

December 2008

## Exciting December events at The Art League...

December 2008 will be a busy time at The Art League. During the first week of December we will celebrate the **relaunch of Springwater Studios** at The Art League during **ArtFest**, hold our **Annual Holiday Pottery and Ceramic Sale**, and hold a **retrospective of Pat Barron's stunning artwork**. In our Gallery, you can view Carlos Beltran Baldiviezo's solo artist exhibit, "**Virtue, Sin, and the Balance Within**," a series of fourteen ceramic sculptures depicting the seven sins and seven virtues. You can also catch our **Holiday Ornament Collection**, and purchase one of a kind handmade ornaments created by our talented artists, and view the **December All-Media Show** and the "**Children's Hour**" Bin Gallery Show. **Registration** is still open in the School for the Winter Term (which begins January 12), and many workshops are running during the month of December to provide a much needed break from holiday overindulgences....



By Pat Barron

## **ArtFest: Fiber & Form Celebration/Springwater Relaunch, Holiday Ceramic Sale, and Pat Barron Retrospective**

### **ArtFest: Springwater Relaunch**

Join us Friday, December 5, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, at The Art League's Madison Annex (enter at 808 N. Fairfax Street), for ArtFest as we celebrate the grand relaunch of Springwater Studios at The Art League, our enhanced fiber arts department offering traditional and contemporary fiber arts classes. Tour our newly renovated and expanded Madison Annex, where our jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, photography, silkscreen, stained glass, mosaic and fiber arts classes are taught. Enjoy light refreshments and lively music while viewing an exhibit of artwork by Art League instructors, that exemplifies the exciting, hands-on classes taught at our Madison Annex. Rounding out the evening will be a series of professional artist demonstrations in the various media taught at our Madison space.

**Holiday Ceramic Sale** From functional to freeform, one of a kind ceramic vessels and sculptures created by students and associates of the Art League ceramics department will be for sale December 5 – 7 at the Madison Annex. Meet the artists and give unique works this holiday season while supporting a local nonprofit and a community of artists. Artworks for sale will fit all budgets. Cash and check only. Friday, December 5, 12:00 noon – 9:00 pm; Saturday, December 6, 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sunday, December 7, 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. Enter at 305 Madison Street.



### **Pat Barron Retrospective: a Sale of Art League Instructor Pat Barron's Colored Pencil Drawings, Prints, Oil Paintings, & Mixed Media Works**

The colorful, engaging, and thought-provoking artwork of Pat Barron; long-term Torpedo Factory artist, Art League instructor, and Board Member of The Washington Metro Chapter of the Colored Pencil Society of America Inc., will be on exclusive exhibit December 4–6. The Art League is proud to present this weekend program in support of Pat, her artistic career, and her contributions to the visual arts community. Don't miss this opportunity to view Pat Barron's art and enhance your art collection. Appropriate for many tastes and budgets.

Opening reception, Thursday, December 4, 6:00–9:00 pm. Hours: Friday, December 5, 10:00 am–9:00 pm, and Saturday, December 6, 10:00 am–6:00 pm at 810 N. Fairfax Street, next to The Art League's Madison Annex/ Springwater Fiber Arts Department. Cash and check accepted.

## December Gallery Shows

### "Virtue, Sin, and the Balance Within"

Ceramic artist Carlos Beltran Baldiviezo explores the ancient tradition of balancing the tension between the Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Heavenly Virtues in his solo artist exhibit, "Virtue, Sin, and the Balance Within," at The Art League Gallery, December 4, 2008 – January 5, 2009.

Pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, and sloth are considered the Seven Deadly Sins to spiritual growth and wellbeing. Practicing the Seven Heavenly Virtues of humility, kindness, abstinence, chastity, patience, charity, and diligence supposedly will protect ones self against the temptations of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Each of the seven pairs of fourteen ceramic sculptures embodies a Sin and its corresponding Virtue. "I've approached portraying the theme from a variety of angles." Some pieces are whimsical and playful, others serious and stoic, some humorous, obvious, or elusive.

"Each day, we are confronted with our relationships to these sins and virtues. Do we find ourselves influenced by one more than another? Do we consciously or unconsciously seek a healthy balance, or are we dominated by one set of these highly charged emotions?"

Beltran hopes that this exhibit allows viewers to engage in a thoughtful and reflective experience with each piece – giving the audience an opportunity to contemplate where they fall on the spectrum of "Virtue, Sin, and the Balance Within."



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## December All-Media Show

### Juror, Fritz Briggs

Frederic S. (Fritz) Briggs teaches at the Schuler School of Fine Arts in Baltimore, MD as well as the historic Hampton Mansion and other venues throughout the city of Baltimore. Briggs was born in the home of his grandfather, Hans Schuler Sr., a well-known sculptor and founder of the Schuler School of Fine Arts. Briggs attended Frostburg State College, graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a BFA degree. After serving two years as an illustrator for the Department of Social Sciences at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he began teaching watercolor at the Schuler School.

In 1968, Briggs was elected to the coveted American Watercolor Society, and is an active member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society where he has twice been president. In 1973, he had the distinction of being elected to the Salmagundi Club in New York and is also a member of the Charcoal Club of Maryland.

## December Bin Gallery, The Children's Hour

This December we will be providing a special area on the wall for pieces that relate to childhood or would be appropriate for a child's room. Subjects might include fairy tales, toys and whimsical images. Artists are not limited to this theme.

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## Gallery Notes

### Open Critique for Artists

Join Avis Fleming, Art League instructor, for an open group critique on Wednesday, December 10, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. You may bring in two pieces for critique. Fleming has been a member of The Art League since 1988. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College and studied graphic arts and illustration at the Pratt Institute. She currently teaches figure drawing and sketchbook drawing at The Art League. Please call the gallery at 703-683-1780 or e-mail [roseo@theartleague.org](mailto:roseo@theartleague.org) to register. There is no charge for this event but only a limited number may attend.

### Framing Guidelines

Recently there have been a number of pieces that have been submitted for jurying that have not met The Art League's framing requirements. When work does not conform to our requirements it cannot be hung. If the juror accepts pieces that don't have proper frames we will call the artist to come in and replace the frame, otherwise we cannot hang the work. If the artist has special hanging requirements he/she must meet with the Gallery Director prior to receiving for approval. Please pick up a copy of our new "Framing Requirements and Guidelines" from the gallery or e-mail [roseo@theartleague.org](mailto:roseo@theartleague.org) and request a copy.

## **Your Board at Work**

### **We Hear You! Huge Survey Turn-out**

On behalf of the Board and the staff, I thank you for participating in our recent on-line survey. About 1500 of you – students, members, instructors – responded, which is an astonishingly high number. It shows that we are fortunate to have such an engaged and vocal audience.

Here's a quick read on the breakdown of participants:

- Students (not currently members) = 1010
- Student-Members = 273
- Members = 180
- Instructor-Members = 24
- Instructors = 38

For a long survey, this is a great turnout. We especially appreciate that you took the time to give us many thoughtful, even lengthy, comments. We will be studying and acting on your recommendations and ideas.

A few highlights:

- Why students take classes at The Art League – the top three reasons were (1) personal enrichment and creative outlet, (2) training to become a more accomplished artist, and (3) to learn from specific instructors.
- What members value about The Art League – gallery exhibiting opportunities, the Art League classes, and the community of artists.
- What instructors value about teaching at The Art League – the quality of the students, the opportunity to share their knowledge, and being part of The Art League.
- Classroom concerns – many mentioned easels, lighting and maintenance.
- What would inspire you to make a donation to The Art League - many of you said, "Ask me" and "Give me more information." We will do this.

Did you know The Art League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, meaning that we are an educational and charitable organization? And that we rent the facilities we use? Like many nonprofits, we are always challenged to balance our budget while providing high-quality services. The cost of classroom maintenance and equipment, for example, has to be balanced with keeping our class tuition affordable. With tough financial times affecting all of us, this challenge will be with us for some time to come.

What's next? The Board will meet for a Strategic Planning retreat in December that will draw heavily on these survey results. And we plan to report back to you regularly with more highlights as well as news on how we are acting on your responses and how you can help.

Our Board President, Elly Brtva, invites you to contact her at [brtvae@aol.com](mailto:brtvae@aol.com) anytime if you have specific concerns or issues. We are open to hearing from you all year round.

Linda Maldonado, Second Vice President

### **Message from Kathleen Bishop, First Vice President**

The twelfth month is often a time to reflect on the past year and what a year this has been! Politically and financially it was historic for this country. Locally, it's been a year of accomplishments for The Art League.

The e-Tidings you are reading debuted this year. Not only is it beautiful to look at, it has enabled us to realize huge savings in postage and printing...a truly 'green' product!

On December 5, an evening reception will re-launch the fiber program in the former Springwater space at Madison Street. This renovated space will expand our mission, enable us to offer more classes and workshops as well as handle overflow demand.

By now you should have received the mailing for our benefactor's campaign. If it is sitting in a pile of unopened mail or beneath a stack of holiday cards, I hope you'll take a moment to read it and respond. We, like every non-profit, are operating within an increasingly tight budget, reduced grant awards and a declining economy. To continue to offer terrific, affordable classes with first rate faculty we'd welcome your financial investment in The Art League. Don't forget our Art League CFC # is: 65520.

If you can't find the mailing, don't worry, you can simply scroll to the bottom of e-Tidings and click on how to become a benefactor. That will take you right to the donation page. Fill in the blanks and you are done!

This holiday I am blessed with everything I need and want. Rather than direct my daughters to my Amazon wish list, this year I will ask them to go to The Art League web page and donate a gift to The Art League for me. That gift will not only support the great work of The Art League, it is also a gift to the little SOHO girl who declared on the first session October 16, "This is the best day of my life!"

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### **42nd Annual Patrons' Show Fundraiser**

The Patrons' Show is The Art League's biggest fundraising event of the year. It affords the public an opportunity to acquire quality works of fine art while supporting a local nonprofit and a community of artists.

We ask each member to donate artwork for this important fundraiser. The gallery will accept donations of artwork at anytime. For each work of art donated valued at \$175 or more, we are able to sell an additional \$175 ticket to the event. We usually receive more than 500 works of art, making this an exciting event for our ticket holders, our artists, and The Art League! Artists may donate any number of framed pieces, and artists who donated two or more framed pieces may donate as many additional unframed works as they like in which we will frame for you.



This is an excellent opportunity to have your work seen by thousands of captive visitors. Last years Patrons' Show "flickr" site alone has had over 14,000 hits!

We need as many volunteers as possible to pull off this huge event. This show is immensely popular and draws a large crowd year after year. Please contact the gallery if you are interested in volunteering.

#### **Dates to remember:**

**Tickets go on sale:** Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 10:00 am

**Receiving Dates:** February 2 & 3, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (Work can also be delivered throughout January)

**Dates of show:** February 4 – 15, 2009

**Late hours for viewing:** Thursday, February 5, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Wednesday, February 11, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Thursday, February 12, 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

**Drawing:** Sunday, February 15, 5:00 pm

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### **January All-Media Show, "Let There Be Light"**

This broadly themed exhibit will focus on how artists use contrast, chiaroscuro, highlights, reflections and other techniques to bring emphasis and emotion to their subjects.

#### **Juror, Cynthia Connolly, Director Elipse Arts Center in Arlington**

Cynthia Connolly's photography has been exhibited all over the world. She has received numerous awards for her work. She has a BFA in Graphic Design from the Corcoran School of Art. Connolly has curated many exhibits at the Elipse Center in Arlington and throughout the Washington, DC region. She is conducting a class this fall in Madrid, Spain titled, "How to take photographs of Nothing." Her work can be viewed at, [www.cynthiaconnolly.com](http://www.cynthiaconnolly.com)

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### **November "LARGE WORKS" Juror's Dialogue and Award Winners**

"A large work has to carry itself from a distance," stated "LARGE WORKS" juror Glenn Perry. "A piece has to have a rhythm, synergy, and be cohesive in order to succeed. The technical aspects that come together to create a strong composition have to be harmonious... if there isn't that musical quality then the work is not successful." The full article is available online and in the gallery.

**Award Winners:** Edward J. Reed, Raka Bose Saha, Michele Hoben, Jeanne Collin Keys, Christine Lashley, Karen Schmitz, and C. Charles Wang.

## November "small works" Juror's Dialogue and Award Winners

"In a small format, the composition becomes the dominant element." In addition to looking for an awareness of composition, juror Dr. Susan Frank, Assistant Curator at The Phillips Collection, wanted to see an inventive use of palette, whether in color or black and white, and a strong command of materials. "I was looking for something a little different – a fresh take on a traditional subject such as still life, figure, landscape. I have a particular fondness for still life. I am interested to see how an artist can take a traditional subject like still life and make it new and interesting." The full article is available online and in the gallery.



By Jill Banks

**Award Winners:** Jill Banks, Pamela Clifford, Megan Coyle, Mak Dehejia, Mary Deleyiannis, Mari De Maris, Diana Derby, Vicki Kirby, Larinda Lee, Jude Nagel, Bobbi Prignano, Peter Reynolds, Pamela Richmond, Barrie Ripin, Maria Somogyi, Ann Thomson, H. Trainor-Roden, Maria Valle-Riestra, Patti Vincent, Carolyn Witschonke.

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## Art in City Hall Awards

We received 250 entries of artwork for the new Art in City Hall exhibit. Juror, Beth Baldwin, Art Bank coordinator for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, selected 96 works that are now on display in the Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street. The awards will be presented at a reception on Tuesday, December 9 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm.

**The Art League Award:** Marge Holtz

**Del Ray Artisans Award:** Jennifer Lea Hall

**Torpedo Factory Artists Award:** Karen Thuermer

**Alexandria Commission for the Arts Award:** Jane Johnson

**Award of Merit:** Lynn Russillo

**Honorable Mention:** Neyla Arnas, Megan Coyle, Marie-Helene Grabman, Peter Kozloski, Carol Lopatin, Luigi Mancini, Jane McElvany-Coonce, Patrick O'Brien

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## School News

### Back to School

When you think about your holiday shopping this year, consider the gift of an art class. It's a gift that gives many times over, bringing enjoyment and knowledge for the entire winter season. Registration began November 10 in the school. The Winter Term starts on January 12. Watch our website for listings of the many new fiber classes we are adding to our curriculum. For the first time in many years we are pleased to offer a calligraphy class on a weekday. We are also looking forward to a variety of workshops happening this December. Please check out our catalog/website for details as there are plenty of spaces still available.

### Here's a sampling:

The Language of Line Drawing Workshop with Lisa Semerad, December 6-7 & 13-14, \$340

Plan First, Then Paint with Peter Ulrich, December 13 & 14, \$170

Gouache Exploration: Landscape, Still Life, & Figure with Priscilla Treacy, December 2-5, \$340

Figure Sculpture with Paul Lucchesi, December 1-4, \$380

Plaster Casting & Mold Making with Nick Xhiku, December 6 -7, \$185

Linear Perspective with Patrick Kirwin December, 13 &14, \$170

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## 2009 Travel Workshops

### Tiptoe Through the Tulips: Holland in the Spring with Marsha Staiger

April 13 - 21, 2009

#### A museum exploration / mixed media workshop

Join Marsha Staiger and welcome Spring with tulip time in Holland. A museum exploration, mixed media workshop. Explore the sights and museums of Amsterdam, and interpret with graphite and color. On the agenda are visits to the Van Gogh Museum, the Rijksmuseum, Keukenhof Gardens, the windmills, Ann Frank's House, Haarlem and Zandfort among others. Workshop participants will exhibit their art pieces at the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's "Passionate Voice" Concert, May 2, 2009.

## **John Singer Sargent: Through the Eyes of the Artist**

**Boston, Massachusetts with Robert Liberace**

**April 4 - 8, 2008**

A museum exploration / sketching workshop

The museums of Boston contain a treasure trove of works by John Singer Sargent. Join Robert Liberace in experiencing, through the eyes of the artist, the magnificence of this fine painter. Included on the workshop schedule, are visits to The Boston Public Library, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and others. Robert is very familiar with Boston, and will direct us to his favorite artworks and locations.

## **Istanbul, Turkey, Ankara and environs including Cappadocia with Gwen Bragg,**

**June 4 – 15, 2009,**

**Plein air painting**

Explore Turkey, home of 13 civilizations and three great empires (the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman). The "cradle of civilizations," boasts a treasure trove of historic art and architecture, as well as decorative arts and traditional handicrafts. Gwen has painted here before, and is familiar with all the prime locations, including the Blue Mosque, the Spice Bazaar, etc. Experience the area of Cappadocia, unique in all the world for its geographic volcanic tufa formations referred to as "fairy chimneys." If you travel to Turkey, you must experience this natural wonder! In ancient times, humans hollowed out homes and constructed underground cities (to escape invaders) utilizing these formations. There will be an additional airfare charge (approx. \$200 per person) for a domestic flight within the country to this region, but it is an adventure not to be missed!



The itinerary includes five nights in Istanbul, two in Ankara, and three in Cappadocia. \$2,995. Limited single rooms are available at an additional charge.

## **English Villages and Gardens:**

**Painting the British Landscape,**

**The Cotswolds - Oxfordshire, Great Britain**

**June 14 - 23, 2009**

A wonderful opportunity for plein air painting in one of the most intensely scenic areas of England. Located approximately two hours west of London, the Cotswolds encompass ancient villages and towns rich in some of Europe's finest domestic architecture. Situated here are the uniquely beautiful and historically protected thatched cottages of this region. Visits to Bampton, Clanfield, Woodstock, Burford, Windrush House and Blenheim Palace, home of the 11th Duke of Marlborough, are on the agenda.

## **Provence 2009 with Susan Abbott, June 26 – July 11, 2009, Plein air painting**

Experience the beauty of Southern France in this plein air watercolor workshop. The countryside's fields of lavender and sunflowers, beautiful orchards and vineyards, dramatic hill towns, and magical light captivated Cezanne, Van Gogh, and generations of artists and writers. Includes accommodations for 14 nights, double occupancy and three wonderful meals each day. \$2,970 per person, double occupancy. Limited single rooms available at an additional charge.

Details are being finalized as this goes to press, for additional information, or to place your name on the interested list for these workshops, please contact Margaret Cerutti, 703-683-1780 x 13, margaretc@theartleague.org

## theartleague

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## Calendar

### December 2008

December 1/Monday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: RECEIVING, All-Media Show and Bin Gallery (Children's Hour).

December 2/Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon: RECEIVING continues.

December 4/Thursday: "Virtue, Sin, and the Balance Within" – Carlos Beltran Baldiviezo's Solo Artist Show opens.

December 5/Friday: Holiday Pottery and Ceramic Sale begins, ArtFest of Re-Opening of Springwater Studios and Madison Open House, Pat Barron Sale and Retrospective at Duke Street.

December 10/Wednesday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm: Critique with Avis Fleming.

December 11/Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm: Opening Reception, All-Media Show and "Virtue, Sin, and the Balance Within." Awards, 7:00 pm.

December 25/Thursday: Art League CLOSED for Christmas.

### January 2009

January 1/Thursday: Art League CLOSED for New Year's Day.

January 5/Monday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: RECEIVING for "Let There be Light," and Bin Gallery.

January 6/Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon: RECEIVING continues.

January 6/Tuesday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works.

January 8/Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm: Opening reception for "A Hosta Story," Yoshimi Matsukata's solo artist show of watercolors and "Let There be Light." Awards, 7:00 pm.

January 12/Monday: Winter Term begins in the school.

January 17/Saturday, 10:00 am: Patrons' Show tickets go on sale in the gallery.

### Gallery Calendar for 2009

The complete 2009 calendar will be available in the January Tidings. For information about upcoming theme shows check our blog or pick up one of our new calendar bookmarks in the gallery. In January our theme will be "Let There Be Light" - the use of contrast, chiaroscuro, highlights, reflections and other techniques to bring emphasis and interest to a subject. A few of our other themes in 2009 include "Real/Unreal" in March, "Black & White" in July, "Recycled – Reused" in April and in November alongside small works we will have an exhibit titled, "Becoming Animal: Images of animals, wild, endangered, imaginary and tame."