

### President's Palette



Nancy by Rose Shea

*"In Science truth, in Art honour."*

ANONYMOUS

The other day I noticed a photograph of one of Monet's paintings on the cover of my husband's issue of the Monitor on Psychology and the by line was "visual tricks, psychologists are uncovering the ploys artists use to thrill us". Now I was intrigued.

Many of us work things out on an instinctual level. We learn about techniques, but we mostly consider what we do far from being scientific. However in the article it talks about how artists have studied how human vision works and now scientists are tapping in that wisdom as they shed light on masterpieces. Master painters, it seems, are keen observers of human vision and perception and they use that knowledge to create pictures

that don't just lie flat on the wall. "Artists are vision scientists, they just call themselves something different," says Margaret Stratford Livingstone, a neurobiology professor at Harvard.

As I continue to read the article I get a little lost in all the technical, scientific talk. But Professor Livingstone goes on to say that we see things in two different ways. One is the manner in which we see color and the other is the way we see brightness. By playing with these two visual concepts artists can create pieces that seem to shimmer and vibrate on the canvas.

"People don't see like a camera," says painting teacher and landscape artist David Dunlop. He tells his students in his classes to stop identifying things, and instead see scenes as collections of lines, shadows, shapes, and contours. Painters seem to view scenes in a way that's similar to how the world really is: a mishmash of colors, lines, and shapes.

In our world today, as budgets for the arts and art education continue to get cut, science can be our true friend. By creating ways to measure what is actually happening in the visual process, as one scientist says, "Almost every single experiment I do comes out of something from art." . . . . a very nice endorsement!

Keep creating,

Nancy

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## BVAL News and Events

**March 1st—No Board Meeting. General Meeting Noon.** Thank you to the BVAL Board members for furnishing refreshments in February. **March refreshment committee is: Jeanne Price, Lead;** Willi Riley, Robert Martinez, Olive Black, and Lois Harris  
**Demo Artist—Becky Witherspoon will demo Encaustic Painting. See page 4 for details.**

**March 5th—Intake for BVAL Judged Show**  
 Entries received **10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

**Interactive Entry Forms** (You may write on the form, save and print it) for the juried art show are available on the web site [bvartleague.org](http://bvartleague.org). A copy of the on-line form that you may also use is on page 3 of this newsletter though it is NOT interactive.

**March 6th—Judging of BVAL Art Show**  
 Reception and open to public 12:30-2:00 p.m.

**March 19th—Entry Forms Due, MSC Forsyth Center Galleries 1st Annual Downtown Street and Art Fair**

**March 30th—Remove art work during operating hours of the Art Center and Texas Gallery.**

**March 31st—April 30—Art Teachers of Brazos Valley and Student Scholarship Show**

**April 10—Festival of Arts/Airing of the Quilts Event, Somerville, Texas.** Table & wall space may be rented and no commissions collected though artists must be present for all of festival. Contact Art C's Cathy or Cheryl at 979-596-2782 for more information.

**April 17—MSC Forsyth Center Galleries 1st Annual Downtown Street and Art Fair** in downtown Bryan 10 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Entry Form and information attached in separate pdf format with newsletter or contact [fcg@msc.tamu.edu](mailto:fcg@msc.tamu.edu) for information.

**May 14-15—LSAG Convention and Juried Show** in Conroe, TX, at the Lonestar Expo and Convention Center

**Congratulations!! BVAL has two new officers. Jeanne Price** has joined the Board and will replace Lina as our **Publicity Chairperson** and **Jon Alston** will replace Wimberly and serve as the new **BVAL treasurer.**

## Local Exhibits

**Texas Gallery**  
**March 5th—30th**  
**BVAL Judged Show**

**Brazos Center**  
**March/April—Rose Shea**  
**May/June—Sara Scott**

**C.S. Conference Center**  
**March/April—Lisa Hughes**  
**May/June—Mary Burkhalter and**  
**Monika Pate**

**Art Center Studio**  
**March/April—Mary Burkhalter**  
**Sky Chevalier**  
**May—Rose Shea**  
**June—still open**

**Frame Gallery**  
**in downtown Bryan**  
**Exhibits art by many BVAL artists**

**Art C's Gallery**  
 Located in Somerville  
 Watch their web site for exhibits  
[www.artcvals.com](http://www.artcvals.com)

**DaVinci's Gallery**  
 Tomball, Texas  
 Abstract paintings by Mary Walters

**Gallery at Roundtop**  
 Anita Cannon, Sylvia Colwell and Jeanne Price are among over one hundred artists from three countries who will have their art on display in the **Gallery at Round Top** in Round Top, Texas to benefit Rural Art in Texas

**1st Annual Downtown Art Fair in Bryan, Texas**



The entry form below is a copy of what is available on the web site [www.bvalleague.org](http://www.bvalleague.org). You may also print and use this form.



## Brazos Valley Art League Juried Art Show Entry Form

**Entry Labels:** Fill out two labels for each entry (maximum of 3 entries). The Art League will keep the labels on the left. You will attach the labels on the right to the back of each corresponding piece you are entering. **NOTE:** You can type in this PDF. Type in spaces on the left. The corresponding spaces on the right will automatically fill in. Then save the PDF, print it out, and bring it with you the day you enter your pieces in the show.

1.
Number (filled out by BVAL):
NAME:
Address:
City: ZIP:
Phone: Club:
Title:
Medium: Price:
Division & Category:
Framed Size: Height Width

1.
Number (filled out by BVAL):
NAME:
Address:
City: ZIP:
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Division & Category:
Framed Size: Height Width

2.
Number (filled out by BVAL):
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City: ZIP:
Phone: Club:
Title:
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Division & Category:
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Title:
Medium: Price:
Division & Category:
Framed Size: Height Width

### Terms of Entry and Release Form

I understand that the BVAL will take extra care in the handling of my artwork, but that the BVAL cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss to said works before, during, or after the exhibition.

I understand that BVAL will receive a commission on all sales of my work in the Texas Gallery during the exhibition (15% for BVAL members, 40% for non-members).

I understand that I must pick up my artwork in a prompt and timely manner on the day the show ends, unless I have made prior arrangements with a BVAL board member (with the understanding that the BVAL does NOT have adequate storage space for artwork).

Finally, I have read and understand the rules and requirements for entry into this juried show, and certify that I have fully complied with these rules and requirements.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Becky Witherspoon-Demo Artist for March*

Becky Witherspoon now paints mainly in encaustics, an unusual medium, used first by the ancient Egyptians. Encaustics are painted with hot wax. She heats colored waxes with a special iron and swirls them onto the paper. Some are thin gestural designs on smooth paper, which are more luminous, and others are layered on a textured surface. Sometimes she uses small tools to add special effects. Her first encounter with the medium was in the mid 90's at an art league demonstration in Arizona. Later she took a workshop by Brigitte von Ahn in El Paso, Texas.

Becky lived in Fountain Hills, Arizona for 30 years where she was better known for her watercolor landscapes of the desert, real and imaginary plants, and weathered barns. She exhibited in the Fountain Festival of Art and the Great Fair as well as other shows for many years. She is a founding member of the Fountain Hills Art League, a group which now has some 150 artists.

Becky moved to Bryan, Texas in 2007 where she joined the Brazos Valley Art League. Now she exhibits regularly at Art Steps and First Fridays, and occasionally elsewhere, such as the Texas Reds Festival. The Frame Gallery, and Gifts and Gab in Bryan carry her encaustic paintings.

Becky's structured art training came mainly from courses at the Memphis Academy of Art. She also studied with Earl MacPherson, Dick Phillips, and Clarence Dyer of Arizona, Helen Taylor Roy of California, Louise Shipley of Maryland, and Fred Rawlinson of Tennessee.

#### **On Going Workshops and Classes**

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

**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.

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

**Children's Art with Kay Watkins** Ages 9—15. Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. [kaysartquest@gmail.com](mailto:kaysartquest@gmail.com) or 739-5782



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**TO:**

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