



Art in Bloom Honorary Chair Ann Vasilik Will Participate with Garden Tour Painters

A local garden tour on Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, from 10 am – 4 pm will be one of the highlights of the third annual Art in Bloom weekend, sponsored by the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, located at 225 W. State Street. Art in Bloom, a fundraiser for the non-profit Center, is an annual event focused on flowers and art. For more information or to purchase tickets call 828/660-0930 or visit www.blackmountainarts.org. Contact the Center for a group ticket rate for groups of 10 or more. Tickets for the garden tour are \$15 and can be used both Friday and Saturday. Map and directions will be provided from the Arts Center on the day of the tour. Admission to the Art in Bloom show is included in the Garden Tour ticket.

Each year the Center invites an Honorary Chair to participate in some way with Art in Bloom. The 2009 Honorary Chair is Ann Vasilik, well-known watercolorist in western NC. One of Vasilik's original paintings is in the art exhibit which is being used by floral designers to interpret for the Art in Bloom show, June 18-21.

Vasilik, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, received a bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Philadelphia College of Art. Prior to her move to Asheville more than twenty years ago, Ann worked as a painter, illustrator and teacher in Virginia, California, Hawaii, North Carolina and the Republic of the Philippines. Vasilik has received numerous awards and commission, has held solo exhibits, served as juror for regional art shows, and has taught watercolor workshops in the US and abroad. Locally she is known for a series of paintings of The Old Depot, the Montreat Gate, and The Seven Sisters and Lake Tomahawk. Prints of her work are available at The Ginkgo Tree.



Vasilik will be on hand in one of the gardens on the tour, participating with *plein air* painters who will be on location in each garden to capture the impressions of the plants and the visitors. In addition to Vasilik, these will include Fredreen Bernatovicz, Joyce Black Woerz, Steve Felker, Denise Geiger, Cheryl Keefer, Sara LeVan, Elizabeth Lovejoy, Lynn Newhouse, Ida O'Connell, Martha Raines, Eileen Ross, Marian Sinks, Jenean Stone, Susan Taylor, Barbara Wade, Marguerite Welty and Ann Whisenant. Most are members of the Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League. The Garden Tour paintings will be displayed at the Center for the Arts on Sunday, June 21 from 1 - 4 pm during the Art in Bloom show. Tickets for the Art in Bloom exhibit only are \$5.

The Art in Bloom Garden Tour features the horticultural talents, both flowers and vegetables, of many of our neighbors. At each garden a host will welcome guests and provide information about the particular garden. Visitors, who are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes, may choose how long they wish to spend in each garden. Restrooms will be available at the Center for the Arts, at Lake Tomahawk, and at the Public Restroom on Cherry Street.

Another local collaboration is with several restaurateurs who are providing a discount for lunch to Garden Tour ticket holders. Berliner Kindl, Black Mountain Bakery, Morning Glory Café, Phil's Bar-B-Que, and Thai Basil Café are participating restaurants that will honor garden tour tickets for a 15% discount on lunch for either Friday or Saturday.

Don't miss this opportunity to tour some of the private gardens of Black Mountain not on exhibit before, and to view the beauty of art and flowers together.