

VAST ARTS

visual arts society
of texas

VISION

October 2006

■ **October 5, 2006**

Mark J. Merki - Tax Issues

Our presenter for October is Mark J. Merki, a certified public accountant, who will speak on tax issues concerning artists. Topics include: how the IRS distinguishes a hobby from a business and the tax consequences of each category; information artists should have to make sure their taxes are prepared properly; and tax consequences for the artist and business client in different scenarios of art exchanges when the artist sells or leases to a business.

Merki is a long-time resident of Denton. Following graduation from high school in 1976, he worked with his brother at his Volkswagen repair shop called the Budget Bugg. He then attended the University of North Texas and received both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree with specializations in Accounting and Tax. Merki and his wife, who is a principal at Northwest ISD, have two children.

Merki is currently President of the firm he and his partner established in 1993. The firm, Merki & Associates, specializes in small business accounting, tax compliance, individual taxes, and consulting.

Merki is a member of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and is licensed by the Texas State Board of Accountancy. He serves on boards of the City of Denton Historical Landmark Commission, Denton Country Club, Fairhaven Retirement Home, and the DISD Bond Review Committee.

Carmen Underwood

2007 Calendars Ready to Sell!

We are so excited about this year's calendar for several reasons. The art, as always, is excellent. We have a new format this year – cards in a CD case that opens up to form a standing holder for the monthly cards. We can make more money per calendar and sell it for less. The cost is \$10 *including* tax.

We will have them ready to sell at the October 5th meeting, so bring your checkbook and stock up on wonderful Christmas gifts. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please let me if you would like to buy some at iwscobie@hotmail.com or 940-566-5507.

We invite you to patronize the advertisers which appear on both sides of each month. We are very grateful to these businesses for supporting VAST's fundraising calendar

The opening of a month-long exhibition of the original calendar art work will take place November 17 at Wine Squared on the north side of the Denton Square. Join us from 6 - 8 pm; you will have an opportunity to try their wonderful wine by the glass, great beers, or soft drinks plus delicious hors d'oeuvres. Mark your calendars!

Ingrid Scobie

■ *In this issue*

- VAST Visioning Meeting
- 2nd Annual Arts Leaders Forum
- 3rd Annual Artist Studio Tour
- Focus on Member Earnest Benton, Jr.



Cathy Mitchell



Darla Bostick



Carin E. Horn

Mark Your Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| October 1, 2-4 pm | VAST's 1st Annual 125-Mile Visual Arts Exhibition; Opening reception at Banter |
| October 7 | 2nd Annual Arts Leaders Forum, SOVA |
| October 20, 9-11:30 am | VAST Visioning Meeting, CVA |

■ How Do You Envision the Future of VAST?

The VAST Visioning meeting directed by goal-setting consultant Cathy Liska, will be on Friday, October 20, from 9 - 11:30 am, in the Center for the Visual Arts. I urge each of you to come to the meeting and voice your opinions. The Executive Board needs to know how you view VAST and its current and future projects/initiatives; we need to get a sense of your vision for the future of VAST.

Here are some questions you might consider:

- How do you feel about the acquisition of a VAST building that would house an office, a gallery, and teaching studios?
- Is VAST meeting your development needs as an artist? What do you find successful? How can we improve?
- What is your opinion of our exhibition offerings/schedule?
- How do you feel about alternate sites (such as Banter) as exhibition locations?
- Should we develop and deliver an educational project in lower income neighborhoods? Would you be willing to help?
- Are you satisfied with our current activities? Are there any you would eliminate or add?

This is a very vital opportunity to help VAST develop its short- and long-term goals. Please complete the brief questionnaire sent to you by email in early September and return it directly to Cathy.

Please – call me 940-387-7559 or email lynne.cagle@verizon.net – with any questions. Your input is vital to our future.

Lynne Cagle

125-Mile Exhibition Opening October 1, 2-4 pm

Come and celebrate our revived Regional Exhibition! As many of you know our previous spring show progressed into a national exhibition. The absence of a local artist's venue has been filled by this intimate, diverse, and "soulful" show. Mark Smith, painter and professor of art at Austin College, chose 9 award winners: Best of Show, 4 Category Awards (one in each category), and 4 Merit Awards – a total of \$1300 cash. The work is showing through October 30th at Banter, 219 W. Oak St., and already we have received marvelous comments.

We have a great mix of VAST members, some new and some long-time members, non-members who participated in our former spring show, and some artists totally new to a VAST exhibition. So, come and enjoy the wine, snacks, and great conversation.

Lynne Cagle and Amber O'Dell

VAST OFFICERS 2006-2007

EXECUTIVE BOARD (elected)

President	Lynne Cagle	940-387-7559 lynne.cagle@verizon.net
First Vice-President	Carmen Underwood	972-292-2393 tjunderwood@texoma.net
Second Vice-President	Thom Anderson	CRM2193@bn.com
Secretary	Barbara Miller	940-383-0744 barblmiller2@charter.net
Treasurer	Mary Jo Armstrong	940-321-1179 cogalt@charter.net
Past President	Jo Williams	940-383-1092 texjo@msn.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (appointed)

Arts & Jazz Festival Chair	Earnest Benton, Jr.	817-658-1256 ernie@strictlyearnest.com
Calendar Chair	Amy Schnoll-Gritz	940-498-1208 artsbyamy@aol.com
Historian	Robin W. Butt	940-382-4154 ptar12a@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Rebecca Hines	940-387-0170 rjhines1921@aol.com
Members Exhibition Chair	Lacie Smith	214-564-1644 laciesmith@judgefite.com
National Exhibiton Chair	Mark Collop	214-801-9180 Macjr41@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Devon Nowlin	817-454-4298 devonpaiges@charter.net
125-Mile Exhibition Co-Chairs	Lynne Cagle Amber O'Dell	940-387-7559 lynne.cagle@verizon.net 940-595-6363 SpiralingRed1@aim.com
Parliamentarian	Earnest Benton, Jr.	817-658-1256 ernie@strictlyearnest.com
Photographer	Gabriel Cobos	940-230-5426 gabriel.cobos@mac.com
Studio Tour Chair	Kate McCullagh	972-948-0391 draogonart81@yahoo.com
Sunshine/Phone Chair	June Dalton	940-383-3216
Yearbook Editor	Lynne Cagle	940-387-7559
Hospitality Chair	Donna Kutlus	940-383-8896

Open Positions

Volunteer Coordinator, Nominating Chair

Staff 2006-2007

Executive Director: Ingrid W. Scobie	iwscobie@hotmail.com	940-566-5507
Webmaster: Billie Jean Kam	billiejean@k-a-studio.com	940-367-8946
Summer Intern: Garrett Chandler	gwchandler@hotmail.com	

Interested in Joining? Visit us on the web!
www.VASTarts.org

Artist Spotlight: September Artist of the Month



Lisa Daniels

Bentleys at Brae Cottage
watercolor, 29"x 36"

"This painting was done for the Rolls-Royce Owners Club. Included in the painting are 1939 and 1952 Bentleys; Brae Cottage was once lived in by Henry Royce."

Second place winner: Mary Ann Byerly

Spiritual Journeys and Encounters – Extension

VAST members who are planning to exhibit a painting in *Spiritual Journeys and Encounters* at the Trinity Presbyterian Church should note that the date for take-in and hanging has been moved to **October 21st**. This should be good news for those of you who have thought about participating but just haven't gotten started. You can refer to Summer 2006 newsletter for more details or contact June Impson at 940-566-1447 bauhaus@airmail.net if you have questions.

VAST 2006 Artists Studio Tour In Full Gear – Need Volunteers!

The VAST 2006 3rd Annual Artists Studio Tour will be held on Saturday, November 4th, from 10 am to 5 pm. It is a fundraiser for VAST so we hope that once again we will have a great turnout and a sunny day. We have an exciting and diverse lineup of artists that includes both TWU and UNT faculty and community-based artists. One studio is in Argyle, the rest are in Denton.

The following professional artists will be on the tour: Metalsmith Harlan Butt, Painter Robin Butt (VAST member), Glass Blowers Eric and Cheryl Hansen (VAST members), Painter Don Radke, Mixed Media Artist Gary Washmon, Painter Laurie Weller, Painter Jo Williams (VAST member), and the School of Visual Arts, UNT, Fibers Studio and Printmaking Studio. VAST members have traditionally loved going on the tour as well as helping out. Children are welcome. Bring your neighbors and friends. Tickets are \$10 for adults (including VAST members) and \$5 for students and children.

We still have a need for volunteers. Please contact me via email at kate@katescanvas.com or 972-948-0391. Thank you and we hope to see you out there this year!

Kate McCullagh, Tour Chair

2006-2007 Monthly Programs

November 2, 2006	Brent Phelps - Photography
December 7, 2006	Barbara Oliver Hartman - Fibers & Quilting
January 4, 2007	Eric Hansen - Glass Blowing
February 1, 2007	Dianne Hicks - Watermedia/Handmade Papers
March 1, 2007	Linda McCall - Oil
April 5, 2007	Beverly Montgomery - Watercolor
May 3, 2007	Craig Nance - Faux Finishes

Regular meetings are usually held at 7:00 pm at the Center for the Visual Arts, 400 East Hickory, Denton, TX.

Focus on Member Earnest Benton, Jr.



Earnest "Ernie" Benton, Jr. is one of the happiest people I have met. He is at a point in his life where he can not only create his art work but can also give back to the world some of his time, energy, ideas, and occasionally even his art work.

A native of Chicago, Ernie feels he has been blessed in many ways: by his early and continuing interest in art, by a wonderful mother who supported and encouraged him in

whatever he did, and today, by a wife who works in the background to help his art career by marketing, budgeting, and designing his web site. Together, they create two calendars each year.

Besides living in Chicago, Ernie also lived in the East near the Washington, DC area. He was quite active in the arts there, but came to Texas to be with his wife. They now live in Justin. Ernie is basically self-taught, having started drawing when very young. During his school years, he participated in art activities including school plays, art contests, exhibits, and competitions. As the years went by, he continued to train himself by observing other art and by doing his own. He has created numerous paintings in acrylic and also enjoys working in pastels. His strong, colorful work is sometimes realistic and sometimes abstracted. Quite often he paints at night in his home studio.

Ernie says of his creative process, "I am inspired by passion, beauty, and the abstracts and intangibles of music, thought, form and figure. I love to create paintings to share my visions with the world so that just for a moment the viewer becomes a part of my story. My hope is that all who view my work will have a mood-changing experience that takes them on a short journey to peace, beauty, well-being, and serenity. The creative process of putting line and form on canvas or paper will always be an essential part of my life."



I will not list all of the art organizations and charity groups that benefit from Ernie's membership and support. They are many. He has only been a member of VAST for a couple of years, but has been an active from the start. He participates in the monthly art shows; this year he is Arts and Jazz Fest Chair and will be the club Parliamentarian for a second year. He seems untiring in his efforts to create and promote art. You can see his art and a lot more about him by checking out his website, www.strictlyearnest.com. I think we could all learn something from Ernie.

Fran White Shurtleff

Members Doing Great Things

Dave Maxwell's painting *Henry's Pride and Joy* was accepted in the National Watercolor Society's 86th Annual Exhibition where he met the qualifications for Signature Membership in that Society. **Darla Bostick's** exhibition *First Impressions of China* can be seen at Highlands Cafe in Dallas, Audelia and Walnut Hill in the White Rock Lake area through November. Her piece *Summer Palace, Beijing* won an award in the VAST Members Exhibition this summer. **Devon Nowlin** is showing in *11: Faculty and Staff* at Tarrant County College Southeast Campus through October 19. **Deanna Wood** has work in a group show at Exploding Head Gallery in Sacramento, California, October 5 - 28th.

Rob Erdle UNT Painting Award

VAST's Executive Board voted in July to contribute \$500 to the Rob Erdle Watercolor Painting Award Fund established within the School of Visual Arts, University of North Texas, where Rob is a Regents Professor. So many members have benefited from Rob's instruction and guidance: as UNT students, as workshop students and critique group members, and as part of a Watercolor Worldwide trip to one of many places from Japan and China to the American West, Mexico, and Europe.

The check was delivered on September 9 to Dean Robert Milnes. We learned at that time that our donation put the award over the top for it to become an endowed award! Further contributions from individuals are, of course, welcome. Please send checks to the fund at School of Visual Arts, UNT, PO Box 305100, Denton, 76202.

VAST / Denton Community Theater Partnership

Denton Community Theatre has graciously allowed me to pursue a thought I had one day (a rarity I assure you). The idea is to have local artists create an original work based on each of DCT's mainstage shows. The works will be displayed in the Campus Theatre lobby for the duration of the show, and silently auctioned. Half of the proceeds will go to the artist (famished most likely), and the other half to the Campus Theatre.

I am now using my connections with VAST to recruit artists for their interpretations of each of our mainstage shows. I hope this will:

- Introduce new and beautiful art to DCT's lobby
- Create a closer bond between the visual arts and theatre arts
- Put a little cash in some talented artists pockets, and
- Help pay for some of the needs of the Campus theatre

Please contact me 940-484-5110 or 382-7014 if you are interested in partnering with DCT.

Here are the upcoming shows:

The Mousetrap, October 27-November 5, 2006

Tartuffe, January 12-21, 2007

Crowns, February 9-18, 2007

Laramie Project, May 18-27, 2007

The Nerd, June 22-July 1, 2007

Radio Gals, August 10-19, 2007

Mike Strecher

Empty Bowls

The Denton Empty Bowls fundraising event will be held on Saturday, October 28 from 11:30 to 1:30 at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, located at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 300 West Oak Street in Denton. Tickets are \$15 each and will be on sale early in October at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church (940-387-1984). Tickets will also be available the day of the event (at the door) until they are sold out. Homemade soup will be provided and Ravelin Bakery will supply the bread.

We are currently winding down the bowl-making phase of our project and are swiftly moving into the organizational/solicitation phase. We would appreciate any bowls or other art that members care to donate. Last year we raised \$890 (25% of the event proceeds) during our silent auction which was also held the day of the fundraiser. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and Denton Community Food Center.

Art Leaders Forum, Saturday, October 7

VAST is cosponsoring, along with ArtGroupsDFW, the Second Annual Art Leaders Forum on October 7, 8:30 am – 3 pm, at the School of Visual Arts, University of North Texas. This event will provide an opportunity to network with numerous nonprofit artist groups in the North Texas area. SOVA is located at Mulberry and Welch across from HMS Art and Frame Shop.

The main program is featured below. Lunch will be at Banter, 219 West Oak Street, Denton. Please encourage any other visual arts non-profits, including galleries that you are involved in, to send at least one representative. For questions or more information contact Lynne Cagle, lynne.cagle@verizon.net or Ingrid Scobie, iwscobie@hotmail.com

The Synergistic Effect: VAST/Denton Partnerships

Your visual arts organization is invited to the
2nd Annual Art Leaders Forum

For DFW Visual Arts Nonprofits

Co-Sponsored by ArtGroups DFW and the Visual Arts Society of Texas (VAST), Denton

Additional Information: ArtGroupsDFW.org

RSVP by October 1, [Ingrid Scobie, iwscobie@hotmail.com](mailto:Ingrid.Scobie@iwscoobie.com)

Saturday, October 7, 8:30am-3:00pm

School of Visual Arts (SOVA), University of North Texas

Program

8:30

Hands-on Workshop, Room 233

artsgroupdfw.com

Sharon Giles, Webmaster

9:15

Coffee Break, Room 101

9:30

Speakers/Discussion, Room 101

Margaret Chalfant, Executive Director, Greater Denton Arts Council

John Weinkein, Program Director of the Arts, and Chair, Department of Art, Texas Woman's University

Robert Milnes, Dean, School of Visual Arts, University of North Texas

12:30

Lunch (Dutch Treat)

Banter, 219 W. Oak Street

VAST 1st Annual 125-Mile Exhibition on display

2:00

Gallery Tour

GDAC Meadows Gallery

Texas Woman's University East and West Galleries

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Former, long-time NTAAL (VAST) member, **Ann Dane**, passed away on September 23, 2006. Ann was a faithful volunteer for many years and participated annually in our Santa’s Arts and Crafts Sale showing her fine ceramic creations.

Carol H. Fairlie Workshop January 9-11, 2007

Carol H. Fairlie is an Associate Professor of Art at Sul Ross State University where she teaches watercolor, oil painting, drawing, figure drawing, and printmaking. She studied painting for four years at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, received her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Texas Woman’s University, and her Master’s of Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts at the University of North Texas.

Nationally known, Fairlie has had numerous solo exhibitions and has shown her work in many juried national exhibitions including Watercolor USA, the National Watercolor Society, the Philadelphia Watercolor Society, and the Arizona Aqueous. She was recently on the Board of Directors for the National Watercolor Society as Newsletter Editor and holds signature status in the Philadelphia Watercolor Society. Recently she received an honored Alumni Award from the University of North Texas, School of Visual Arts. She has extensive experience as a juror of exhibitions.

Her work is represented privately in the USA, Mexico, Japan, and the Czech Republic and included in the collection of Merrill Lynch Corporation, Tetra Pak Corporation, the Mary Kay Family, Sul Ross State University, and the Houston Oil Company. Please be sure to read Carol’s description of her workshop,

Letter From the President

Greetings VAST friends!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the September meeting – what a delightful start to our year!

As you can see from this month’s issue of *Vision*, fall is a busy season for VAST. The 125-Mile Exhibition opening, 2nd Annual Art Leaders Forum, VAST Visioning Meeting, and 3rd Annual Studio Tour are occurring within the next five weeks. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer and many tasks to be completed to ensure a series of successful events. The VAST 2007 Calendar and 2006-2007 Member Yearbook are in press and will be available at the October meeting. September has been filled with planning meetings and print deadlines.

In the midst of these meetings, I received an email from a very dear friend reminding me to “stop and smell the roses” once in a while to promote good mental and physical health. I took my friend’s email quite literally one day this week and stopped working to meander through my rose garden. What a positive difference that brief interlude made on the rest of my day and the rest of my week!

Sarah Bernhardt once said, “Life begets life. Energy creates energy. It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich.” There are innumerable opportunities for VAST members to “become rich” this fall; I encourage you to be actively involved in the fabulous activities planned. I also encourage you to stop and smell your roses so that you are spending from the overflow of your energy rather than from the reserves. I am cutting this month’s letter short in order to lead by example; my roses need smelling this morning. This coming week and month will require tremendous amounts of energy, so I need to plan ahead.

At our October meeting, Mark Merki joins us to discuss tax issues concerning artists: something we all NEED to know about. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,

“Exploring Reflections: The art of abstracting glass reflections into hyper-realistic compositions,” at the sign-up table at the VAST October 5 meeting. To view her work, please visit her website: www.faculty.sulross.edu/fairlie/gallery.htm.

The three-day workshop will take place January 9, 10, 11, 2007 (Tuesday-Thursday) from 9 am - 4 pm (one hour lunch) at the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton. The cost is \$150 for VAST members. A deposit of \$50 will secure a place. The remainder of the fee is due December 7, 2006. Please refer to page 4 of the September 2005 *Vision* or go online for the Workshop Policy. Make checks payable to VAST and include “Carol Fairlie Workshop” in the note area of your check. Send checks to Mary Jo Armstrong, VAST Treasurer, PO Box 1281, Denton, TX 76202 or bring them to the meeting on October 5. For more information, you may contact me at 972-292-2393.



Carmen Underwood

■ Calls for Entries

39th Annual Visual Arts Exhibition, VAST. Slide or digital entries accepted; \$30 members, \$35 non-members for 3 entries. **Deadline December 1.** Juror Karen Kunc. Best of Show \$1000, total awards and merchandise, \$10,000+. Exhibition dates April 26 - May 31. For more information including prospectus, see www.VASTarts.org.

Texas Biennial 2007, exhibited concurrently in four Austin venues. \$30 for 5 entries, **Deadline October 5.** Exhibition dates March 1 - April 15. Visit www.texasbiennial.com for prospectus.

The Hunting Art Prize gives established, emerging, and amateur artists in Texas an opportunity to vie for a \$50,000 prize. Artists must sign up using the electronic form at www.huntingartprize.com/signup.html and must mail one slide of a single two-dimensional piece of work (excluding photography) for consideration to The Hunting Art Prize, 5535 Memorial Dr., Suite F462, Houston, TX 77007. **Postmarked deadline November 17.** For further information, visit www.hunting.plc.uk.

31st Annual Transparent Watercolor Society of America Competition, Elmhurst IL. Juror Tom Francesconi, NWS, TWSA. \$10,000 awards, \$30 non-member fee for 2 entries. **Deadline November 1** Exhibition dates March 10 - July 29. For prospectus and further information, visit www.watercolors.org.

Please send information you wish to have included in *Vision* by the 15th of each month to: Devon Nowlin, 228 Nursery Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76114, or email: devonpaiges@charter.net.

Vision is published the last Monday before the last Thursday of each month, September through May.

■ Art Around Town

Center for the Visual Arts

Meadows Gallery
Renaissance and Baroque Paintings from the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Collection
Through October 26

East Gallery
SOVA.intersektion.2006
Through October 15

Banter

VAST's *1st Annual 125-Mile Visual Arts Exhibition*
October 1 - 30, Opening reception October 1, 2-4 pm

UNT SOVA

Texas Fashion Collection Gallery, University Center of Dallas
1901 Main Street, Dallas, TX
Opening September 21, 2006

TWU's East and West Gallery

TWU Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition
October 3 - 27. Reception October 3, 4:30-6:30 pm

DMA

The Art of Richard Tuttle
Through October 8

Crow Collection of Asian Art

The Mystical Arts of Tibet
October 7 - 14. Opening ceremony October 7, 10:30 am; RSVP required

Amon Carter Museum

Regarding the Land: Robert Glenn Ketchum and the Legacy of Eliot Porter,
September 16 - January 7

Kimbell Art Museum

Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh, Through December 31

Fort Worth Community Art Center

Preservation is the Art of the City

Visual Arts Coalition of Dallas

Southwestern Watercolor Society
October 4 - 28. Reception October 8, 2-4 pm

Spring Show 2007 Prospectuses Ready
Be on the look-out for the prospectuses for next year's national exhibition. This year, for the first time, we will be accepting both slide and digital images. Internationally-known printmaker Karen Kunc, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is our juror. The deadline this year is **December 1**, so plan ahead!!

Mark Merki
Tax Preparation
October 5, 2006
\$50 Voertman's Door Prize

P.O. Box 1281
Denton, Texas 76202
www.VASTarts.org