

Rutherford County Visual Artists

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The show is part of an on-going series of shows featuring art and fine craft created by the members of the Guild an organization dedicated to fostering visual arts and fine craft in Rutherford County and the surrounding area.

A watercolorist for almost 10 years, McWhorter has studied under Linda McGregor, Pamela Haddock and Tony Couch and others. The subject matter for the Art @ the Library show is largely animals painted with a new technique used by British watercolor artist Jake Winkle.

McWhorter says, "I love watercolor because it allows the white of the paper to show through giving the painting a freshness that cannot be obtained in any other medium. I enjoy the impressionist approach to painting and am primarily a landscape artist. I like to paint vignettes because much of the paper is left white which causes the painting to shine." While he is primarily a follower of Tony Couch's method of wet in wet watercolor he has recently enjoyed experimenting in this new technique developed by Jake Winkle.

A retired consultant and downtown development professional, McWhorter is a long-time supporter of the Rutherford County Visual Artists Guild. He serves on the Board of Directors and as Membership Chairman. In 2011 he won First Place in 2D art at the Guild's annual show Celebration of the Arts held each September. His work is on display also at the Rutherford



Work by John McWhorter

County Visual Arts Center in Downtown Rutherfordton, NC. He is a member of the Watercolor Society of North Carolina his watercolor was exhibited at the Nancy Courich Studio and Gallery in Pineville, NC.

The Art at the Library Show can be viewed free of charge during the Library's regular hours of operation. (9am - 5:30pm, Mon.-Fri. and 10am-noon, on Sat.). The show is sponsored by the Rutherford County Visual Artist Guild in cooperation with the Library, a department of the Town of Rutherfordton and a member of the CMC Library Consortium. It is located at 132 N. Main Street in Rutherfordton.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact the Library at 828/287-4981, Rutherford County Visual Arts Center at 828/288-5009 or e-mail to (rcvartg@gmail.com).

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Features Works by Laura Buxton

The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM), in Blowing Rock, NC, and the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts (TCVA), in Boone, NC, are partnering together to display *Ruined Landscapes: Paintings of the Balkan War Zone*, on view from Jan. 17 through Mar. 28, 2015. A reception will be held on Feb. 13, from 5:30-7pm.

A gift from Hugh and Jane Spratt McColl, this collection of forty-two paintings depicting crumbling architecture and war-laden landscapes by Laura Buxton are an important component of the Turchin Center's Permanent Collection, and are being loaned to BRAHM for this exhibition.

"We're honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with our neighboring museum," says BRAHM's Interim Executive Director, Bob McCammon. "We hope the exhibit will serve to educate our audience not only on the history of the Balkans, but on how an artists' work and experiences can connect our part of the world to another."

Buxton arrived in the Balkans in the summer of 1994 when Bosnia-Herzegovina was under a cease-fire. Like most outsiders in Europe, Asia and America, Buxton had read about the war in newspapers and failed to make out the why of it. "As an artist," Buxton said, "I felt this tremendous responsibility to say something that would be worthwhile, that other people could see. And even if they couldn't understand, they could at least gain some insight from a different point of view."

When Buxton reached her destination, Mostar, formerly a great cultural crossroads, now cynically nicknamed the "Beirut of the Balkans"- her conscience and purpose were no longer clear. Depressed by the human catastrophe, the three weeks she had set aside to execute a few sketches of the places and people she encountered turned into a four-month stay. Leaving only when the cease-fire collapsed and shells began falling again on Mostar and Sarajevo, she returned to the Balkans in 1996 for a second visit.

A native of Scotland, Buxton studied



Laura Buxton, *On the Boulevard: the Front Line, East Mostar*, 1994, Oil on board. On loan from the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Gift of Hugh and Jane Spratt McColl. Photograph courtesy of the Blowing Rock Art & History Museum

in Florence - partly with fellow artist, Ben Long - before settling in France. She now lives in Paris with musician John Greaves and their daughters, Ailsa Grace and Millie Greaves.

In 1996, Hugh L. McColl, Jr., the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America, was invited to look at slides of Buxton's Balkan paintings. Familiar with her work as an associate of local artist Ben Long in the execution of his frescoes for St. Peter's Church and the Bank of America Corporate Center in Charlotte, NC, McColl was struck not only by their artistic merit, but their historical value as well. "These paintings are like ghosts rattling the chains of war in the attic of our souls," he said. In addition to purchasing all the paintings that were still available, McColl sponsored a book to broaden the audience for Buxton's work. Supplied by TCVA, the book will be available for purchase in BRAHM's gift shop for the duration of the exhibition.

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University, is located in Boone, NC. For additional details about the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, please call 828/262-3017 or visit (www.tcva.org).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call BRAHM at 828/295-9099 or visit (www.blowing-rockmuseum.org).



On the Ridge

oil on canvas

36 x 48 inches

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Detailed info is available at www.williamjameson.com or call 828.749.3101.

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Jan. 24th for the February 2015 issue and Feb. 24 for the March 2015 issue.