

# WVAL Membership Meeting

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH - 1:30-3:00 P.M.**

Sycamore Shoals State Park 1651 W. Elk Ave. Elizabethton, TN - 423-543-5808



The next WVAL General Membership Meeting is Sunday February 14 and the board members will present their own artwork and demonstrate their techniques and ideas regarding how they were attracted to getting into art.

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Some of the WVAL artists' artwork may be seen at [www.wataugavalleyartleague.com](http://www.wataugavalleyartleague.com). For more information about the Watauga Valley Art League please contact Judy O'Hara at (423) 833-5525 or email us at: [WVAL@WataugaValleyArtLeague.com](mailto:WVAL@WataugaValleyArtLeague.com)

**\*\*\* Dues for 2015: \$33 per person (\$30 if paid by February 1), \$45 per couple and \$18 for students \*\*\***

Mail to: **Watauga Valley Art League, PO Box 2177, Johnson City, TN 37605**

**\*\*\*For your convenience, all forms and applications are in PDF Format and can be downloaded and printed from [www.WataugaValleyArtLeague.com](http://www.WataugaValleyArtLeague.com)\*\*\***

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## Art Classes

Judy O'Hara Acrylic Courses – Please contact her at 833-5525 or [judyohara@ymail.com](mailto:judyohara@ymail.com)

Linda Campbell – Contact Linda at 477-8196 for class information

Art Holsclaw & Chris Bryant – Johnson City Senior Center, Wednesdays at 12:30pm. If interested come by the class or call Chris at 282-0865

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**Mark your calendars for February and March**

**Monday February 8, 11:30 – 12:30 pm Board Meeting at Johnson City Community Center**

**Sunday February 14, 1:30 to 3:00pm – General Membership Meeting at Sycamore Shoals**

**Monday March 7, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Board Meeting at Johnson City Community Center**

**Sunday March 13, 1:30 to 3:00 pm General Membership Meeting at Sycamore Shoals**

**We are in need of someone to step up and be the WVAL Roving Gallery Coordinator. We currently have three locations: Hopland Medical Center in Elizabethton, (David Kramer and Ken Simmelink are both coordinators for this location), Lexington Place in downtown Johnson City is displayed in 3 month increments. Johnson City Community Health located behind Woodridge off State Of Franklin and displays are shown in 2 month increments.**

**Comparing ourselves to other artists** is a trap we sometimes fall into. Have you ever said something similar to these things to yourself?

- \_\_\_\_\_ is such an amazing artist. I wish I could paint like that. (Even though \_\_\_\_ has far more practice and training than you.)
- Why is \_\_\_\_\_ selling more than I am when his art is so bad?
- I've been creating art for years, yet these young people just out of [art school](#) are selling more than I am.
- Why am I not successful, when other artists with seemingly no talent are hugely famous?
- Why is a certain artist selling so much at their [Facebook page](#), when no one will buy any from mine?
- Why did my family member buy someone else's art, and not mine?  
\_\_\_\_\_ makes painting seem so easy in his Youtube video. Why can't I create art that fast?
- I can't compete with...

Look, I've felt many of these things so I can relate. It's very hard not to doubt or second guess ourselves, especially when we see so many artists succeeding - when we are not. We may think what's the point of it all? Why should we keep creating art if we don't sell as many as others seem to? How can we compete with all the other artists who are selling - or should we be competing at all?

The thing with comparisons is that it often leads to negativity. We end up thinking more about the person who we are comparing our art or successes to, and not our own art. We begin doubting ourselves, and why we are creating art in the first place.

Comparisons also can lead to blaming our non-success on other artists. I have often seen the "blame game" occur when some artists reduce their prices very low, or have sales at their websites. Some artists claim that these artists are flooding the market with cheap art, and making it more difficult for them to sell their own higher priced art.

Whether I agree with this or not is not the point. The fact of the matter is this – these blaming artists will benefit much more by using this energy in a productive way. There will always be cheaper art, so get over it!

**Watauga Valley Art League  
Board Meeting  
January 4, 2016**

Meeting started at 1:30 pm and Judy asked the questions: Why do you paint? If no one purchased your artwork would you still paint? Who are you painting for? She also gave a personal illustration of her paintings that were only viewed for 5 minutes then destroyed.

**Reports from WVAL Board Members:**

Dawn Phillips, Membership – There are 22 members and guests that have signed in and are attending the meeting.

Elton O'Hara, Secretary – Cost of mailing newsletters via traditional means in December was \$8.84 and the total newsletters that were sent is 86 total. Anyone interested in having their own personal page on WVAL Website can email artwork and a brief bio to [EltonOHara@ymail.com](mailto:EltonOHara@ymail.com) or [WVAL@WataugaValleyArtLeague.com](mailto:WVAL@WataugaValleyArtLeague.com).

Ann Brumback, Librarian – There are still 14 videos that haven't been returned and some have been checked out since September and October.

Susan Donner introduced The speaker, Mary Nees who was the judge for the WVAL Summer Art Show.

**“What the Chinese have Taught us an what we can offer them” by Mary Nees.**

Mary Nees, an adjunct art instructor at ETSU, talked about her experiences teaching art in university and at an art academy in China. She showed us how traditional Chinese art is a form of communication, passing on concepts of the social order. She showed some Chinese landscapes which contain majestic mountains but very small people. This style was a way of passing on Confucian concepts of humility and moderation. Traditional art records and passes on the social order. She then showed other examples of Chinese art which she said shows how Western art has brought spontaneity and the freedom to change to Chinese art. She said the West has brought the freedom to change and do art for art's sake to Chinese painting.

The Next General Membership Meeting will be Sunday February 14.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elton O'Hara.