

From The Foundation Board President & Executive Director

Letter from the Board President

Are you an artist? Or do you like to dabble in art? Or have you always wanted to try something artistic, but didn't know where to begin? Guess what? We have opportunities for all artistic ability levels at RSAF!

Be on the lookout for Saturday workshops geared especially for beginners. Recent topics have included handmade paper-making, cupcake decorating, calligraphy, and card-making. All materials are included, so the workshops are a fun and inexpensive way to try something new.

Do you paint or draw but have trouble designating time and /or space to your practice? I invite you to check out our Open Studio that meets on Thursdays from 11 AM – 3 PM. Organized by RSAF Board Member Helen Tueffel, Open Studio celebrates its one year anniversary in May! There is no instruction, rather it is an environment free of distractions and filled with the creative energy of fellow artists. Artists bring their own materials (and lunch) and meet in the 2nd floor Studio 101 classroom at the Old Rock School to work.

If you are an artist, I encourage you to participate in our annual Open Art Competition held in August. Every year I am impressed by the talent in our local community shown in the OAC. If you have a little more time, you should take part in the Valdese Plein Air Fest. Not sure you are ready to paint out-of-doors? Join us for the reception and wet paint sale at the end of the fest, and interact with the artists to get their feedback and advice for trying it next year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Rock School Arts Foundation. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming receptions, exhibitions, events and classes!

Kristina Anthony, Board President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kristina Anthony, *President*
Brenda Lyday, *Vice President*
Helen Tueffel, *Secretary* Jamie Hall, *Treasurer*
Linda Harvey Jana Farris Alan Griffin
Kathi Yarnall Jenna Hazlett
Ann Mullis Leslie Rostan Edyth Potter

Letter from the Executive Director

It is with a sad heart I begin the letter. A wonderful friend and loyal supporter of this Foundation, Mrs. Jackie Deaton died in October. This beautiful and artistic lady will be so missed.

There was Wonderful Fun, Fellowship, and Contact with talented artists and well executed artwork during the receptions for attending art lovers during 2023. If you were unable to be with us, the Board and I look forward to seeing you in 2024.

If you do not know about our Open Studio, it is a place to bring supplies and ideas to create works while enjoying other artists' company. This takes place on Thursdays from 11am to 3pm. The Foundation held two Art Camps during the summer and hope to continue in 2024. We also held after school Art Classes for grades K-2 and 3-5 in the Spring and Fall which will continue for 2024. All of these activities take place in Studio 101, along with workshops. It is inspiring to see this incredible studio utilized in such fun and creative ways.

The 36th Annual Open Art Competition was incredible as always. So many wonderful entries, with many artists entering for the first time. Mrs. Clare Pope, assistant art professor and visual art program coordinator at Lenoir-Rhyne University judged the competition. She was very impressed by the quality of the artwork in this competition. Members of the board and I were able to witness visitors on the opening day of the exhibition enjoying the artwork and voting for the Peoples' Choice Award. As well as observe Artists in the Waldensian Room creating while visitors and buyers engaged with them. All this and the Waldensian Festival made it a day of enjoyment for all.

The Foundation again partnered with Friends of Valdese Rec, Town of Valdese and the Rec Department for the Plein Air Event; now known as Valdese Plein Air Fest. So exciting to see more artists participate and utilize the entire town of Valdese as inspiration for their works. The reception was a time of getting to know the artists, art friends, enjoying good food, beverages and watching as the winning artwork and artists were awarded prizes.

Opera Carolinas Express will provide two live performances for the students of Valdese elementary with Q&A sessions in the auditorium of the Old Rock School in February 2024.

Without all of you, your support and participation none of this would be taking place.

Sharon Bowman, Executive Director, RSAF

Rock School Arts Foundation - 2023 Supporting Members

Individual	Family	Sponsor	Patron	Benefactor
Andrew Atkin	Leigh Mazaleski	David & Hope Clayton	Claudia Bujold	Chip & Tammy Black
Morris Baker	Theresa McDaniel	Dan & Linda Huffman	Doris Burris	Alan & Lu Griffin
Renee' Barnette	Tom Owens	Margery Johnson	Charles & Loretta Clark	Phyllis Jacumin
Jane Best	Judy Rider	Beau & Linda Lyday	Bill & Sally Galliard	Dr. Edgar & Emily Lane, III
Laura J Bill	Karla Starnes	Don & Amy McHugh	Meredith Janseen	Steve & Ann Mullis
Debra Bumgarner	Tommy Stine	Paul & Alicia Mears	Stephan J & Rosemary E Ohnesorge	William L Palmer Col USA Ret
Richard Bush	Becky Thomas	Rose & Will Mueller	Marsha Riddle	Dr. John Sherrill
Nancy Clausen	Kellie Turnmire	Susan & David Pollpeter	Ken & Marilee Stettler	Peg Propst
Vyvan Dunne	Sandra West	Maria Register	Robert & Susan Stevenson	Sustainer
Jana Farris	Elsie M. Whisenant	Melissa & Randy Smith	Connie Tosky	Michael Alexander
Linda M. Greenfield	Tim White	Amy Voss	Judy Whitner	Kristina Anthony
Mark Kastner	Joann Wilfong		Kathi Yarnall	Dorothy K. Ervin
Judy Kever	Karen Yost			Marc & Maria Mitchell
Patricia Leonard				
Margaret Carter Martine				

Corporate
Brinkley Insurance Agency Inc.
Heritage Funeral Service Inc.

Grants
Burke Arts Council
Town of Valdese
Community Foundation of Burke County

Endowment
Stephan J Ohnesorge
Kathi Yarnall
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Deaton

Memorial
Donald Jackson & Maxine
Cooper McCall Fund

Please review the Foundation's Mission & Endowment Fund on the front cover & consider donating generously to support our 2021 programs.

Membership Rates

- Individual.....\$20
- Family.....\$35
- Sponsor.....\$50
- Patron.....\$100
- Sustainer.....\$250
- Benefactor.....\$500 & up

Yes, I would like to become a RSAF member
 Yes, I would like to contribute \$_____ to the RSAF Endowment Fund
 Please provide the following information and return your contribution to:
 ROCK SCHOOL ARTS FOUNDATION, P.O. Box 837, Valdese, NC 28690
 NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
 MEMBERSHIP TYPE: _____

The Rock School Arts Foundation's mission is to offer new and exciting exhibitions, programs and art education for adults and children; to serve as a cultural destination for tourists and visitors; and a resource for our local art communities. PLEASE renew your membership or become a member today!

The RSAF Endowment Fund is a permanent fund established with the Community Foundation of Burke County (CFBC), which makes quarterly grants to RSAF in support of our Mission. Please consider contributing generously to the CFBC fund and be sure to write "for benefit of RSAF" on the memo line.

2024 CHILDREN'S OPERA

Rock School Arts Foundation is happy to report that we will bring two live performances of a Children's Opera to the Rock School Auditorium in February 2024. Opera Carolina Express with their highly trained singers will delight the students of Valdese Elementary School with "The Coyotes and The Rabbits". A Q&A session will follow each performance. For many students this will be their first exposure to opera. This event was made possible by our loyal RSAF supporters and the Grassroots Art Program Subgrant/Burke Art Council.

PLEIN AIR FEST

In partnership with the Town of Valdese & Friends of the Valdese Rec, the Foundation welcomed numerous artists from near and far to paint the picture perfect Lakeside Park and McGalliard Falls Park. The event was a success, concluding with a public reception & wet sale.



OPEN STUDIO

Open Studio is a time the Foundation offers the public. Rock School Arts Foundation's Studio 101 is open to anyone wanting a place to bring your supplies to create and enjoy other artists' company. Open Studio is held on Thursdays from 11am to 3pm.



Artists in the Waldensian Room

Seventeen local artists participated in a demonstration and sale during the 2023 Waldensian Festival. Artistic techniques included painting, jewelry, pottery, woodworking and sculpture.

WORKSHOPS

The Foundation provided a Cupcake Decorating Workshop taught by Kristina Anthony. The workshop was held in June 2023 and welcomed more than ten participants. It was a great success and the participants thoroughly enjoyed it.



CAMPS & CLASSES

The Foundation held a week-long Summer Art Camp and eight weeks of after school Art Classes for Kindergarten through Fifth Graders.



2023 OPEN ART COMPETITION - Thank you to OAC Judge Claire Pope, Assistant Art Professor & visual art program coordinator at Lenoir-Rhyne University



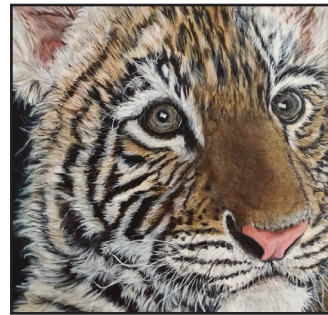
First Prize:
Karen Yost



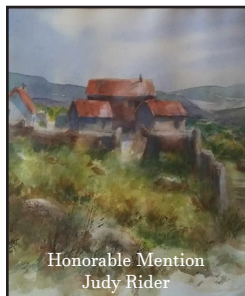
Second Prize:
Carol Turner



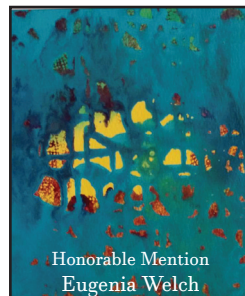
Third Prize:
Amy McHugh



People's Choice:
Lori Greene



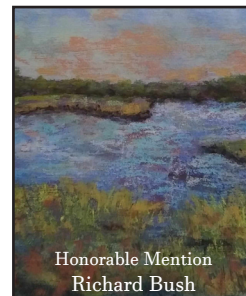
Honorable Mention
Judy Rider



Honorable Mention
Eugenia Welch



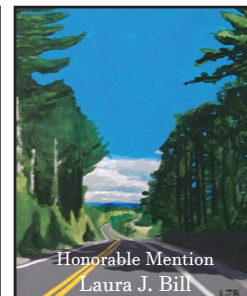
Honorable Mention
Tyler Stephens



Honorable Mention
Richard Bush

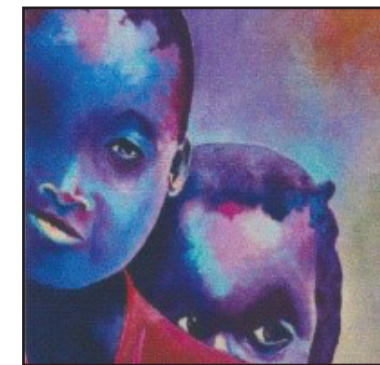


Honorable Mention
Alison Willard



Honorable Mention
Laura J. Bill

2023 ARTISTS' EXHIBITIONS

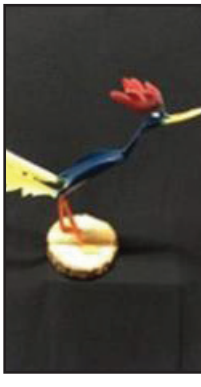
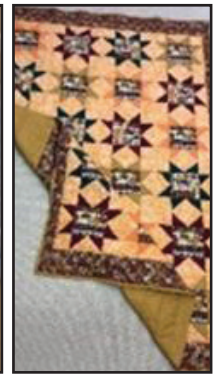
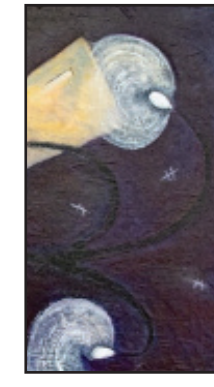
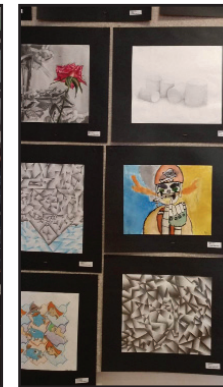


January 13 – February 17

Linda Harvey & Irina Khudyakov

March 3 – April 7

Renee' Parker Barnette & Gregory Huffman



April 21 – May 19

High & Middle Schools Exhibits

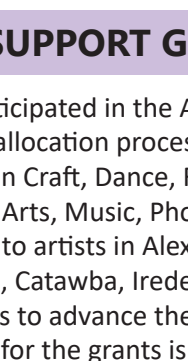
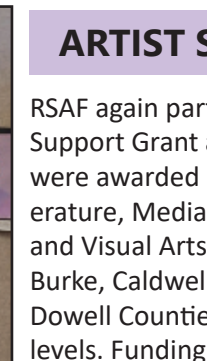
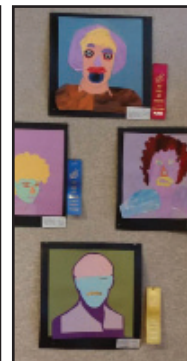
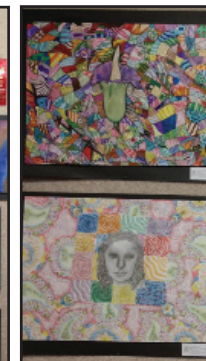
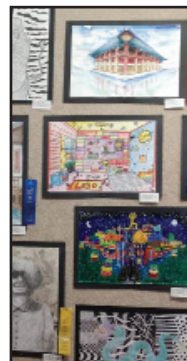
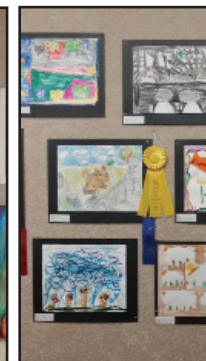
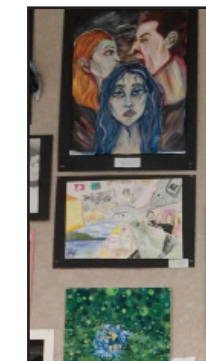
June 2 – July 7

Diane Podosky, Michelle Flowers, Delores Paton, Renia Buckhart, Patsy Jarrett



September 29 - November 3

Maria Register, Jennifer Cline, Meredith Janseen, Alison Willard, Elizabeth Boerger



ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT

RSAF again participated in the Artist Support Grant allocation process. Grants were awarded in Craft, Dance, Film, Literature, Media Arts, Music, Photography and Visual Arts to artists in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell and McDowell Counties to advance their artistic levels. Funding for the grants is provided by Regional Arts Councils and the RSAF, with funds from the NC Arts Council.

November 17 - December 31

RSAF Middle & High School Exhibition Competition