

Happenings in July and August

Events are listed in the column to the right on this page. See you there!

Kids' Art Saturdays

Martha Koelemay teaches basic painting for ages 10 and up **July 11, 18, 25**, and **Aug. 1**, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. If you're interested, call (870) 867-3115, or stop by the gallery to reserve a space.

August 6: Changeover at the gallery. Please submit your work the week before changeover occurs.

Ouachita Artists Highlights

by Allie Graves

Opening a gallery is a daunting task, but for the members of Ouachita Artists it was a natural step on the creative ladder. In January 2011 we had this amazing opportunity to turn our dreams into reality. We opened Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio on the square in Mt. Ida, AR.

We planned to be flexible, that was the key concept. We invited artistic people from each county that touched Montgomery County to become members. Many of us paint in several mediums. Others make jewelry, homemade jams and jellies, wood workers, quilters, candles, carved gourds, etc.

Every day brings new lessons, challenges, and opportunities. The most difficult part is balancing the art and creative process with the obligations of running the gallery as a business. We are a nonprofit organization. The gallery is completely run by our members who volunteer their time at least two days a month to keep the doors open. Some days we are excited to start a new painting or some other project but our members wear many different hats. Sometimes we must get the dusting and cleaning done before we can concentrate on what we want to work on. If a customer comes in we are always happy to visit with them and help with any needs they have.

We are both humbled and surprised at how well our work has been received in the community and value each person, whether they be local or tourist. Seeing folks excited about our creations keeps us feeling positive about the future. We have many repeat customers, both local and from the surrounding counties. As the tourist season has begun, people from other states and countries are visiting the gallery.

Ultimately we see ourselves becoming a resource and contributor to our community and its guests. With reliable and consistent service, coupled with an always changing and innovative inventory, we want locals and visitors to be excited to come back and visit. We truly take to heart the fact that we're creating

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Open Studio every Friday, gallery hours 10:00-600

Featured Artist: Don Watson, June 25-August 27.

Wed July 1: Meeting, 1:00

Mon, July 6: Movie @ library: Renoir, Pissarro, and Cezanne. Meet at the community room at the Montgomery County Library at 145 Whittington Street # A, Mount Ida, 3:30

Mon, July 20: How to Market Your Work by Alice Franke, Owner of Mosaic Madness in Hot Springs. Alice will also demo some mosaic techniques. 3:30

Wed August 5: Meeting, 1:00

Mon August 17: Demo TBA, 3:30

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

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pieces of art that represents the local artisans. Our plan is to simply be a good neighbor, a great host and to keep on creating.

Artists Tip: An artist has to train their eye to look for the subtleties; using white subjects is a wonderful training ground for this development.



Dale Chihuly

by Patti Presley

American glass sculptor Dale Chihuly is unique to the field of blowing glass. Growing up in Washington State, Dale was unsure what his professional future would hold. He enjoyed art and found himself learning to melt and fuse glass early in his education only to drop out of college to study art in Florence. Working for a short time in Italy, he ventured to Israel's Negev Desert to work in a commune. Exposure to the world of art, glass sculpture and Israel would one day bring Dale

full circle...little did he know. After his return to the United States, Dale earned two degrees, one in design and the other in sculpting. He also earned a Fulbright Fellowship to work in the Venini Factory in Italy.

Chihuly lost the sight in one eye as a result of a car accident in Europe in 1976, and dislocated his shoulder in an unrelated accident three years later. It appeared his glass blowing career might be at an end. He couldn't hold the glass blowing pipe or see well enough to continue getting the great results he had experienced up to this point. However, after hiring a team of others to do the blowing for him at his direction while standing at a distance, Chihuly was able to do what no other artistic glass blower had ever accomplished: hugely magnificent pieces of art that would be impossible for an individual artist to create on his/her own. Estimated sales by 2004 were well over \$29 million.

The artist returned to Israel in the year 2000 to create his own extension to a 3000 year old wall in Jerusalem using 24, 3'x6' blocks of Alaskan Arctic diamond ice weighing over 64 tons. The rapidly melting wall symbolized the dissolution of barriers between people. Engineers erected the sculpture with cranes and forklifts and devised a way for the melting ice to water surrounding fields. Chihuly called it a dream



come true. Today, Dale Chihuly is exhibited in over 200 galleries throughout the world, the largest permanent exhibit being in the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. In 2002 the museum inaugurated its new home at the Donald W. Reynolds Visual Arts Center with an exhibition of glass and drawings by Dale Chihuly. Bolstered by enormous public support, the museum purchased the entire exhibition, which includes works from the artist's best-known series and is anchored by the fifty-five foot Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick Memorial Tower.

Best Friends

by Patti Presley



Two of America's most celebrated icons, Ansel Adams and Georgia O'Keeffe were very close friends and traveled in the same circle of celebrated artists of their time. Both having a passion for the great outdoors in the Southwest, Adams and O'Keeffe met in 1929 in Taos, New Mexico and became lifelong friends afterward. Their works resulting from the love of natural forms, inspired by land, have been published and exhibited together many times over. About her most beloved place in the world, Ghost Ranch, O'Keeffe wrote "such a beautiful, untouched lonely feeling place, such a fine

part of what I call the 'Faraway'. It is a place I have painted before...even now I must do it again." Adams knew of her love of Ghost Ranch and her dedication to it. "The Southwest is O'Keeffe's land", he once said. "No one else has extricated from it such a style and color, or has revealed the essential forms so beautifully as she has in her paintings."

Georgia O'Keeffe began her career as an art teacher in Amarillo, Texas and went on to teach at what is now known as West Texas A&M University. She once quit painting fearing she "would never be able to distinguish herself as an artist". But deciding not to give painting up she began studying the Palo Duro Canyon, making its forms the subject of her work. The rest is the history of a brilliant, very distinguished artist. The "Mother of American Modernism".



Adams formed a profound love for Yosemite Valley. Testifying before Congress Adams said, "the Valley, to me, is always a sunrise, a glitter of green and golden wonder in a vast edifice of stone and space. I know of no sculpture, painting or music that exceeds the compelling spiritual command of the soaring shape of granite cliffs and dome, of painting of light on rock and forest, and of thunder and whispering of the falling, flowing waters. At first the colossal aspect may dominate; then we perceive and respond to the delicate and pervasive complex of nature". His testimony played a vital role in the success of designating Yosemite as a National Park in 1940.

Each artist was moved by Hawaii's natural beauty which had an enduring influence on their subsequent work.

Featured at Ouachita Artists June 25-August 27, Don Watson

Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio celebrates artist members by dedicating an entire back wall to their work.

June Program Meeting

by Martha Koelemay

On June 15, we were treated to a fascinating program on computerized photo enhancement by member Kelly Binion, a talented photographer whose work has hung in our gallery. Kelly brought her laptop and showed us two software programs that she uses, and she touched briefly on the myriad enhancements available to turn a simple photograph into a real work of art. She began with showing procedures for getting photos from the camera or phone into the computer, then ran through the various options each program offers. There is a free program called Picasa which does things like crop, remove "redeye," adjust color and lighting, straighten, and other techniques to "clean up" an image. The low-cost and well-known Adobe Photoshop can do a lot more, including "reverse color" (basically produce a negative of a color photo) and other special effects including applying a grainy-type look, sepia tone, and producing a water-color effect. There are printers available that can print on canvas or watercolor paper, and using these special techniques, a photo can be made to look like a painting. All of us have heard the term "Photoshop," but this writer for one was not sure just what that meant, and it certainly was impressive! Thanks to Kelly for an excellent and educational program.

