



SCARF BY SILK ARTIST JUDY BALLINGER

YOUR GATEWAY TO AN AMAZING WORLD OF ART

ORIGINAL ART



PAINTING BY CRYSTAL DOMINO
ONLY \$40.00

REASONABLE PRICES

Art Plus Gallery has 2 dozen professional artists' work on display at all times. New exhibits open every month with some award winning artists featured. Come visit us at our 2nd Friday evening reception. 5:00-8:00p.m.

Art Plus Gallery
604 Penn Ave.
West Reading, PA 19611
610-375-9122
www.artplusgallerypa.com



SOME OF LAST YEAR'S WINNERS ARTWORK

THIRD ANNUAL "NATURE OF NOLDE" STUDENT ART CONTEST IS IN FULL SWING

Back by popular demand, Art Plus has again teamed up with Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center and The Friends of Nolde to sponsor the 2017 "Nature of Nolde" Student Art Contest.

Sixteen schools and over 2500 students participated in the 2016 competition, and even more are hoped for this year. The contest is open to all Berks County public, private and parochial schools, and to homeschool cooperatives with any number of students residing in Berks County.

Students in grades 1-12 may also enter the contest independently by emailing an image of their artwork to Art Plus Gallery. The finalists' artwork will be exhibited in the Nolde Mansion in December. The awards ceremony will be held at Nolde's McConnell Hall on December 16.

The contest has proven to be a perfect synergy of missions for the Pennsylvania Park & Forest Foundation's premiere Environmental Education Center, and Art Plus's ongoing dedication to promoting art awareness and participation throughout Berks County in general and K-12 students in particular.

ART PLUS GALLERY OUTSIDE EXHIBIT VENUES

- Chef Alan's American Bistro** (West Reading)
- Crave Cafe** (Sinking Spring) - **DoubleTree Hilton** (Reading)
- Saylor House** (Wyomissing) - **Weichart Realtors** (Wyomissing)
- West Reading Tavern** - **YR Club** (Wyomissing)

Member News



Martha Ressler

Martha was honored to be awarded one of the top ten artists in the 2017 Mt Gretna Outdoor Art Show this year. This prestigious show boasts over 500 artists and craftsmen. Her art quilts sold well in addition. Martha will be participating in ten arts and crafts shows in 2017, in addition to maintaining a busy teaching and exhibition schedule.

Dan Roberts

APG member Dan Roberts, a.k.a DANZ, has been invited to exhibit at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts (Reading, PA) this fall. This will be Dan's second appearance at the GoggleWorks since last year's successful exhibit entitled, "IMPRESSIONS." This year Dan will present a series called, "NUM3ERS." His canvases, a rich blend of colorful metallic acrylics and gold leaf and, yes, numbers, will be on view for one month starting on November 1. There will be a wine and cheese reception, free and open to the public, on Friday evening November 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Brian Warfel, Jay and Martha Ressler

Three of APG's artists/members are also involved in the Hamburg (PA) Area Arts Alliance. Brian, Jay and Martha recently attended the dedication ceremony of a new mural in Hamburg depicting a Reading Railroad train. Located on the wall of a downtown building, it is the second to be completed in the borough. In addition to beautification of large plain spans of walls, murals are welcoming to visitor and are a visual representation of the town's history. The goal of the Arts Alliance is to create a new mural every year depicting the heritage of the area.



Karen Weber

This is a busy time for Karen, APG's co-director. She is presently the featured artist in a solo show at Chef Alan's. In October Karen will be the key note speaker at the October meeting of the Women's Social Club of Berks County (October 10th at 1:00 pm) and at the November meeting of the Berks Art Alliance (November 14th at 7pm) where she will reveal some of her painting secrets and talk about frame making.

ART PLUS MEMBERS

Judy Ballinger
 Robin Bisaccia
 Mary R. Burke
 Brian Clark
 Irene Dobson
 Crystal Domino
 Richard Fredrick
 Cindy Hess
 Rachel Hoffman
 Christina Pinkerton
 Marilyn Pounder
 Keith Rentschler
 Jay Ressler
 Martha Ressler
 Dan Roberts
 Robert Seabourne
 Blair Seitz
 Russell Slocum
 Donna Unger
 Brian Warfel
 Karen Weber
 LeAnn Wolf



Art Plus Gallery recently opened its main gallery to the exhibit “Fantasy” with a reception on Friday, September 8. The artist/ members were challenged to come up with artwork that reflected its theme in some way. The “Fantasy” exhibit will continue until November 5. Along with the “Fantasy” exhibit is a featured artist, Michael Weaver (see below). Following the Weaver exhibit a group of young artists will take over the Featured Artist Room. Art Plus Gallery member/artist Robin Bisaccia will be displaying some of her Berks Catholic art students’ work, starting with a reception on Friday evening, October 13 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER GUEST ARTISTS EXHIBITS

JONATHAN BOND: The artwork of Kempton, PA artist Jonathan Bond was featured at Art Plus Gallery during the month of August. Bond, who began painting at the age of 4, went into business 32 years ago immediately after graduating from Kutztown Area High School. He worked as a commercial artist to pay the bills but practiced his fine art skills for the pleasure of it. According to Bond, “I just plugged away at the school of hard knocks.” While he still does commercial art, he’s been able to emphasize his fine art in this past decade. Bond paints with oil on canvas, and specializes in landscapes and rural scenes. His art studio is filled with images of farm life and Kempton area scenery.

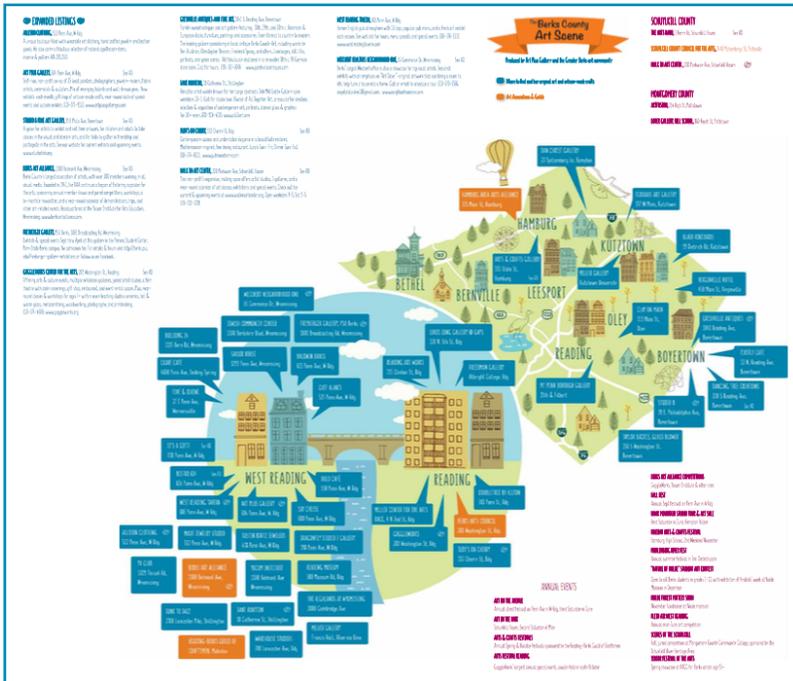


*Jonathan Bond
 painting plein air.*

MICHAEL WEAVER: The featured artist for October is impressionist Michael Weaver who also began drawing as a child. Although he “dabbled” in art during his young years it wasn’t until after graduating from college with a science degree that Michael began seriously studying oil painting with teachers that included Bruce Becker, Dan Gorman and Barton Henderson. Weaver’s paintings have been widely exhibited throughout the United States, Canada and Germany. His exhibit is on until October 9.



Michael Weaver



RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BERKS COUNTY ART SCENE

Art Plus Gallery has produced “The Berks County Art Scene”- a colorful, engaging guide to all of the art galleries, major exhibit spaces and other places where people can find and buy fine, original art. And artisan-made crafts. (See illustration of the map at the left.)

As part of Art Plus’s community outreach mission, The Berks County Art Scene is free to shoppers and visitors, and will be available year-round. A stack of free copies has been provided without charge to each of the 50+ venues shown on the map as well as other high traffic locations and events. Stop by Art Plus Gallery and pick one up for yourself.

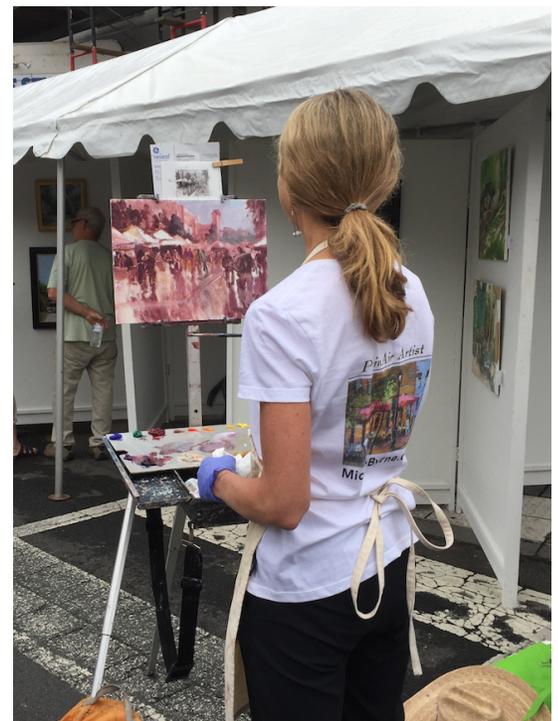
PLEIN AIR ARTISTS TAKE IT TO THE STREETS OF WEST READING FOR “ART ON THE AVENUE”

Plein Air West Reading (PAWR) was launched in 2016 with a vision toward strengthening the fine art focus of the borough’s wildly popular annual Art on the Avenue event. The inaugural plein air event was a success, but 2017 hit a snag. With the critical Main Street Manager post temporarily vacant and West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation (WRCRF) resources stretched thin, Plein Air West Reading was on the verge of being dropped.

Art Plus picked up the reins. We changed the format from a juried event and exclusive awards gala to a more open exhibition designed to attract artists new to plein air along with seasoned talents. We coordinated promotion, registration, purchase awards and staffing.

WRCRF provided a large tent across from the gallery. The exhibit also included a section of plein air artwork done by local students, coordinated by Wyomissing art teacher Mike Miller. We drew 500+ visitors, and nine pieces were sold from the plein air tent alone.

We’re already looking at the 2018, weighing with the WRCRF and others the pros and cons of the same format versus a curated event with substantial prizes that can draw top talents from the region and beyond.



Local artist, Michele Byrne, paints plein air on Penn Avenue.

Art Plus Gallery is a non-profit, self-run cooperative dedicated to connecting with the community through significant art-related activities, supportive events and sponsored art competitions.

INTRODUCING A NEW CORPORATE SPONSOR



OF WYOMISSING, PA

We are very pleased to announce that Weichert Realtors Neighborhood One, 65 Commerce Drive, Wyomissing is a new corporate sponsor of Art Plus Gallery. During this past summer artwork displayed was represented by APG artists Russell Slocum, Donna Unger, Crystal Domino, Dan Roberts and Karen Weber. Approximately every three months APG will be refreshing the walls of Weichert Realtors with new work. With a variety of styles and themes, our artist's work is just waiting for new home owners or potential home owners to browse or purchase. Mid-September through the end of November will be the works of APG artists Blair Seitz, Robert Seabourne, Irene Dobson and Jay Ressler. Weichert Realtors have agreed to buy one of the displayed paintings as a welcome gift to one of their new home owners.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Robert Seabourne

Robert Seabourne was born in Bethlehem, PA, in 1963. He lived there until 1977, when he moved with his family to the scenic countryside of Berks County, PA. His love for art started the way any other child's would start, but when his mother asked him to draw a train the way she had drawn it, he drew it exactly the way she had. She knew then that he had a very special, natural talent. This talent was fostered with many different private art lessons. In high school, after his second year of art classes, the teacher could not teach him anymore, because he had reached her limit of knowledge. He was told then that he could write his own curriculum for his third year. Robert went to Kutztown University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art, Cum Laude. After college, he taught himself Graphic Design so he could make a living, though he never stopped painting. Some of Robert's early endeavors included wildlife painting in caseins and watercolor and hand-drawn animation. What stands out from most other artists' is the craftsmanship that Robert put into everything from preparing the canvas to the finished pieces.



Irene Dobson



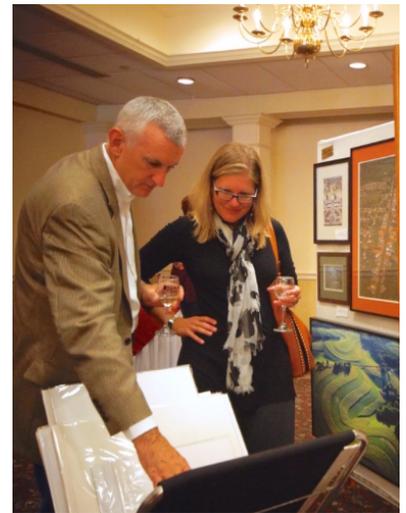
Irene's striking style of impressionistic realism in landscapes, still lifes and portraiture has earned awards at shows of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Berks Art Alliance and Artist League of Sandhills (NC). Her versatility in subject matter is matched by her media proficiency; best known for her watercolors and oils, her pastels, charcoals and acrylics are equally impressive. Irene is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology. She studied at the Art Student's League in Manhattan and Kutztown University, as well as with art world luminaries including Jack Coggins, Tony Couch, Ray Loos, Alex Powers, Charles Reid, Howard Watson and Ed Whitney. Her versatility in subject matter is matched by her media proficiency; best known for her watercolors and oils, her pastels, charcoals and acrylics are equally impressive. Her work can be found in corporate and private collections in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York as well as her home state of Pennsylvania. She has taught at RACC, the Wyomissing Institute and is past president of the Berks Art Alliance and past director of the BAA Gallery at Artworks in Ephrata.

“WINE & CHEESE” IS BACK ON THE MENU!

Art Plus Gallery’s most popular fundraising event is back on the calendar! Our 2018 Wine & Cheese Gala will be held October 8 at the Inn at Reading. This is the same venue that we selected for 2015. The space was perfect, staff was helpful, parking was plentiful, and the event was our most successful fundraiser ever.

We’re aiming to make our encore there will be even better, building on a similar format: Wine and food pairings around the perimeter, surrounding displays of our member artists works across the ballroom floor, with live music. And at the center, an array of prize baskets for drawings and silent auction.

Save the date and pass the word. Friends of “Friends” are welcome!



SOME FUN AT THE “ARTS ON THE AVENUE” APG BOOTH THIS SUMMER



EDITOR: Dan Roberts PHOTOGRAPHY: Blair Seitz WRITERS: Martha Ressler,
Russ Slocum and Karen Weber with input from our other APG members