

## Fourth annual Auction for the Arts at BMCA to be March 14



**Auction-goers peruse items to be sold prior to the live auction  
at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts' annual Auction for the Arts**

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts' fourth annual Auction for the Arts will be held Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Included with each admission will be 2 silent raffle tickets, plus additional silent raffle tickets will be available for purchase for \$2 each. The Auction for the Arts is a fundraiser for the non-profit Arts Center. Auctioneer for the live auction portion will again be John Hill of Weaverville, who generously donates his time for this event. The Center is located in the renovated old City Hall at 225 W, State Street. To purchase tickets by credit card, call 828-669-0930, or stop by the Center to purchase tickets with check or cash.

The number of seats for the auction is limited to 100, so advance reservations are highly recommended. The evening will begin with heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, with opportunities to place silent raffle tickets with the items of your choice. During the live auction, multiple drawings will be held to determine the winners of silent raffle items. You must be present to win a silent raffle item.

Local merchants and individuals donate all items for the auction, whether art and fine craft, other retail items, services, vacation rentals, entertainment, antiques, or dinners. This is a fundraiser for the non-profit Center, whose mission is "to bring arts to the people and people to the arts." According to Gale Jackson, Executive Director of the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, "We extend gratitude to two groups of supporters for this Auction – those that donate items, and those that attend the auction and purchase items. We know that auction-goers are always looking for a 'bargain' on the auction floor, but our attendees have been generous in making their bids as high as possible, because the proceeds go for a good cause. John Hill likes to 'push the envelope' when several bidders start to compete for a desirable item, and it then becomes entertainment for the entire room. Although some folks are prone to stay home and watch basketball, we hope you'll record the game and come to the auction to support us and have fun with your friends."

Started in 1995 by a group of concerned citizens in Black Mountain, BMCA has become a thriving center of activity in the Swannanoa Valley. Between the opportunities to take arts, music, and dance classes, concerts by local musicians, summer camps, events featuring nationally and internationally known writers, musicians, and storytellers, excellent black-box theater productions, a state-of-the-art pottery teaching studio, and a gallery with fine art shows which change frequently, the local arts aficionados have no lack of opportunities to be involved in the arts in this small mountain town. In fact, it is one of a handful of arts centers in NC that focus on more than one area of the arts. Other annual events that focus on fund raising are the Art in Bloom flower and art show in June, the Will Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament in the fall, and donor campaigns.