



### **President's Palette**

*"Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms."* ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Did you ever feel like the stranger in the room? I think many look at artists as a different breed. Not all of us fit the stereotype, but the majority of us do at one time or another.

I believe what people are probably seeing is someone who doesn't look at the world in the same manner as they do. What they may be referring to is the creative mind.

When you try and understand the dynamic of creativity in people, the process is unusual which, in turn, leads to looking at the world in unusual ways. We've all heard the term "thinking outside the box." It has become quite a commodity in everything from business to the entertainment field and I believe what many of these CEO's, executives, and

head hunters are looking for is creativity

But do they always understand it? It also seems to be easily misunderstood, hard to recognize, and sometimes just flat-out missed by the non-creative types. I remember back in my days of teaching I would overhear my colleagues talking about how creative a student's project was. As I continued to listen I realized they were not talking about creativity at all but misinterpreting it for craftsmanship and appearance—it simply looked good.

According to Wikipedia, creativity is "the mental and social process involving the discovery of new ideas or concepts or new associations between existing ideas or concepts. It is about finding the relationship between two or more ideas, objects or concepts through the invention of a new reality. Creative ideas are often generated when one discards pre-conceived assumptions and attempts a new approach or method that others may see as unthinkable.

As artists we need have no fear in expressing our unique point of view. Luckily originality is considered a great achievement in the world of art. There may be many failures, but every once in a while something inspired and unique will occur.

Keep creating,  
Nancy

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## BVAL News and Events

**February 1st—Board meeting, 10:30 A.M.**

**General Meeting— Noon.**

**Refreshments** will be provided. Take a few minutes before Nancy starts the meeting to enjoy some refreshments and visit with your BVAL friends—make a few new friends. Plan to sign up to help bring refreshments for future meetings. A form will be circulated at the meeting.

**Demo Artist—Watercolor** demonstration by Award winning artist **Nellie Kress**.



**February 4th—Reception for Director's Show, 5:30 p.m.** Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Spirit of Texas Bank Gallery in recognition of the generous support of the Spirit of Texas Bank for the Texas Gallery and in conjunction with the opening reception for Black History Month.

**February 5th—Art Step** in Downtown Bryan. BVAL will exhibit at St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

**March 5th—BVAL Open/Judged Show.** Contact person is Guy Benson, 695-8650. Watch for entry forms and more information coming soon.

**May 14-15—LSAG Convention and Juried Show** in Conroe, TX at the Lonestar Expo and Convention Center. Contact Nancy for information about registration and with any questions you may have. Remember, this show is juried and accepted entries are based on winning awards at local league shows.

**Volunteer** and get more involved in the Brazos Valley Art League. How many members of BVAL do you know? Get better acquainted and help your league by signing up to help on one of the volunteer forms being distributed through e-mail attachment, newsletter and at the meeting. A small form previewing the volunteer opportunities is on page 3. Turn forms in at the meeting or BVAL office.

## Local Exhibits

### Texas Gallery

#### Texas Gallery Hours

Monday—Thursday	9 AM—6 PM
Friday	9 AM—5 PM
Saturday	10 AM—2 PM

### February 1st—27th

#### Director's Show

Featuring works by  
Leon and Molly Bee Collins,  
Tonya Engel, Annie Lee,  
Charles Bibbs and more

### Brazos Center

**Jan./Feb.—Mary Burkhalter**

**March/April—Rose Shea**

### C.S. Conference Center

**Jan./Feb.—Sky Chevalier**

**March/April—Lisa Hughes**

### Art Center Studio

**Jan./Feb—Barb Starner's Class**

**March/April—Mary Burkhalter  
Sky Chevalier**

### Square One in Downtown Bryan

**Jan./Feb.— Mary Burkhalter**

### Art Step Friday, Feb. 5th

#### St. Andrews Episcopal Church

At this time 13 BVAL artists are exhibiting. To exhibit your work or help with Art Step Pease contact Nancy. Help is still needed.

## Share Your News

Do you have news to share about yourself or another BVAL member? Please send information to [sunnyscb@gmail.com](mailto:sunnyscb@gmail.com). Items will be included as space permits.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ VOLUNTEER!! Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We are currently evaluating ways for more BVAL members to be a part of our many BVAL activities. Our organization has grown and is moving in some very positive directions. As we all know, it can “take a village” to keep an organization like this running. A non-profit organization (like ours) relies on the energy volunteered by each member of the group. We would like all of you to consider devoting a two hour (or more if you like) commitment to some activity within BVAL. By becoming involved you give back to the organization and those who devote time and efforts get to know many new people, and you help the organization become more of what you want it to be.

**Below is a list of events and activities. Please take a moment to look over and select an area that best suites your interests where you can volunteer. Please check off as many as you are willing and able to participate in:**

**Receptions for the Texas Gallery**

- bring food
- help to set up
- help clean up

**Social committees**

- bring food for general meetings
- help set up chairs for meeting
- greet members and visitors as they arrive at general meetings
- other ideas for helping members to know one another
- help organize after meetings

**Art Step**

- help set up
- help clean up
- provide food or beverage for reception

**Judged Shows**

- help with in-take
- help hang artwork
- help with reception
- help with removal of artwork

**Critique groups**

- organize a critique group
- participate in a critique group

**Children’s Summer Camp**

- teach children’s classes
- assist teacher in children’s classes
- provide some art supplies for classes
- help prepare student work for art show
- help hang children’s art show
- help with reception for children’s art show

**Starving Artist Sale**

- help organize starving artist sale
- participate in starving artist sale

**Board Positions**

- President
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president in charge of demos and workshops
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president in charge of Judged and Members Shows
- Treasurer
- Exhibits Chair (in charge of rotating exhibits)
- Publicity
- Corresponding Secretary (newsletter)
- Web Master
- Membership Chair (in charge of year-book)
- Trustee (oversee CD’s, lock box, etc.)

**Workshops and Classes**

**Adult Watercolor Classes with Barb Starnier** Friday mornings 9:30 - 12:30. Call 220-7231 for information.

**Children's Art Classes with Daniel Xiao** Saturdays from 10:30 - 12:30. Call 820-4087 to register.

**Children’s Art Classes with Kay Watkins** Ages 9—15. Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Contact Kay at kay-sartquest@gmail.com or 739-5782

**The Art of Collage Workshop with Lisa Hughes.** Ongoing Thursday workshop 10:00 am—1:00 p.m. at the Frame Gallery. Cost \$26 per week. Contact Greta at the Frame Gallery for information.

**Liz Hill Figurative Art workshop Held at the Art Center** Feb. 25 & 26. Cost is \$125 for the two days. Contact Mary Walters for additional information. See page 4 for Information about Liz Hill and her art work

**Watson Impressionistic Floral Acrylic Art Workshop** with Linda Watson Stein on Friday, Feb. 19th, 9:30 a.m.—4:30p.m. at the Hobby Lobby Store in Katy. Fee is \$75. \$50 deposit due before February 16th. Contact **Mary Burkhalter** or contact Linda at 281-647-6171 or **LWS1ART@AOL.COM** for information. See Sunflower sample at the right.





## **Liz Hill Workshop** **February 25th & 26th**

**The cost of the workshop  
will be \$125 for the two days.  
Contact Mary Walters to sign up  
and receive information**



Liz started her serious art training at the Los Angeles Art Center School at age 17. She studied advertising design and illustration. She enjoyed the experience, but always wished to do more unstructured creative pieces. During the 70's she was a busy mother and wife, with a interior decorating business. She did manage to attend the University of Houston and study under John Alexander and Gael Stack, something she treasures to this day, as they inspired her to find her own voice. She continued her art education always and studied under many fine teachers. In the 80's she started showing selling her work primarily in the Rockport, Texas area. She did many water paintings and anything relating to the ocean. Her work at this time in her career was exclusively oil. She did a lot of portraits at this time, although she always stressed that they were not in the realist manner, more of a impressionistic style. She moved to the Woodlands in 2001 and loves the artist opportunities she finds there. She is vice-president of the Woodlands art league, as well as a member of the leagues in Tomball and Conroe. She won many ribbons for her oils, but two years ago, Lesley Humphrey introduced her to water media and she has been hooked ever since. She joined the Watercolor Society of Houston and is gaining recognition for her work. She has twice been accepted into the international show. She has expanded her media into collage, and her workshops are known for their experimental nature and light hearted approach to art. The main focus of her work now is figurative work.

**Brazos Valley Art League**  
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**TO:**

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