

Exhibitor

VEGAS ARTISTS GUILD
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Theresa Talk

We are receiving a nice flow of new members and visitors coming to our monthly meetings. New members are great in that we always need fresh faces and new energy to keep our guild rolling. At the next meeting, introduce yourself to an unfamiliar guest and make a new friend. Everyone at the guild has always been polite and friendly, so let the newcomers experience that first hand. But as much as we like new members, I also want to extend my appreciation to the many returning members that bring experience and dedication to our community. Your love for VAG is evident, and it is your enthusiasm regarding the guild that creates such an open, inspiring group. Thank you all! See you in July

Theresa Lucero - President



NEXT GUILD MEETING Monday July 9, 2007
Sherry Kisee - Topic TBD



GUILD MEETING Monday August 13, 2007
Brian DeCania - Photography presentation

The Vegas Artists Guild extends a warm welcome to it's newest member: *Rebecca Mirich*
Welcome aboard!

Announcing the **Second Annual VAG Plein Aire picnic** at cool Mount Charleston - Saturday, July 21st at 11:00 AM. Please bring your own chairs, food and drinks and of course, your art supplies! Details and location to be announced soon.

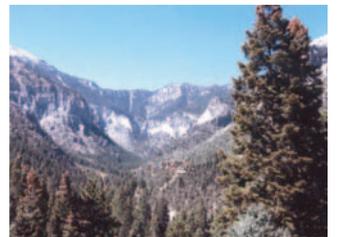


Exhibit Info - Look Who is Showing

- Jeanne Camire- is exhibiting with friends at the Wigwam and Eastern Jitters in June. Along with Jeanne's artwork: In memory of Dale Karr, one piece of his artwork, and one piece of artwork by Margaret Lyons.
- Maria E. Pineda - Art at Spring Valley Library, June through August.
- Etel Surany - Works showing at Contemporary Arts Collective, Boulder City Gallery, and at the Boulder City Library.
- Roberto Rico - Derfelt Senior Center June 2nd. - July 5th. & at Henderson City Hall.
- Dolores Nast - New Visions Gallery in Marshville, Wisconsin. Ginseng on Malachite, July through September. AIGA Exhibit at The Arts Factory: Elephant Garlic and a painting of an enormous cabbage. E. Las Vegas Cultural Center. Works also at Celebration of Life - July 1st.

Vegas Artists Guild 11th Anniversary

Make plans to celebrate the Guilds 11th anniversary on October 13th at McMullan's Irish Pub, 4500 W. Tropicana (across from the Orleans). 5pm to 8pm, We will hold a raffle and auction.

Bring your friends and make new ones!



This month we are pleased to offer two members observations of the last Guild demo! Thanks goes to Karen Wheeler and Steve Jasper for their contributions to the Exhibitor





There's a new artist in town, and her name is Bonnie Kelso-- Bonnie was kind enough to share her experiences and creative journey with us as our June presenter. Deciding to make Las Vegas her home now for less than a year, like other artists she is working hard to get her paintings noticed and forge a career in this incredible world of art. A self-proclaimed nature lover, adventurer and artist, she chose to really follow her dreams the way most of us only talk about doing. As a young girl she grew up in the Appalachian Mountains and was always



"Cavern" acrylic on canvas © Bonnie Kelso

comfortable with the outdoors. Her family moved to Virginia, and she learned to appreciate art and natural history by living in close proximity to numerous museums located in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. She studied fine arts at the Rhode Island School of Design and later returned to the DC area to pursue a rewarding career in exhibition design. Bonnie was finally working for the Institutions that had once inspired her, but something was missing from her life. She was happy but not truly fulfilled. After much deliberation, she decided to travel everywhere she could- collecting experiences, adventures and exciting photographs that would soon turn into images in her mind. Her love for art was about to take shape as she created it and placed it in to a 2-dimensional format for the world to see.



© Bonnie Kelso

"Mussel" acrylic, pastel and charcoal on paper

Feed your dreams! (Her brilliant new career as an artist.)

Bonnie recounted many thrilling adventures to us she achieved during her travels, from hunting wild boars, admiring the revered Ayers Rock in Australia and exploring the many caverns in Utah. All of these things will remain in her memories forever and be the catalyst for many of her creations. Her paintings draw directly from her experiences, and she enjoys sharing the story behind each one and how it developed the way it did.

Giving it all up!

While Bonnie had a phenomenal career and more than acceptable lifestyle, her passion for painting was pulling her in a different direction. She had to make a difficult decision by giving it all up and seeking her creative inspiration through exploration and observations of nature. By observing natural formations of the surrounding areas and the frequenting life forms, Bonnie was able to build some powerful imagery through her paintings.

The Journey

Once her journey to becoming an artist had begun, she took full advantage of all the resources surrounding her. She grew physically, mentally and spiritually while seeing first-hand all the wondrous beauty the earth has to offer. The shapes in her work relate directly to natural forms and the colors she uses pulls the viewer in and out of mysterious caves and hidden valleys.

Making Art

Bonnie doesn't have to struggle with explaining what her paintings mean even though they are abstract in nature. Before she even begins, she remembers an experience, interesting forms that burned an image in her mind, or an event that she witnessed. She starts placing the color and shapes on her canvas and begins to manipulate the paint to how the experiences made her feel. Bonnie believes that it's very important for the artist to be able to share even the smallest details about their creations as it could be very important to a collector. It can also make a sale because the viewer may decide that not only is the image attractive, but the story behind the image is just as fascinating.

Staying Inspired

Bonnie loves the desert. She finally feels like her life is in harmony, and she truly appreciates the beauty of rugged rocks, colorful sand and endless caverns to explore. She is inspired by the nature that is all around us and definitely within short driving distances. Bonnie is also an avid writer, and you can view her many creative works by going to her web site at www.bkelso.com. There you will be able to see how she works delicious colors together to create visions that capture the interest of the curious, and you'll be able to read all about her amazing adventures and accomplishments. As I thought about her presentation later in the evening, I knew that what I'd already believed was true, and that is: life is what you make it. Every day is a gift, and we each make the choice of how every day will turn out.



"Pour" acrylic on pine box © Bonnie Kelso

~Karen Wheeler - VP Vegas Artists Guild



June 2007 Guest Presenter - Bonnie Kelso

On June 11, Vegas Artist's Guild was delighted to welcome Bonnie Kelso as our guest presenter. Three years ago Bonnie was an Exhibit Designer in Washington DC. For twelve years she labored and excelled at her profession. With hard work and talent all of her skill and persistence paid off and she was accepted at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History. The highpoint of her career or what should have been. Sometimes it takes great success in your endeavors to realize that all this time you have been on the wrong path. What should have been a celebration became to Bonnie a wake-up call. She didn't want to just design exhibits, she wanted to create art! It was then that Bonnie decided to follow her heart wherever that would lead her. She quit her job, sold her home, and for two years traveled the world. She came back from her adventures with a new vision and an artist's soul.



"Tusk" acrylic on canvas © Bonnie Kelso



"Drape" acrylic on canvas © Bonnie Kelso

Bonnie now lives in Las Vegas as a professional artist. Her abstract paintings reflect her love of the desert and the ocean. She showed us a few of her paintings during her power point presentation. One memorable piece named "tusks" measured 30x 40" and was inspired by her Boar hunting experience during her travels. Another beautiful piece named "drape" also 30 x 40" was a combination of an Australian rock formation and sea slugs. Today Bonnie mostly paints much smaller, about 8 x10" and are influenced by Nevada's majestic Red Rock Mountains and Utah's Zion Canyonlands.

Bonnie's high energy and passion for art was very contagious. Her lecture was a challenge to us as well: Are we following our hearts and pursuing the life we want to lead, the paintings we wish to paint. If not now, when?

You can see Bonnie Kelso's portfolio and visit her blog at www.bkelso.com.

~Steve Jasper - Guild Member

VAG T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!

Look great in your very own VAG shirt sporting the Guilds logo. They are \$20 each and can be ordered at the general meeting or mail in this form to:

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Name: _____

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Size: _____ **Quantity:** _____

Past copies of THE EXHIBITOR can be found at <http://eagarry.com>, go to the links page and click on Vegas Artists Newsletter – The Exhibitor and view/download the newsletters for 2006 and 2007 in pdf format.

Members wanting to contribute to the Vegas Artists Guild newsletter can email material to: VegasArtistsGuild@yahoo.com

MEMBERS ARTWORK



Rebecca Mirich



Roberto Rico



Theresa Lucero



Etel Surany