

Message from Martha

Martha Koelemay, President

The first edition of the Ouachita Artists Newsletter was well received, and I hope that everyone continues to find it interesting and informative. We are gearing up for another great year at the gallery and hope many of you will be able to participate.

The gallery was completely changed out and rearranged the first week in February. If you haven't been in, be sure to come by and see all the new art! Next acceptance date for this gallery cycle is Thursday, March 6. Next complete changeover is May 1. (Reminder: there is still some art in the storeroom that was in the last cycle, and it needs to be picked up.)

Friday is Open Studio from 10-6--see Page 3 for info.

The **big news** is that Ouachita Artists will be featured for the month of September in the gallery at Garvan Woodland Gardens! According to Susan Harper, who books the art for the Gardens, they prefer paintings of the Gardens and nature scenes. And she added, "No puppies, kittens, African animals, or Elvis on black velvet." The Gardens take 20% of any sales. More details to follow as I get them.

Please take note of the contact numbers for the officers, and the meeting dates. And let us hear from you! What classes do you want to teach or take? What activities would you like to be involved in? Would you like to volunteer some time staffing the gallery or working with one of the committees?

Between newsletters, please check out the website and our Facebook page for up-to-the-minute information. Attend meetings when you can, and let us know what's on your mind.

Ouachita Artists Highlights

By Allie Graves, Vice-President

Greetings from Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio. Artists have many choices during their careers; some follow a fairly straight path in their development and output. You can see a consistency in style from their early works and the growth appears logical and sensible. Sometimes an artist's creative energy takes them completely in a new direction. For instance, in an art class where the students all paint the same subject but all will be different. The important thing is how the artist feels and conveys the mood onto canvas or paper.

Ouachita Artists are now offering a Drawing 2 class to help students advance in their drawing skills. Instructor, Allie Graves, will teach the four week session on Tuesdays beginning March 4th thru March 25th, 10:30- 12 noon. Students are required to bring a sketch pad, pencils and a good eraser. Register at the gallery or call Allie at 870-356-7475.

Ouachita Artists Gallery & Studio

135 S. West Street
PO Box 1204
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-3:00
Friday 10:00-6:00

E-mail

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(870)867-2851

Meetings at the gallery:

March 3, Business, 3:30

March 17, Program:

Launa Simmons, Potter 3:30

March 26, Board, 1:00

April 7, Business, 3:30

April 21, Program: TBA, 3:30

April 30, Board, 1:00

Jury Committee

The Jury Committee has announced the following dates for the art in the gallery to be changed out, and has adopted the following policy for accepting art works for exhibit:

May 1, 2014
 August 7, 2014
 November 6, 2014
 February 5, 2015

New work may be brought to the gallery any time during the week prior to the change date. After that, items may be brought in to be added ONLY on the first Thursday of each month, and art will be phased out on the above dates regardless of when they were brought in. This policy applies to new members also.

All items should be tagged and entered into the inventory book when brought in; the Jury Committee cannot be responsible for tagging and entering the items.

Ask the volunteers working in the gallery to help you if needed. Seasonal/holiday items will be removed from the main gallery and placed in the back room immediately after the holiday.

Please pick up your art as soon as possible after the rotation date. The back room is used for meetings and classes, and we do not want to risk anyone's art work being damaged.

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In this digital age there is no comparison between seeing a digital image and seeing the real thing. By visiting a gallery and standing in front of a painting you can inspect the surface texture, examine the artist's brush strokes and appreciate the luminosity of the medium. None of this is possible when you are limited to the computer screen. So come on by Ouachita Artist's Gallery and Studio and see the exhibit of new works our artists have on display. We welcome new members. If you are an artist, craft person or just like the arts in general come join us.

Creative Tip: The top corner, which is closest to the light source, is always the darkest while the opposite corner (where the light reflects back) is the lightest.

Finding a New Expression with Clay

by Patti Presley

Touch has been identified as one of the first sensory responses to develop in humans. Clay work involves a very primal mode of expression and communication. Most kindergarteners are experienced sculptors, having already felt, smelled and in some cases, tasted Playdough before age 5. Children start out with one-dimensional results and by the age of 8, they've learned to create two dimensional sculptures.

All forms of art are considered to be therapeutic, and clay doesn't take a backseat in the world of art therapy. Ever hear of "throwing clay"? Sounds like fun, doesn't it? You have to wonder if throwing clay wouldn't relieve a bit of frustration.

Clay isn't the only medium used in sculpting. That 4th grade papier mache' project you may have gotten graded on was a sculpture. As a matter of fact, you can create sculptures out of leather, glass, metal and wax. Two types of styles in modeling are implied and stylized; neither is favored over the other in the world of art.

There are several types of clay to work with that can be purchased at your local art supplies store. Ceramic clay, oil-based clay, polymer clay, and yes, paperclay, which can be hand made in your own kitchen. Ceramic clay is baked at a high temperature in a process known as firing to create ceramics. Oil-based clays are made of combinations of oils, waxes and clay minerals. They stay malleable even when left for long periods in dry conditions. It's a popular material among artists and comes in a variety of colors. It's also non-toxic. Polymer clay cures when heated and despite being called "clay," it really doesn't contain any clay minerals. It also is sold in crafts and hobby stores and is used widely by artists, hobbyists, and children.

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If you've been holding yourself back from being artistically creative because you don't believe you're an artist, pick up a bit of clay next time you find yourself in or near Hobby Lobby. Let the warmth of your hands make the clay pliable, and create something - anything. You may just find your creative niche.

Anna Mary Robertson Moses (1860-1961)

By Patti Presley

A farm woman for the first 12 years of her life; born during Lincoln's presidency and considered a media superstar, Grandma Moses was a self-taught artist known for work she painted beginning at age 70. She painted her last at age 101.

Moses originally marketed herself at the local county fair alongside the jams, jellies and quilts. Likely her exhibit was chalk on the back of wallpaper, or a painting on an old fireboard as she had no money for supplies. Moses' first work was with worsted wool stitching and is thought to be how she learned to work with color. As a child, she referred to her renditions of the farm as "lambscapes".

Post World War II, art critics dismissed Grandma Moses' painting style, and the Museum of Modern Art thought her to be too old to invest an interest in. They said her work was not "sophisticated enough." That was in her 78th year. On display in a corner drug storefront, a cache of her work was purchased by a traveling salesman who sought out to meet Grandma Moses. He was convinced she would be famous, and was he ever right on. Her paintings became immensely popular and were appreciated for their nostalgic charm.

Moses' story should be an inspiration to all. Painting from her heart, with little to no expectation of receiving anything but personal gratification, Grandma Moses could well be the most famous of all American artists.



March Program features Potter Launa Simmons

On March 17, Launa Simmons will demonstrate her pottery skills. Launa describes her work and studio: "My pieces are mostly utilitarian and are produced for the customer to use in their daily lives. However, I do produce pieces that are strictly art forms...I work from my own home in Kirby, AR, but can also be found at the Historic Langley Gymnasium during the spring and summer months."

At Ouachita Artists Gallery & Studio at 3:30, rear of the gallery.

Friday Open Studio

Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio is open on Fridays from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. Members and non-members are encouraged to come in to paint, draw or sketch with other artists. It's a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and techniques - not to mention camaraderie with fellow artists. Come visit the Gallery any Friday and plan to stay as long as you want. Oh, and don't forget to bring your art supplies and creativity!

We're on the Web!

Join us on Facebook on
Ouachita Artists page

See our blog at:
ouachitaartists.blogspot.com

Our website address is:
www.ouachitaartists.com

Program Meetings at the Gallery

by Patti Presley



David and Bre Harris, sculptors extraordinaire, residents of Royal, Arkansas, graciously gave of their time and talent on February 17th at the Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio Program Meeting. The Harris family own and operate the Light and Time Design Studio outside of Hot Springs, where they teach painting and sculpting and

create sculptures of their own. The Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial, a beautiful life-size bronze sculpture, located in Little Rock, is one of their creations. The couple partner in contracting with other states and organizations in creating bronze sculptures of many different types and sizes. Included in their work is a life-sized sculpture of a Minute Man found at the Rhode Island National Guard Living Memorial.



Bre explained there are no rules in sculpting and that all styles are acceptable. She said the most important first step is to create an armature, which is a skeleton, to hold the clay figure up. Bre brought with her a bust sculpture she has created from oil-based clay that was formed and held up on a small wooden shaft.

"Marketing yourself is one of the most important things one must do make profit off their art", David said. "Keep a photograph portfolio of all your art, and never discount work that you consider imperfect, or simply not good. Likely it will be the painting you most dislike that will sell first at a price you would not have expected."

Creating a web and Facebook page, "classy" business cards, brochures and videos go a long way in self-promotion. David also suggested that before an artist places his or her artwork with a gallery, they need to ask what the gallery can do for them; what percentage the gallery keeps at the sale of an art piece, and to never give a gallery an exclusive on your work.