



Beaver Valley Artists

Official Newsletter of the Beaver Valley Artists

November 2015

Next Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12th 7:00 pm
Merrick Art Gallery

Program

Ron Donoughe
Plein Air Painting in Oil

Upcoming Programs:

February – Sue Giles Ireton
Creating a digital image

March – Courtney Laughlin
Gallery – DIY Framing
Refreshments for the Nov. 12th
meeting compliments of
Kathy Bischak, Jennie
Johnstone and Jocelyn Guidry

A native of Loretto, Pennsylvania now living in Pittsburgh, Ron Donoughe is best known for his spirited realistic landscape paintings of Western Pennsylvania. He has a B.A. in Art Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California.

Like many painters he has held a variety of odd jobs – landscaper, gravedigger, chicken catcher, art teacher, museum installer, graphic designer, and college instructor.

He works full time now as a professional artist/painter. His work can be found in many corporate and private collections as well as the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art and The University Museum at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Ron’s interest in plein art painting led to the formation of The Plein-Air Painters of Western Pennsylvania. The group meets informally to paint Pittsburgh from April through November.

Artist’s Statement

From *Essence of Pittsburgh*

One cold day in a cornfield changed my life. That day I had taken my paints to a remote area to do a painting on location. I went there with the desire to make an “honest” painting, because I felt much of my work up to that point was clever and contrived. As I watched the way the light changed the landscape, I suddenly realized that my art could describe my experience, and thereby connect me to the world. The painting I did that day was not very good, but it captured the spirit of what I saw. That desire to capture the spirit of a particular place and moment has stayed with me to this day.

Painting from life has become a ritual for me, but it is also my work. Every day I go somewhere to make a painting without knowing exactly what will happen. Because I have no preconceived idea as I set out, my subject matter is unlimited. I might choose to paint a scene on the basis of light and shadow, or because of the feeling I get when I see a lone building at the top of a hill. I do not seek postcard scenes; I seek an intensity of feeling that comes only from being in a particular place at a particular time. So many things in the landscape are interesting, especially here in Western Pennsylvania: steel mills, city skylines, snow-filled parks, twisting side streets, and even back yards. For me, it is a painter’s paradise.

My small panel paintings are completed within a day. Light changes so quickly that I must get something down before the scene becomes entirely different. I have found I can usually finish these paintings in my studio from memory after getting a good start outside. Often I go back to the site at the exact time on a similar day to finish the piece. I am trying to capture a moment in time, and the light must be unified for that to happen.

When I look at a scene, I analyze the colors, simplify the shapes, mix the paint, and then put it all together very quickly. This is a skill that has taken me many years of experience to develop. It becomes a struggle against time and the elements, especially when working in windy or extremely cold weather.



Ron Donoughe

June 2006

I'm a regional painter working mostly in and around Western Pennsylvania. My main focus is how the landscape feels at different times. This results in what subjects are selected and how they are painted. I do this on a daily basis. So you'll see a lot of different subjects, but they are unified by a single theme, truthful observation.

My studio is open to visitors, but please call ahead for an appointment. I especially enjoy showing my most recent work. The studio address is 208 Main Street, Pittsburgh (Lawrenceville), PA 15201. I'm located on the 2nd floor of a large brick building directly across from the Citizen's Bank parking lot, just off Butler Street. Here is my cell: 412.216.1914

What is Plein Air painting?

Simply stated it is painting directly from life. It comes from the French phrase, "en plein aire" meaning in the open air. Something happens when an artist is confronted directly with the subject. It probably has something to do with the spirit of a place. I believe that spirit can make its way into the artist and the work.

Friday, May 15, 2015 to Sunday, August 9, 2015

90 Pittsburgh Neighborhoods

by Ron Donoughe



Over 12 months, Ron visited and painted in each of the 90 neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. He did them in alphabetical order, attempting to create at least 2-3 each week. The goal was to capture the overall texture of the city through the seasonal changes. Ron also was documenting the experiences of the people he met. Those random engagements contributed to the artistic experience. The exhibition will showcase one painting from each neighborhood.

Artist Statement:

As a plein air painter, I'm always trying to capture a moment, a felt experience. I've imagined that my paintings together represent a time capsule. The landscape is always in a state of flux: changing time of day, climate, and seasons, shifting from construction to demolition and back again. My calling is to document my time here.

Member News:

Welcome to new BVA member **Louis Cottage!**

The following BVA members won award at the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church's show in October: **Maya Peel**, *Best of Show* (for her painting: *The Yellow Shirt*), **Joseph Horzempa**, *Judge's Award* (for his painting: *At the Beach*), **Norma Nicely**, *First Place* (for her painting: *Untitled*), **Elizabeth Asche Douglas**, *First Place Photography* (for her photo: *Majesty*), **Anna Marie Ricciardi**, *Second Place Photography* (for her photo: *Crossroads*) and **Marge Gardner** was a big hit as the Featured Artist for the show, showing forty original paintings!

Carol Volz Begley, PSA had paintings accepted into the New Hampshire Pastel Society and the Arkansas Pastel Society national juried exhibitions.

Jennie Johnstone received a second place award and **Betty Douglas** received an honorable mention at the Cranberry Artists Network Open "Lets Be Thankful" Show.

November Newsletter news from BVA President Kathy Bischak:

Remember that dues are due this fall. If you did not pay them at the September or October meeting, they should be paid in November. They go up to \$25 in February.

Our juror for the 39th Annual Spring Show is Pastel Artist, Gail Beem. Gail gave us a great paste demo last year in the fall

BVA will be having a **Small Works Show and Sale** as part of the Beaver County Parks and Tourism Holiday weekend on December 5 and 6. It will be at the Center for Creative Arts Expression in Beaver Falls. I stopped at the Center, and there are a lot of metal strips to hang work on in the Center. There is a small showcase for delicate work, and there is space for "Browse Boxes". A sign up sheet was at the last meeting, and will also be at the November meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, but are interested in this show, let me know.

Things you need to know :

Drop off of work will be on Friday December 4 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Drop off work at Center for Creative Arts Expression, 1217 7th Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Fee is 25% of sales and will be paid to the Center.

Work should be clearly labeled with your name, contact information, and price. Use an index card like we do for the juried show. Entry is at your own risk, but care will be taken that all work is safe.

Center will be open on Saturday, Dec.5 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, And Sunday, Dec.6 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Pick up of work will be at that time.

After we take down the show, we can all go out for a **Christmas Celebration**.

If there is anyone who would like to design a flier for this event, please let me know. It would be great to pass out around the county and also post in Cranberry.



Our 2016 programs are all lined up! We will be having the following:

February – Sue Giles Ireton will explain the process for creating a digital image file for Merrick Masters

March – We will be touring the Courtney Laughlin Gallery in Beaver with tips on DIY framing.

April – Juror (Gail Beem) Critique of annual Show

May – Karen Larson – Acrylic Painting and Mono-Printing Demonstration.

Thank you to the members (Laurie Fillinger, Mary Jane Hadley, Sue Masley, and Sue Ireton) who helped plan these exciting programs.

A small quote to finish :

“Never hurry when drawing the design. The design is the key to the painting. I often tell students who’ve already been drawing on the canvas for 15 minutes and are ready to paint, that what they need is another 15 minutes. Not to draw details, but to consider how best to place their big shapes. A well designed picture paints itself.” Emile Gruppe’

**Membership Dues: Individual: \$20 Family: \$25
Dues increase by \$5 after November.**

Make checks payable to: Beaver Valley Artists.

Mail to: Mary Jane Hadley
124 Crossing Ridge Trail
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Send newsletter submissions to:

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Clinton, PA 15026
jgg899@yahoo.com

Send website submissions to: Linda Headland

724-775-1787 lheadland@beavervalleyartists.org

**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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