie.googlepages.com/>

March 7th: First Friday. Please remember to attend if you have art in the gallery. Contact Kathalle, Hospitality Chair fo rrefreshments

March 8th Second Saturday Market Days Georgetown
Contact www.downtowngeorgetownassociation.org

March 29th City-Wide Garage and Sidewalk Sale
Contact www.downtowngeorgetownassociation.org

ART QUIZ

This month we present a classic piece of early renaissance art from the Florentine School. And that is the only hint available. Remember, the first person to contact me with the correct title and painter, (this painter has other names, we want the most common one), will be able to choose the artist for next month's quiz.



Several people answered the work chosen by Gene Inman that appeared in November's newsletter after the hints I put in the

December news. Spanish painter; Awesomely famous; had a blue period but probably the most famous 20th century artist and co-founder of cubism; his last name ends in "o". Well, yes, as many of you figured out, PICASSO.

The title is "The Lovers". Pablo Ruiz Picasso (October 25, 1881 – April 8, 1973) was a Spanish painter, draughtsman, and sculptor. As one of the most recognized figures in twentieth-century art, he is best known for co-founding the Cubist movement and for the wide variety of styles embodied in his work. Among his most famous works are the proto-Cubist Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J. no. 115) (1907) and his depiction of the German bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War, Guernica (1937).

Art for Ice Cream

We are giving you plenty of notice. For the JUNE program, we'll be having ice cream and art! We'll bring the ice cream, and we're asking that each and every one of you bring a work of art to display. Pick your favorite piece if you want. If you are the shy type, and we know many of you are, there is good news! You don't have to talk about your art or even stand next to it. You don't have to stand up and identify anything...you can play ghost. You can hide at the other end of the room, not sign it if you choose.

BUT here's what you do have to do: Write a paragraph about the art. Tell us all you can about the work. What is the subject? Why did you choose to depict this subject? What was it about the subject that made you want to paint/draw it? Why do you like it? What did you use as content and form to say what you wanted to say? Why did you pick the colors?

Here is an example paragraph for a painting of Texas bluebonnets. "I was driving along CR1222999 on a beautiful Tuesday morning, and the light was coming through the trees hitting the bluebonnets in several places. I was so amazed by the beauty that I had to stop and take several photos. The minute I got home I went to work on a painting. I tried hard to remember the feeling I had when I saw that light shining on those beautiful flowers. I experimented with various blues and greens to get a good variety of hues on the canvas. I used cerulean and cobalt blue in the lightest areas and grayed it all down in the shaded areas with burnt sienna" Compare that to this UNACCEPTABLE comment. "This is a painting of Texas Bluebonnets"

Ok, now start looking at your work, thinking about it and deciding which piece you want to bring to the June Program. **Don't forget the writing!!!!**

This is an art / ice cream social...no art...no ice cream! (However, if you are not an artist and come for the fun, you can have some ice cream.)



Kudos to WCAG Members!

This will be a new section beginning in the next issue. Let's share with each other all the fabulous things our members are doing. Please send information about any special recognition you've received — juried group shows you're in, solo shows you're having, prizes you've won, etc. (Or do this for your friends if you know of something special about their work.) For the first issue, we'll include any recognition received in the last year. After that, we'll include what's most current. Send your info to wcartguild@yahoo.com.

Resistance and Self-Doubt

Self-Doubt can be an ally. This is because it serves as an indicator of aspiration. It reflects love, love of something we dream of doing, and desire, desire to do it. If you find yourself asking yourself (and your friends), "Am I really a writer? Am I really an artist?" chances are you are.

The counterfeit innovator is wildly self-confident. The real one is scared to death.

*from **The War of Art** by Steven Pressfield*

Minutes of the General Meeting February 5, 2008

Fred Bolgen, WCAG President, called the meeting to order.

Items of General Interest: **1)** New Members—Seven new members were recognized. **2)** Committees—Each committee chair provided a brief update. **3)** March Challenge—Create artwork related to architecture or vines. **4)** Gallery Report—Sonia Mathis reported that space is available for the gallery's March exhibit. **5)** Door Prize Raffle—Funds gained from the raffle for two art books will go to the WCAG education fund.

Old Business: **1)** Friday Drawing Classes—Mike Windberg announced that the Windberg Art Center will sponsor the Friday drawing classes. A professional model will be available from 9 a.m. to noon each Friday beginning March 14. Cost is \$10.00 per class. **2)** St. David's Hospital Exhibit—WCAG artists may participate in an exhibit at the hospital from February 7 through March 27. Char Sylvest is the contact for additional information.

New Business: Member Participation—The president encouraged members to become actively involved in the Guild. Publicity Chair Nancy Brown distributed sign-up sheets for members to express interest in serving on various committees. Nancy reported that in the near future, the Guild will discuss the possibility of selecting additional Board members.

Program: Jackie Tarter presented a slide presentation and information about building a body of work. The meeting was adjourned.

Juannell Owens, Secretary.

Back to
work!



Classes, Workshops and Exhibitions

Friday Life Drawing Classes will begin March 14th at the Windberg Art Center. Classes will run from 9Am-12. The cost is \$10.00. Will be available each Friday.

April in Austin .Waterloo Watercolor Group will be sponsoring a workshop with Skip Lawrence. This workshop can be found on Cheap Joe's online catalog.

Art School at Laguna Gloria Various art classes beginning. Contact artschool@amoa.org

Art Center of Williamson County Many spring classes are available. For more information go to www.artcenterwc.com Micheal Hammons will be teaching several outdoor painting classes in the Brushy Creek area. He will be teaching composition, values, colors and brushstroke techniques.

"Coastal National Juried Exhibit" call for entries (Posted: 12/10/07) — The Glynn Art Association announces a call to artists for the "Coastal National Juried Exhibit", held April 1-26, 2008 at the Glynn Art Association Gallery in St. Simons Island, Georgia. All artists are eligible to submit original paintings, pastels, drawings, mixed-media, and sculpture (no computer enhanced or work done in the classroom will be admitted.) All artwork must be for sale and priced with the intent to sell. Jurying of the show will be done by slides or CD and must accurately represent works entered. Awards: Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mentions. Juror: Joana Granger Wardell. Deadline: **February 29, 2008**. \$40.00 for three works. For more information, visit <http://www.glynnart.org> or send a SASE to: Glynn Art Association, 319 Mallory St., St. Simons Island, GA 31522. Questions? Please contact Ann Marie Dalis, Director at glynnart@bellsouth.net or call 912-638-8770.

"International Society of Acrylic Painters Annual Exhibition" call for entries (Posted: 12/6/07) The International Society of Acrylic Painters announces a call to artists for its annual exhibition, held July 12 - August 10, 2008 at the Santa Cruz Art League (Santa Cruz, CA). Open to artists at least 18 years old. Painting must be at least 80% acrylic on any surface. \$1000 ISAP Award + \$7000 cash and materials. Juror: Louise Cadillac. Submitted entries must be postmarked by **March 7, 2008**. \$25 for two entries, one accepted. Download PDF at <http://www.isap-usa.com>. Questions? Please contact Jean Lukens at jmlukens@yahoo.com.

Committees Forming

Nancy Brown spoke to the membership at the February meeting regarding WCAG's needs for committee members. She recognized that the membership has grown, that the quality of our shows has improved and that there are more and more opportunities daily for all artists. She stated that "the challenges that come with this growth mean that it is more difficult to get to know each other and, with the membership so large, it is daily becoming more difficult to meet the needs of this dynamic group" She further stated, "As board members we have noticed how much more we have enjoyed the guild since becoming more active through our board meetings and increased participation. We have come to the conclusion that committees would be a great additions, not only for the group, but for the individual members as well".

Nancy announced the board positions that needed help and many signed up for the different committees. Also she noted that the board is considering the addition of new chairs and that we will present these at a future meeting for a vote to change the by-laws. The names of the new volunteers can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you all!

For those who did not attend the general meeting and would like to be included on one of the committees, please fill out the form below and mail it to:

Williamson County Art Guild
P. O. Box 1158
Georgetown, Tx 78627

Yes, I would like to join a WCAG Committee!

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Where would you like to help out?



"In order to use color effectively it is necessary to recognize that color deceives continually"

Joseph Albers

"Interaction of Color"

from the Gallery Chair

Hello, Members! February was a difficult month to fill the gallery, and you all did it - again! The show exhibits several large paintings and the photographic works of two new members - Allen Lenth and Wes Odell. Thanks so very much exhibitors: FranSina Young (Oils), Kathalee Holmans (Caesine and Acrylic), Nancy Taylor Crimm (Pastel), Carol Matthews (Oils), Wes Odell (Photography), Allen Lenth (Photography), Susan O'Connor (Multimedia), Gayla Gillaspia (Oils), and Lowana Carter (Oils). If you missed First Friday, come check out the show this month to get to know the work of your fellow members. The take down for February and collection for art for March will be Feb 27 (Wed) and Feb 28th (Thurs) I do have spaces available for March, so sign up to show! Sonia Colonna-Mathis 863-2214 (gallery in the mornings) 869-2484 (home in the evenings) 512-497-3035 (cell) and soniamarie.cm@netzero.com *Sonia*

Massacred metaphors 4

"She walked into my office like a centipede with 98 missing legs"

Drop off day at Georgetown Hospital

WCAG exhibit consisting of 38 paintings by different WCAG members will hang in St. David's Art Gallery through the end of March. Be sure and visit this great art show. Thanks to Char for her hard work organizing this fine exhibit.

WCAG Board of Directors Meeting January 15, 2008

President Fred Bolgen called the meeting of the WCAG Board to order with the following members present: Pat Langley, Linda Stinnett, Kathalee Holmans, Sue Gray, Susan O'Connor, Nancy Brown, and Juannell Owens.

Order of Business:

- 1. WCAG funds** – Identify methods to increase efficiency in handling of funds; discussion of federal reporting requirements.
- 2. WCAG email** – Identify methods to increase efficiency in handling the large volume of email to the WCAG box.
- 3. Member participation** – Publicize opportunities for members to use their skills to contribute to the success of Guild activities and events.
- 4. St. David's Hospital exhibit** – General discussion.
- 5. General Meetings** – Discussion of programs for upcoming meetings through the fiscal year.
- 6. Professional model for Friday drawing class** – Nancy Brown moved that class participants pay \$5.00 per session and that the Guild subsidize the cost of a professional model for a trial period of six months. The motion passed unanimously.
a) During the pilot period, members will pay \$5.00 per session to participate in the class and the Guild will subsidize any additional cost.
b) If monies are received above the model's fee, the Board will retain them in a special fund used to make up any future shortfalls for the class.
Action Items – **a)** Kathalee Holmans will coordinate the class for six months with Nancy Brown serving as her backup.
b) The Board will review the results of the pilot at the end of six months to determine whether it should continue.
- 7. Juried Art Show** – **a)** Due to the time required to plan and coordinate with other local art groups, the Board agreed to recommend to the membership that the show take place in October 2008.
b) Georgetown Art Works (GAW) participation – The Board unanimously agreed to invite the GAW to participate in the show.
Action Items – **a)** Provide information to members about how a juried art show operates and what members can expect when they participate.
b) Provide Guild members an opportunity to volunteer for a committee that will coordinate the show.

Stuck Cap on Watercolor Tubes?

We all know about running hot water on the cap or forcing the cap with pliers...that works great. but how many tubes have you twisted in half, only to split the tube and watch your expensive Cadmium Red flow out from everywhere but the the tube end?
Solution: Before I try to remove or twist a stuck cap, I wrap a few inches of masking tape the "shoulder" of the tube. This reinforces the tube and prevents twisting the tube in half!

from Robert Burrigde Studio, May 07

Minutes of the General Meeting of WCAG January 8, 2008 Windberg Art Center

Please note: Published minutes from general meetings include items of general interest, old or new business, issues addressed, motions passed and defeated, and action items resulting from the meeting, as applicable.

Fred Bolgen, WCAG President, called the meeting to order.

Items of General Interest

- 1. Contact Information** – Members were requested to provide their contact information to the Windberg Art Center to receive notice of upcoming activities available through the Center.
- 2. New Members** - Three new members were recognized.
- 3. Networking Opportunities** – A member wishing to sell or give away an art-related item may present it at the general meeting as a benefit of membership.
- 4. February Challenge** – The challenge for February is to create artwork related to *Symbols of Love* or *Flowers*.
- 5. Gallery Report** – Sonia Mathis reported that the gallery is full. Fred Bolgen reported that there were seven sales this month from the gallery and that 150 people visited the gallery during January's First Friday.

New Business: Juried Art Show – The WCAG Board proposes to hold a juried art show in the coming year by extending an invitation to members of local artists' groups. Incoming funds will be used as prize money. The floor was opened to members for discussion. Discussion addressed location, publicity, medium to be accepted, the possibility of the show coinciding with a city event, identifying jurors, and the possibility of paying jurors. The President emphasized that activities of this magnitude require the participation of all members. The President called for a vote of interest. The response to proceed was near unanimous. **Action Item:** The WCAG Board will discuss the juried art show further and present recommendations at the next general meeting.

Friday Drawing Classes – Kathalee Holmans presented an opportunity for the Friday morning drawing class to coordinate with the Windberg Art Center to have a professional model for the class. The floor was opened for discussion of feasibility, costs, and benefits. No vote was taken. **Action Item:** The WCAG Board will discuss the possibility of the Guild subsidizing any difference between what members pay and the cost of having a professional model. The Board will present their recommendations at the next general meeting.

St. David's Hospital Exhibit: WCAG artists may participate in an exhibit at the hospital from February 7 through March 27. **Action Items:**

1. Char Sylvest will distribute an email to members providing details and requirements for participating in the exhibit.
2. Fred Bolgen will provide Char with a biography of the WCAG, including the number of members, by February 4.

The business session was closed, and the floor was turned to staff of the Windberg Art Center. The program about giclee printing included: history of printmaking; an overview of the giclee process; and information about the advantages, costs, market for, and quality of giclee prints. The program concluded with a guided tour of the Windberg Printing Center.

Juanell Owens Secretary yes! yes! yes!

Williamson County Art Guild Membership Application

ANNUAL DUES are payable on or before June 1, the beginning of the WCAG fiscal year. Cash or check payments: no credit cards, please.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Windberg Art Center in Georgetown. Benefits of membership include newsletters, monthly general activity meetings, opportunity to hang work in WCAG Gallery, opportunity to participate in WCAG led community art shows and social functions, ability to join with WCAG artists in numerous networking situations and meet some outstanding people.

To join, please complete the application below and return with payment to:
Williamson County Art Guild, P. O. Box 1158 Georgetown, TX 78627

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ART GUILD Membership Application

Please Print

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Cel _____
Email _____
Website Address _____
Birthday (optional) _____ Today's Date _____
AMOUNT _____ How Paid _____ Ck # _____

Select Membership Category

Individual \$30 _____
Family \$35 _____
Student \$18 _____
Senior \$20 _____
Sponsor \$50 to \$250 _____
Sustaining \$250 _____
NEW MEMBER _____
Renewal _____
Member Since _____

I would like to help out on the following committees

Exhibits _____ Membership _____
Gallery _____ Newsletter _____
Show _____ Program _____
Hospitality _____ Publicity _____

Please be sure an give us your email and correct phone. You will be contacted by the appropriate person.

WELCOME !

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Fred Bolgen
512-633-0868 / fredbolgen@suddenlink.net

Exhibits Chair - **Charlotte Sylvest**
512-863-7739 grisling2@verizon.net

Gallery Chair - **Sonia Mathis**
512-497-3035 soniamarie.cm@netzero.com

Hospitality Chair - **Kathalee Holmans**
512-863-2479 - wcholmans@msn.com

Membership Chair - **Susan OConnor**
512-869-0968 suberdoo@hotmail.com

Newsletter Chair – **Sue Gray**
512-238-0955 snoslergray@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian - **Larry McCormick**
512-869-0939 - mccor@suddenlink.net

Program Chair - **Pat Langley**
512-864-9981 wholang@verizon.net

Publicity Chair- **Nancy Brown**
512-869-7790 nanbrown55@aol.com

Secretary - **Juanell Owens**

Show Chair – open open open

Treasurer - **Linda Stinnett**
512-863-7949 craftdreams1@suddenlink.net

JOIN THE ART GUILD

You are invited to join the Art Guild by dropping in at the Framer's Gallery on the square or by sending a membership form & check to:

**Williamson County Art Guild,
P.O. Box 1158
Georgetown, TX 78627**

Membership Fees

Individual	\$30
Student	\$18
Senior	\$20
Family	\$35
Sponsor	\$50-\$250
Sustaining Mbr	\$250

We welcome new members. Copies of the membership form are available at the Framer's Gallery and online at www.wcartguild.org.

Contact membership chair Susan O'Conner for more information about joining. suberdoo@hotmail.com

www.cartguild.org

Committe Members

Newsletter: Assistant Editor, Jackie Tarter, Jane Goosby

Membership: Joyce Seebock, Lowana Carter

Hospitality:
Kim Hoerster, Fransena Young, Martha Hooper, Dana Kelly, Delyce Ruyle

Shows:
Wes O'Dell, Nick Ramos, Ed Kessel, Joyce Seebrock

Shows About Town (Exhibits): Floyd Riley, Wes O'Dell, Chuck Roush

Helps when Asked: Diana Einwich

This list will be added to monthly as our committees expand.

**Thanks to all of you
for volunteering to help!**

Williamson County Art Guild

P. O. Box 1158
Georgetown TX 78627
512-863-2214

