

News Release
For Immediate Release

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Down the Rabbit Hole

February-March Exhibit at St. John's Boulder Art Gallery

Artist Reception, February 5, 2010, 5:30 – 7:30 p. m., free and open to the public

Boulder, Colo. (January 23, 2010) – Every painting and photograph in this new collection at St. John's Art Gallery is a dive headlong into Wonderland. **Bob Avery, Mike Brouse, Nancy Myer, and Joan Wolbier** bring talent and years of training together to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. **Avery** seeks to evoke strong feelings from subjects that fascinate him. His former profession, airline pilot, enables him to bring his painterly eye to landscapes and scenes of daily life in far-flung corners of the globe. **Brouse** applies impressionistic techniques to ponder simple pleasures in his series of homages to the bicycle in Boulder. **Myer** uses her camera to luxuriate in unique perspectives on flowers, inspired by the colorful and surreal canvases of Georgia O'Keefe and the *photo impressionism* of Freeman Patterson and André Gallant. Finally, **Wolbier** captures rugged Colorado landscapes in watercolors that dramatize the play of light and shadow on distant mountains and the mirrored stillness of trees reflected in serene lakes.

This is one collection that offers something new and surprising from frame to frame. When you take this journey **Down the Rabbit Hole**, you'll find yourself in an extraordinary world of imagery designed to surprise, scintillate, and inspire. At the public reception, moreover, Laurie Dameron, singer, songwriter, guitarist, will provide music to intensify your viewing experience.

Bob Avery

Watercolors and oils

Email: avery.b@comcast.net

Bob's interest in drawing goes back to childhood. He loved trying to reproduce exactly what he saw. Developing a passion for photography in his senior year, he graduated from college with a BFA and worked as a photographer for several studios. Eventually, he decided to pursue another of his passions, flying. He



sold his photographic equipment, took flying lessons, and in 1968, became a pilot for TWA. After retiring, he decided to paint again. He took watercolor classes with Jim Pedersen, a well-known local artist, and attended a workshop with Tony Couch. Bob found he learned more from listening and watching others than from having his own work critiqued. He felt most people would not offer the sometimes brutal honesty an artist needs to develop his or her craft. Bob turned to Brenda, his wife, to provide critical commentary that fostered his growth as an artist. He continued studying other painters' work, especially Richard Schmidt's oils and Charles Reid's watercolors. He also drew great inspiration from John Austin Hanna, a gifted artist and college friend. By talking and working with John, Bob learned that in order to improve he must draw and paint continually. It's the work, not simply the talent, that brings out excellence in an artist.

Bob says he believes that “art is the creative ability to recreate powerful emotions conjured by a subject at the very moment it first captivates the artist.” **Angkor Wat Monks**, for example, reflects not only the temple, but Bob's fascination with Cambodia. These four monks in their orange robes contrast against the muted colors of the stone temple. “It is the monks who imbue the temple with life,” Bob explains, “so I tried to keep the background simple and rough, using a purple mix for the darks to contrast with and complement the orange robes.”



Mike Brouse

Oils

Website: <http://www.mikebrouse.com>

Follow my art blog –

<http://mikebrousefineart.blogspot.com/>

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter

Boulder Open Studio Artist:

<http://www.openstudios.org>



Mike's artistic legacy stretches back several generations. His great grandfather was one of the first professional photographers in Central Pennsylvania, and his work is still exhibited in local museums. His grandfather was a talented wood worker and art framer. Mike, a painter, looks for objects and scenes that move him emotionally, subjects that inspire him to capture their simple beauty on canvas. He is attracted to rural landscapes and old buildings in fertile surroundings. In this series, he focuses on Boulder's love affair with bicycles, a passion he shares. In fact, 10% of the sales from Mike's work at St. John's exhibit will go to **World Bicycle Relief** <http://www.worldbicyclerelief.org/blog/?p=51>



Mike chooses to ponder life's simple pleasures in his paintings. He is drawn to simple shapes and pays close attention to light and shadow. His studio is indoor/outdoor, allowing him a great deal of flexibility in designing the perfectly lit scene. He also uses color skillfully to guide and direct the eye. Like George Rodrigue, his favorite color is blue,

specifically, Cerulean Blue. Mike also leans toward mixing yellow with Cerulean to create his cooler greens. “Art is emotive, connective, and an important part of being human,” Mike says, “It is like love; I get back at least as much as I invest.” **Leaning on Pickets** is a contemporary, impressionistic oil painting of a bicycle on West Pearl in Boulder. The vivid brush strokes serve to keep the viewer’s eye moving across the canvas, discovering the nuances of contrasting color, shape, and line.

Nancy E. Myer

Color Photography

Email address: NEMyer1115@aol.com

See work displayed on the Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/58283471@N00/>



Nancy’s favorite photographic subjects are flowers. She has been a serious photographer since 1976. Nancy feels that her art form has increased her sensitivity to nuances of color, shape, texture, light, and shadow; “It provided a frame of reference for viewing my surroundings.” Nancy is especially indebted to Canadian photographers Freeman Patterson and André Gallant. She studied with them and credits them with introducing her to *photo realism*, a style she has embraced wholeheartedly.

While photographing flowers, Nancy uses extreme close-ups that can often be quite abstract. She brings impressionistic style to her photographs with their vibrant colors and suggested, rather than precise, detail. Also a devotee of Georgia O’Keeffe, Nancy admires her strong colors and large-scale renditions of flowers. Like O’Keeffe, Nancy forces the viewer to attend to an object in a new and remarkable way. Georgia O’Keeffe said, “When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it’s your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else.” In much the same way, Nancy tries to show her floral subjects from radically new perspectives, blurring the sharp edges of reality into a dreamscape of



color and form. Nancy's "**Rear View Tulip**" reflects parrot tulips: "As I was looking for a different viewpoint for a close-up, I saw the sensuous shape of the tulip petals from the rear. The tulip was indirectly backlit by a nearby sliding glass door. I liked the way the backlighting gave the petals a translucent quality. This led me to take advantage, not only of new perspectives, but also of non-frontal, directional light."

Nancy has exhibited at the Artist Alliance of Northern Colorado's *National Art Exhibition and Sale* in Ft. Collins. She has also exhibited in the annual "*Through the Eye of the Camera*" show in Littleton, a 40-year old show that has a reputation for presenting quality photography. Nancy, moreover, won several awards at the *Louisville Juried Photography Show*.

Joan Wolbier

Watercolor and Pen & Ink with Watercolor

jwolbier@his.com

www.joanwolbier.com

Links:

www.joanwolbier.blogspot.com

www.thepalettegallery.com/



From childhood, Joan has been passionate about art. Growing up abroad, she studied art in several European schools before returning to the U.S. where she attended college and majored in art. Although dedicated to fine arts, she began her stellar career as a graphic designer. She later became an art director serving at both the prestigious Smithsonian Institute and the National Geographic Society. After years of juggling motherhood with a career that encompassed both commercial and fine art in multiple media, Joan at last discovered her true passion in Colorado landscapes rendered in watercolors. She has also excelled in the art of producing artist books. She published several limited editions, and the New York Museum of Modern Art, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D. C. house some of her books in special collections.

Joan is passionate about her process: "Creating art has always been a spiritual experience. When I draw or paint, visions of mountains, trees, and oceans appear. I love the texture of watercolor paper and how in working in that medium the paint does not always comply with my will. Ultimately, my

representations of landscapes are reflections of both my internal and external explorations.”

Alpine Pond emerges from a photograph Joan took when hiking in Indian Peaks in 2005. Only after years of studying with the Plein Air Painters of Estess Park did she finally feel ready to paint that scene; “I could now capture the glowing colors of light reflected in the grasses and the wispy clouds that gather in the Colorado skies. I could also infuse, at long last, the stillness and calm I experienced on that mountain trail.”



About the St. John's Boulder Art Gallery

The St. John's Art Boulder Art Gallery is a non-profit organization established by St. John's Episcopal Church. It serves as a venue for talented local and regional artists. Juried shows are developed around themes, and submissions must be appropriate for all ages. Located at 1419 Pine Street, the St. John's Art Gallery is free and open to the public. Visit the gallery on line at www.stjohnsboulder.org/artgallery/

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