



Beaver Valley Artists

Official Newsletter of the Beaver Valley Artists

November 2012

Next Meeting
Thursday, November 8th, 7:00 pm
Merrick Art Gallery

Program

Bill Perry – Watercolor Demo

Meetings will resume in
February 2013

Refreshments for the November meeting
 compliments of Kathy Bischak,
 Jocelyn Guidry & Marge Gardner.

About the Artist

Bill Perry lives and paints these days in Harmony, PA; a small rural community that is fast becoming a suburb of Pittsburgh. Retired from public school teaching, he has returned to painting in earnest.



"I find my inspiration in the nearby countryside where I roam with my always present digital camera, looking for things that have been transformed by some special quality of light. This fascination with light and color is what distinguishes my most recent paintings."

"I love the immediacy of the watercolor medium and although my finished works lack the looseness that is so often associated with watercolors, they do represent for me a freshness and spontaneity that I could never achieve with my oils."

A Short Biography

As far back as I can remember I was interested in drawing and making things with my hands. My first recognition as a painter came while still in school when I won a First Place ribbon in the ALLIED ARTISTS annual Children's Exhibit. The year was 1957.

In high school I received a scholarship to study painting at THE ARTISTS LEAGUE OF LIGONIER VALLEY in Rector, PA, and when I graduated from high school my teachers wanted me to go on to New York to continue my studies. But this was out of the question, as my family was much too practical to contemplate art as a career. They felt that one must have a marketable skill, and it was decided that I would become a teacher.

I earned a B.S. in Art Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and continued to paint, mostly in oils, throughout my undergraduate days. My first teaching assignment was in Aliquippa, and I loved it. I had so much more freedom than my colleagues in deciding my curriculum, and as a result, teaching was always challenging and exciting.

A wife and four children soon followed, and like so many others have found, my painting took a back-seat to the expediences of earning a living and being a husband and father. In 1978 I gave away my oil paints and took up a medium that was "quicker"; at least this was how I viewed watercolors at first. I soon realized that the transfer from oils to watercolors was not going to be the simple matter I had envisioned. Watercolors, unlike oils, behave in very unpredictable ways. No matter how much I studied the work of others, capturing the qualities I admired in them was another thing all together. But I persisted, and eventually I was able to gain some control of this difficult medium. I entered my paintings in local shows and received a little recognition for my efforts. But when I view these earlier paintings today, I see little of my current direction in watercolor.

As my kids went off to college my painting activities ground to a standstill. In 1998 I retired from public school teaching and once again turned my attention to watercolors. Painting is, for me, an ongoing process.

I have conducted workshops recently with the Indiana Arts Association. Currently, I am conducting a series of workshops with the Tarentum Art Association. This leaves me plenty of time to roam the countryside looking for those moments when the light's just right and the familiar becomes something very special to capture with paint.



A Final Note

I paint for me. I am compelled by a desire to make permanent those moments which stir my soul, and with each painting the challenge is to capture a specific moment in time. As a result, I have decided that I will not make prints of my work. When one of my paintings strikes a resonance with you and you decide to make a purchase, rest assured that the connection between you, me, and that moment will always remain a very personal one.

Member News:

Welcome to new BVA members **Mary Jane Hadley, Amber Symonds and Suzanne Perkins!**

Congratulations to BVA members who received awards at the 15th Annual Lutheran Juried Art Show: Best of Show - **Ray Zielinski**, First Place - **Jennie Johnstone**, Second Place - **Marge Gardner**, Juror's Award - **Maya Peel**. Honorable Mentions went to **Irene Ackerman, Chris Manjerovic, Norma Nicely and Lynn Roberts**.

Elizabeth Asche Douglas curated the exhibition "Tending Our Mothers' Gardens" for the Mavuno Festival: First Fruit XVI at Sweetwater Center for the Arts, Sept 21- November 2 . It was featured in the Magazine section of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Sept 26 and a curator's lecture on the show took place at Sweetwater on October 5 . Her mixed media composition "Freedom Dance" was included the Mr. Fred Roger's Regional Exhibition at the Latrobe Art Center throughout the month of September. Another mixed media composition "Condemned House" (recently shown in the Merrick Regional) will be showing at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Ligonier PA, in the 17th annual Southwestern PA Council for the Arts Exhibition, November 16, 2012 - February 10, 2013. She has received notice from Marquis Publishing Company, that her biography will be included in the 2013 edition of "Who's Who in America". Using Skype technology, Elizabeth gave a guest lecture to an art and theology class at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA on October 10.

Carol Volz Begley PSA had an oil portrait of Jill accepted into the American Artist Professional League's 84th Grand National Juried Exhibition, 2012, New York city. She had a pastel alleyscape accepted into the Allied Artist of America's 99th Annual Juried Exhibition held at the National Arts Club, Gramercy Park, NYC. Additionally, Carol has two pastels in the Associated Artist of Butler County Art Faculty Show. A pastel portrait received a first place award and a pastel streetscape received a second place award.

Membership Dues: Individual: \$20 Family: \$25
The Membership year will now start in April after the BVA Annual Show.

Make checks payable to: Beaver Valley Artists.

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Send newsletter submissions to:

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For BVA news visit The Beaver Valley Artists at beavervalleyartists.org or on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Beaver-Valley-Artists/175072079247112>

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