

Williamson County Art Guild

Building Community Through Creativity

March 2008

BUILDING A BODY OF WORK, Part II By Jackie Tarter

A body of work with a narrowed focus will show thought and personal involvement, and it will show that the artist has made choices. It will tell us who the artist is and what his or her visual concerns are.

How to narrow focus

The first step is taken from a firm foundation in art. Build this foundation by expanding your skill and your confidence in handling various material techniques and different types of visual principles and problems. Try out a little of this and a little of that...experiment and learn with a purpose. The goal in doing work like this is for you to develop breadth and versatility (as opposed to depth and focus).



Georgia O'Keeffe, Red Carna, 1923

After building a foundation, you can begin to create a body of work by narrowing your focus in any number of different ways: limiting subject matter or color palette; dealing with a particular design concern or a particular visual problem; expressing particular emotions; or any combination of these or other things. I gave examples in Part I of Monet's work being focused on light while Cezanne's main concern was structure. Someone else might narrow subject matter by focusing only on flowers. And perhaps flowers approached in a particular way — say, zooming in for close ups. Georgia O'Keeffe's blow ups of flowers come to mind. Another artist might produce paintings with heavily collaged surfaces that focus on texture and emotion. Here we think immediately of the Neo-expressionists of the early 1980's, perhaps Anselm Kiefer. Yet another artist might use a neutral color palette

and work with value contrasts like Andrew Wyeth does while another would use clear, unrealistic colors and deal with contrasts of hue like Andre Durain or Matisse. Obviously, there is no one type of approach or concern that's better than others.

What can you do now ?

If you want to build or strengthen your own body of work, ask yourself where you are in your artistic development and plan accordingly. Some of you already have distinguishable work. With many others, all you need to do is to identify and refine the directions you have and go from there. And probably some of you still need to build a strong foundation before you can consider creating a body of work.

Regardless of where you are in your artistic development, remember that making the best art you possibly can takes time and effort. You have to do the groundwork first and find your own approach or you'll get stuck copying photos or copying some other artist's approach or jumping all over the place each time you start to paint and never reaching the point where you're able to explore what you personally are really capable of doing – of finding your own voice. Just as bad as jumping around is the flip side which is producing endlessly repetitive work that doesn't evolve and where there are no guiding intentions.

Here are a few suggestions that I hope you find useful in moving forward.

1. Critique your own work frequently. Put up an exhibition for yourself of many pieces. Ask what you've done that you like best, what least. Clarify your intentions. Why do you like one subject matter or color palette or approach more than others? What are your strengths, your weaknesses? Identify the gaps in your artistic foundation. Write all this in your sketchbook. And if you have people whose opinions you trust and who understand what you're aiming to do, ask them for feedback.
2. Look at as much art work as possible. Visit museums and galleries. And any time you look at art always ask about the intention of the work (the why). Be sure to include this question along with those you ask about technique and the formal elements of the design (the how to).
3. Study a little art history. Be familiar with the major art movements of the 20th c and have a least some familiarity with the contemporary art that is being shown today in museums. Determine your favorite artists and ask why they are your favorites. Write all this in your sketchbook. Include a few reproductions of your favorite artists' work with notes to yourself about your opinions.
4. Finally, set goals for yourself. Keep a calendar with deadlines and goals on it. Work routinely. It takes preparation and effort to find your own creative voice, but it's worth it.



Andre Durain, The Tarring Road, L'Estaque (1906)



Andrew Wyeth, Long Look 1999



Anselm Kiefer, To The Unknown Painter, 1983

from the PRESIDENT

The Impressionists

Master Paintings from The Art Institute of Chicago June 29 – November 2, 2008

One of the world's great collections of impressionist art will be on view at the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth. We are planning on putting together a 56 passenger chartered bus trip for our members and any other group to visit the show. More details to follow next month

Our guild has maintained a rented storage unit for our tents, metal display panels and other items not used every day. The other day when we went to check on something we discovered that the lock and hasp had ripped off and the 18 metal display panels had been taken along with a few smaller items. They probably had been melted down for the scrape metal since they did not take the joiners. The board has decided to close the storage unit saving us \$55 a month and move a few of the items to the gallery, give away a few items and try to find a place in a members home for the tents or sell them. If you have any ideas, please contact me.

In the past issues of this newsletter I felt led to talk about what we could become if we just tried harder and had more workers. I'm to continue on that thought because you have all proved that I was correct. I'm so excited about what I now see for the future of our guild. Every committee now has multitable members in it, and coming up with new ideas, almost every board member has agreed to stay on for another term, we have just admitted our 180 th member, up from only 60 members six months ago. Now that's great growth! Our treasury has gone from \$39.00 in the general fund to over \$6000.00 overall. We are doing many art activities for others, therefore sharing our talent. This is healthy for any type of group. Some of our long range plans are very exciting. My thanks to all of you for your help to WCAG. The range of items that you all did was great, from the planning of great programs, good food, and great gallery showings to the simplest of activities, like this passed First Friday. I generally clean the bath room before the people come. I ran out of time. During the evening my wife and I walked around the square looking at other shops. When I came back I went into the bathroom and lo and behold it was clean, even smelled good. My thanks and "The Servant Heart" award goes to Linda Figg. Even the simplest job, done well, brings great praise. Thanks to all.

Fred

Calendar of Events

March 27th Pick up Art at St. Davids

Pick up art between 1:30 and 2:PM. for information, contact Char @ 512-863-7739 or grisling2@verizon.net

March 29th City-Wide Garage and Sidewalk Sale

Contact www.downtowngeorgetownassociation.org

APRIL: Poppy Month. Our own Nancy Brown will be exhibiting in Framers Gallery. Don't miss her flowers!

April 1 First Tuesday General Meeting at Windberg Art Center. Social gathering at 6:30, General Meeting begins at 7PM. Sonia Mathis will present a program on Framing.

April 2 and 3rd Gallery Changeout. Framers Gallery,

April 4, First Friday, Framers Gallery. Be sure to attend if you have work in the gallery.

April 26th and 27th. Red Poppy Festival in Georgetown. for more info www.redpoppyfestival.com

The Friday afternoon Life Drawing class has been moved to Monday Evenings 6:30pm - 9:00pm. It is open to all mediums, cost is \$10 per session, and starts March 17th, and you just have to show up.

If you have ART at St. Davids Hospital, don't forget the pickup is March 27th from 1:30 to 2:PM

"Just as a musician loves music and not nightingales, and a poet loves poetry and not sunsets, a painter is not primarily a person who responds to figures and landscapes. He is primarily one who loves pictures"

Andre Malraux



ART QUIZ: No takers in last month's art quiz! ON YOUR LEFT, Alessandro di Mariano di Vanni Filipepi, better known as Sandro Botticelli ("little barrels"; March 1, 1444/45 – May 17, 1510)[1] was an Italian painter of the Florentine school during the Early Renaissance (Quattrocento). Less than a hundred years later, this movement, under the patronage of Lorenzo de' Medici, was characterized by Giorgio Vasari as a "golden age", a thought, suitably enough, he expressed at the head of his Vita of Botticelli. His posthumous reputation suffered until the late 19th century; since then his work has been seen to represent the linear grace of Early Renaissance painting, and *The Birth of Venus* and *Primavera* rank now among the most familiar masterpieces of Florentine art. Title: *The Birth of Venus*.



MARCH ART QUIZ RIGHT: Name of Artist and painting if possible. Come on, send me some answers!

Fun and Learning at the Don Stackhouse Workshop

Don has a wealth of knowledge and generously shares it. Don restricted the number of people attending, so we each got plenty of individual attention. During a tour of his residence viewing his art, we discussed techniques he used and the effects they had on the art. In his studio, he gave us a demo on projector use, showing us how to enlarge our pictures onto the Yupo paper. Don asked that we each bring a small picture or drawing that we wanted to paint. So we each worked on something different as he talked us through the different stages. After lunch on his patio, it was back to work for the rest of the afternoon. Don is an awesome instructor. He was very "laid back" and answered all our questions. It was a great day. Not only did we learn new things, but we also had an opportunity to get to know each other. I would highly recommend doing a workshop with Don.

by Connie Hartsfield

Don Stackhouse is the artist having the one person show at Framer's Gallery this month. Go see his great work using mixed media on Yupo Paper.

Kudos to WCAG Members!

Sue Nosler Gray's painting *Grampa's Farm* was chosen for the **59th Annual Texas Watercolor Society National Juried Exhibition** by juror Jeanne Dobie. The exhibition is March 1 – 30 at the International Museum of Arts & Sciences in McAllen, Texas. Sue's painting received a Merchant's Award and will be included in the show's Traveling Exhibit.

Nancy Brown is this year's **Red Poppy Art Contest** winner. Her watercolor painting will be featured on the 9th Annual Red Poppy Festival poster. Raffle tickets to win Nancy's original painting will raise money for Georgetown's Façade and Sign Grant Fund and will go on sale in April.

A number of awards went to WCAG members at the **Central Texas Pastel Society 6th Annual Membership Competition:**
Third Place – **Bob Douglass**, *Canadian Breaks*; Merit Portrait – **Mary Beth Martin**, *God's Creation*; Honorable Mention – **Charlotte Sylvest**, *The Party's Over*; Honorable Mention – **Sheila Morinville**, *Celebration*; People's Choice – **Mary Beth Martin**, *Spring Bok 2*

Please share information about any special recognition you or your friends have received recently — juried group shows you're in, solo shows you're having, prizes you've won, etc. Send your info to jackie_tarter@verizon.net

Shows, Exhibitions, Classes, Etc.

Local businesses needing ART.

The following establishments have contacted WCAG requesting art to hang in their business: **Zoe's, Ruffina's and Abbeys Bar Stools**. These are locales where you can arrange to exhibit on the terms of the owner. It is up to you to make the contact and the arrangement. WCAG is not involved. However, we would like to post a regular column in the newsletter listing show opportunities, so please send an email to www.wcartguild.com; Attention Newsletter, with the name of any location you know where artists are invited to show, and we will post them in this column for you.

ART for Animals - A Chocolate Affair 2008

Remember to contact Jackie Carey @ (512)9303527 or email to: jcarey@georgetowntx.org. regarding art donations for the auction. Art for Animals 2008 – A Chocolate Affair will be held on October 19th. We will need all art donations no later than October 9th. Jackie Carey Shelter Manager

"Mile High National" call for entries (Posted: 2/12/08) — The Pastel Society of Colorado announces a call to artists for the "Mile High National", held August 16 - October 24, 2008 at the Sangre de Cristo Art Center in Pueblo, Colorado. \$3500 in awards. Juror: Duane Wakeham.. Deadline: **June 20, 2008**. members, Prospectus available at <http://pastelsocietyofcolorado.org>, or artists may send a SASE to: D. Fechenbach, 2204 Stratford Ct, Highlands Ranch, Co 80126. Questions? Please contact Diane Fechenbach at dfechenbach@qwest.office.net.

The Artist's Magazine's "25th Annual Art Competition" call for entries (Posted: 1/22/08) — The competition is open to artists anywhere in the world. Only original artwork, conceived and created by the entrant, will be considered. More than \$25,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. Jurors: Betsy Dillard Stroud, Brennie Brackett, Dean Mitchell, Juliette Aristides, Daniel E. Greene. Visit <http://www.artistsnetwork.com/specialoffers.asp?AS08> or send SASE to: 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54990. Entry Fee: \$13, \$11 for student division. Deadline: **May 1, 2008**. Questions? Please contact Nicki Florence at art-competition@fwpubs.com or 715-445-4612.

Windberg Art Center The Life Drawing Workshops with Nancy Boulmay are on hold for now, because Nancy has a conflict. New dates to be announced later. Please call Windberg Art Center for new information. This class is not the Monday Life Drawing Class

Windberg Art Center :The Friday afternoon Life Drawing class has been moved to Monday Evenings 6:30pm - 9:00pm. It is open to all mediums, cost is \$10 per session, and starts March 17th, and you just have to show up.

Nancy Brown Watercolor Classes. "I'm putting a small group together for a watercolor class on Mondays in April and May from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Anyone interested can give me a call at 869-7790 or e-mail me at nanbrown55@gmail.com"

Research exhibition opportunities at www.artshow.com/juried-shows/



A Critique Technique

by Jackie Tarter

When giving a critique, the important thing is to slow down your judging process. Look carefully, and base your thoughts on what you see and feel. And remember the answers you get depend on the questions you ask!

ASK ABOUT FORM.

Identify and describe (What is in the piece?)

- Make a visual inventory. Name the "things" you see (barn, shoe, etc.) as well as the shapes, colors, values, textures and lines you see.
- Note the medium used, the size of the piece and the title of the piece.
- Note the surface quality and the way edges of shapes are handled. Look inside shapes.
- At this point, make no judgments or conclusions, no expressions of how you feel about the piece.

Analyze (What are the relationships among the elements of the piece?)

- Are some parts bigger? Closer?
- Do some areas attract your attention more than other areas?
- Do some shapes function like "arrows" to make you look around the piece?
- Some checkpoints to use:
 - Dominance (of direction? shape? size? color? value?)
 - Contrast (type? where greatest?)
 - Movement (how does eye move? the path? with rhythm?)
 - Emphasis (a particular area or point of emphasis? how achieved?)
 - Balance (lopsided? too formal?)
 - Unity (does piece work as whole? how?)
 - Variety (adds interest or looks chaotic?)

ASK ABOUT INTENTION.

- What do you think is important visually to this artist? (solving a particular visual problem, presenting social or political commentary, establishing a feeling or emotion, applying paint in meaningful way, exploring a particular subject, etc.)
- What meaning, mood or feeling do you get from the piece? (Support conclusions with points from your description and analysis of the form of the piece.)

EVALUATE. (This is where you make a reasoned judgment.)

- Does the piece accomplish what you concluded it set out to do in terms of intent?
- If not, what changes could be made to strengthen the overall intent?
- Is the piece effective in terms of design? (After all, it has to look good!)
- If not, what changes could make it stronger?

(Note: If the piece you're critiquing is not your own, the question of whether you like it or not is rarely if ever mentioned in this process. Your personal "likes" tell about you rather than about the art.)

"It seems, then, to be one of the paradoxes of creativity that in order to think originally, we must familiarize ourselves with the ideas of others."

GEORGE KNEELER

The Art and Science of Creativity, 1965

JUNE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Remember..... at our June 3rd General Meeting at the Windberg Art Center, instead of a program we will be presenting your work, WITH A PARAGRAPH WRITTEN ABOUT YOUR ART, **and ice cream.** Have you been looking at your work? Have you decided what piece you will bring and what story you will tell us? Don't forget, you don't have to stand up in front of anyone or talk about your work...you don't even have to sign it. YOU DO HAVE TO write a paragraph about the piece.



Below is the second scenario. *"This painting was started as an exercise in illumination. I wanted to use bright intense colors in the center and greyed colors in the rest of the piece to emphasize the intense areas. After I had the exercise nearly done I realized that it had become a*



forest with what looked like a campfire in the middle. I then added bears and the painting became a homage to my Dad.

When I was a child, every August, our family and many others went camping at Little Cultus Lake in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. My Dad would scare us to death with bear stories. It seemed to us that the bonfire was the only safe place from the dangers lurking in the woods. Everytime I look at this picture, I remember my Dad and all those amazing camping trips.."

NOW, look at your stuff, I know you have a story to tell. this is not about skill, how talented you are with your craft, but about inspiration and intention.

GOOD LUCK!

Minutes of the General Meeting March, 2008

Fred Bolgen, WCAG President, called the meeting to order. General Interest: 1) New Members—Eleven new members and visitors were recognized. 2) Board Committees—Committees were recently formed to support several board functions. Committee representatives provided brief updates of current activities. 3) April Challenge—Create new artwork related to Hands and Feet or April Showers. 4) Gallery Report—The gallery is full for March. 5) Member Participation—The president thanked members for their active participation and reported that membership has increased from 59 to 175. Additionally, the Guild is fiscally stable. [Financial details were provided and are available from the treasurer.] 6) Raffle—Fred Bolgen was the winner of this month's drawing. Funds gained from the raffle go to the WCAG education fund. 7) A representative from the Wesleyan Nursing Home invited Guild members to join the home's group of hospice volunteers. Various positions are available. Contact Martha at 863-8848 for more information.

Old Business: 1) Friday Drawing Classes—The Windberg Art Center announced a change of day and time for the Guild's independent drawing class. The group now meets from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. on Monday evenings. 2) Art from the St. David's Hospital exhibit must be picked up between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. on March 27. Char Sylvest is the contact for additional information. 3) The board approved a proposal that the Guild's juried art show be held in April 2009. Plans are in progress. 4) The Guild is requested to complete the mural at the Advocacy Center as soon as possible. Volunteers are needed.

New Business: 1) Board for 2008-2009—The majority of the Guild's current board members have agreed to remain in their positions for the coming year. 2) Bus trip to the Kimbell Art Museum—The board is organizing a summer bus trip to Ft. Worth to view items on loan from the Chicago Art Institute, as well as exhibits at other locations. 3) Burglary—Several items maintained in storage, including the Guild's aluminum display panels were stolen when the storage building was burglarized. The Guild will sell and/or donate the few remaining items and will no longer rent storage.

Program: Laurie Mann presented a slide presentation on the principles and elements of collage. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Juannell Owens, secretary.

from the Gallery Chair

Thanks to all exhibitors for the month of March: Gene Inman, Sonia Colonna-Mathis, Joyce Glasscock, Phil Brubaker, Liz Hobbs, Wes Odell, Linda Figg, Kristine Kainer, and Lowana Carter, and Connie Hartzfield. I have spaces available for April, so be sure to sign up. Sonia (gallery in a.m. 863-2214, home evenings 869-2484, cell 512-497-3035, and email

soniamarie.cm@netzero.com

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 Framers' 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 Framers' 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, Diana Einwich, Floyd Riley, Chuck Roush and Fran Sina Young.

Program: Jane Goosby, Linda Figg, Jean Hestand,

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

