

2009 *Art in Bloom* set for Black Mountain Center for the Arts June 18-21

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts presents the 3rd annual *Art in Bloom in June*, an art and floral event, on June 18-21 at 225 W. State Street. *Art in Bloom*, held at museums nationwide, is a fusion of art and flowers where floral designers complement works or art with interpretive floral arrangements. A fundraiser for the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, reservations can be made at 828/669-0930. Entrance to the exhibit only is \$5.

Two new presentations this year are an Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) presentation by Emiko Nishiwaki, Japan Outreach Coordinator at WCU on Friday, June 19; and on Saturday, June 20, *Best Garden Plants for NC*, by Pam Beck, well-known NC freelance garden writer, photographer, designer and lecturer, and co-author of a book by the same title (pambeckgardens.com). Attendees at the Ikebana presentation will hear commentary by Ikebana master teacher Terri Ellis Todd, and enjoy afternoon tea as well.

The Center's Upper Gallery show, which the floral designers will use for interpretation, will be a varied collection of art on loan from area galleries, including Seven Sisters Gallery, Sourwood Gallery, Blue Spiral Gallery, Haen Gallery, the Asheville Art Museum, Ariel Gallery, TAASC Gallery and more.

Floral Designers may work singly or in pairs to make the designs that complement the artwork. The *Art in Bloom* at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts is unique in that it invites specifically both Ikebana trained designers and western designers in a non-competitive design showcase. Ikebana designers involved this year are: Terri Ellis Todd,

Maggie Storey, Martha Dykman, Sally Robinson, Suzanne

Dillingham, Diane Harker, Imogene Brown & Sherry Coward, Bob Bannister, Lynn Forbes, Louise Glickman, and Judith Melton.

Other designers may incorporate some Ikebana principles into their designs, but represent a diversity of training and design approach. Several are commercial florists, including Adrienne Kort & Drew Leonard (Blossoms at Biltmore Park), Beth Hohensee (Studio Flora Diva in Grove Arcade), Steve Jaffe (Merrimon Florist), Betsey Baker (floral designer for Biltmore House), Nancy Shoch (Ivy Cottage), and Mary Noble Braden and Elaine Young (Bella Blooms). In addition Ralph Coffey, president of WNC Orchid Society, Akira Satake, potter and musician, and local gardening enthusiasts Kay Clegg, Micki Cowen, Wilhelmina Kerlee Headley, and Darcy Orr will participate.

The 2009 Honorary Chair is Ann Vasilik, noted WNC watercolorist (annart.vasilik.com). Vasilik will also be participating as one of the *plein air* painters during the Garden Tour event, which will be held both Friday and Saturday, June 19-20 from 10-4. The artist's renderings of the gardens will be on display at the Center on Sunday afternoon, June 21.

Art in Bloom begins on Thursday evening, June 18 at 6 pm with a Gala and Preview Party. Ticket holders are the first to see the floral designs, just an hour or so after the florists have set them in place. The Preview Party offers an opportunity to meet the floral designers and enjoy a delicious hors d'oeuvres, beverage and dessert bar.

Come to Black Mountain the third weekend in June and enjoy this spectacular presentation of art and flowers by some of the western North Carolina's most talented and creative artists and designers. To learn more visit blackmountainarts.org.



Emiko arranging Ikebana