



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

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts will present its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Art in Bloom*, an art and flower show, on June 18-21. Held at the Center at 225 W. State Street in the old City Hall, the 3-day event is a fundraiser for the non-profit arts center, which serves the entire western part of Buncombe County. Honorary chair for this year is Ann Vasilik, well-known watercolorist who has artistically documented much of western NC. The premise of *Art in Bloom* is that floral designers choose one piece in the Center's selected Gallery show and interpret the art with a complementary floral arrangement. The side-by-side combination of the two artistic designs adds a new dimension to the understanding and enjoyment of the show.



*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 they have been set in place by the florists. The Preview Party offers an opportunity to meet the floral designers, listen to musical entertainment, and enjoy a sumptuous display of heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages and dessert. Tickets for the Thursday evening are \$35.

On Friday, June 19 the exhibit opens to the public, and continues on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am through 5 pm each day. Admission to the exhibit alone is \$5; however, admission is included in the ticket price of any of the other weekend events.

The popular Garden Tour takes place on Friday and Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Up to ten local gardens are on the tour. Self-guided maps are available at the Center; tickets are \$15. Each ticket includes a printed 15% discount for lunch at various local restaurants. During the Garden Tour local *plein aire* painters will be on hand in each garden capturing their impressions of the individual gardens. Those paintings, in turn, will be on display on Sunday, June 21 during the *Art in Bloom* exhibit at the Center.

On Friday, a special event will be an afternoon Tea Party and Ikebana Demonstration at 2 pm. Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, will be demonstrated by Emiko Nishiwaki, Japan Outreach Coordinator at Western Carolina University, with commentary by Terri Ellis Todd, a master in the Ichiyo School. Tea sets by the Black Mountain Clay Studio potters will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$25.

Saturday's special afternoon event will be *Best Garden Plants for NC*, a gardening lecture and slideshow presentation by Pam Beck, co-author of a book by the same title, and a popular freelance garden writer, photographer, designer and lecturer. A regular contributor to *Carolina Gardener*, she also serves as an area scout for *Better Homes & Gardens* and is on the Board of Advisors for the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. Tickets are \$20.

*Art in Bloom* originally started at BMCA as collaboration between the Center and the Asheville area Ikebana International chapter. Both Ikebana and western floral designers are invited to participate each year. The event is only 3 days due to the fragility of the flowers. Don't miss this spectacular presentation of art and flowers by some of the areas most talented and creative artists and designers. For more information call 828/669-0930 or visit [blackmountainarts.org](http://blackmountainarts.org).

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