

## **City Lights Artists' Co-op** *The Lantern- News Update –May, 2006*

**The Next Membership Meeting** will be held at the Saturn Dealership in Auto Show Mall at 310 N. Gibson Road in Henderson, second floor conference room, on **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.** Please plan to attend and support the board members who do a great deal of work to have these presentations for you. An exciting video presentation will be shown....another opportunity for us to learn and grow! The scheduled presentation will be ***“How Professional Artists Paint Realistic Art to Sell”***. Be sure to invite your artist friends as we welcome guests. We are allowed to have water ***but no food or drink please.***

There is another meeting scheduled at the same location on June 13<sup>th</sup>. You will have an opportunity to vote on what the next presentation will be at this months meeting.

**Membership Dues:** Often while sitting the gallery we are approached by artists interested in joining our Co-op and Gallery. Remember, that new member dues are prorated throughout the year...May dues are \$16.00.

### **Third Thursdays and Featured Artists Reception:**

***Our Featured Artists for the month of May are Steve Russell and Angelo Cervantes.*** Steve is a multi-media artist showing stained glass as well as abstract acrylic art and he has some interesting pieces in the gift corner. Angelo graces our Gallery with his beautiful jewelry creations. Check out the new pieces he created for this month. Their reception will be **Third Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**. Come one, come all and bring something for the food table...it is greatly appreciated.

***The Featured Artists for March, r.j. (Bobbi) Braatz-Strote and Richard Blanchard*** had a great reception with more than 80 visitors. Hope you were able to attend.

The work of our Foothill High School Student, Katie Thomas is also on display.

### **Welcome New Members: James Lacy**

We look forward to seeing your artworks in the Gallery and your participation in Co-op activities.

**Ribbon Awards:** Encourage all Visitors to vote....you may be the recipient of this award! The Visitor Choice Award for April is our student artist from Foothill High School, **Katie Thomas**. Congratulations! All sitters please vote for your favorite artwork so that the Artists Choice Ribbon for this quarter can be awarded.

**Gallery:** next changeover will be in the beginning of July. Remember that all work must be changed if in the gallery for six months. Check the bulletin board as well as the website for news items regarding shows you may be interested in participating. Remember to check the Sitters Instructions as there are occasional changes. Thanks to everyone for doing their share of the housekeeping chores. The gallery always looks clean and visitors have remarked on it!

**City Lights Web Site:** [www.citylightsart.com](http://www.citylightsart.com) is looking marvelous. When scanning other sites, we can be proud to say ours looks the best! This is due to the diligence of our webmaster,

Wendy Adams. Be sure to get your artwork onto the virtual gallery and is it time to change your existing artwork? There is no charge for Co-op members. Wendy will assist you at [wendy@aweecat.com](mailto:wendy@aweecat.com). Check the website for other news announcements of happenings around town.

**Board Meetings:** all members are invited to attend the board meetings. Your input and suggestions are needed and welcomed. The next Board meeting will be May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Gallery.

The Board meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> was attended in full by all the board members. It was decided that we would look into purchasing and installing programmable thermostats as our biggest expense in the summer months is the air-conditioning costs. We hope that we can reduce some of this expense as last year it ran over \$500.00 a month during the hottest time. Our bank account looks good but we have a tax bill of about \$800.00 due in May.

A committee was selected to plan for the Henderson School of Art. There has been a delay in completing all the necessary meetings with the City Council, so we have not yet got approval.. When we have approval, it will be a big undertaking and any help or suggestions will be welcome.

## **Art ReMarks:**

### **So Who's an Artist, Anyway?**

**By Eileen B. Fischer, B.F.A., M.A.**

Ahhh, you say, that's a puzzler if there ever was one...not even the "experts" can answer this question, but perhaps you can with a few insights laid before you...please read on. It's said that a craftsperson is not an artist, but what of the carpet designers...those skilled in creation of original and often very complex patterns; and what about those who present fresh and very innovative ideas in fabric and fashion, are they not artists, too? There is a huge list of these creators, but there are two main differences between the above and the "fine" artist (the "experts" say): functionality and purpose.

Craft persons, as a rule, create a functional piece...some wondrous creation that is actually useful, and though the beauty of the crafts certainly comes through, its functionality is usually considered in the crafting of the product. Fine artists create art for arts sake: the artwork has no rhyme or reason for being created except as an expression of the artist...whatever that may be.

Interpretation of this artwork is left up to the viewer; there is usually no doubt, upon viewing a craftwork, what the craft is for.

As far as "purpose" is concerned, fine art's purpose is to express the creativity of the artist, and craft's purpose is to serve as an attractive, but very functional work. At least, that's the way art colleges separate the degrees of fine art from those of crafts...and yes; there is a separate crafts degree available.

To my way of thinking, however, art enters both disciplines...the creation of something beautiful is, always, a very "fine" thing. Perhaps you feel this way, too.

## **Other News:**

Our President, Richard Blanchard, has been trying to visit every-one at the gallery during their sitting time. We hope that you have had the opportunity to avail yourself of his wealth of art knowledge.

We are soon to see the addition of another gallery in downtown Henderson on Water Street. It will be UNLV art students, displaying student work. They will be open the same hours as we are and will participate in Third Thursday. We don't have a name for their gallery at this time but they will be a welcome and exciting addition to our down town Art District.

Would you like to be one of the Featured Artists? You must be showing in the gallery for the quarter that you are featured. It is an excellent opportunity to have your work displayed in the window and extra sales are generated at the reception held monthly in conjunction with Third Thursday. Discuss with Merle what month would be good for you.

If anyone has a show coming up or something to brag about, let Merle know by the end of the month to get it in the next newsletter. Its always fun to visit other exhibits and support our artist friends.

Don't forget the Artfest on Mothers Day weekend happening in downtown Henderson on Water Street.

The Art Show at the District is the following weekend so you have time to register for that.