

# B. Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution Vol. V No. 8 August, 2015

### Getting Back in the Game

The anxious athlete on the bench knows his position on the team as he waits to be sent onto the field by his coach. No athlete strives to be second or third string, but riding the bench says a lot about where he is, as well as where he wants to be. Being on the sidelines when the game is in play doesn't define the player unless he never gets to play. The nature of sports is competition.

The nature of art is not much different. With so many artists striving to make it to the top of their game, it is essential that the artist today does not sit on the sidelines for too long. The competition for excellence in art is always there as it draws crowds to the galleries, museums, theaters, and stage to see the next new exciting event, artwork, show or performance.

Creative people always want to be part of that, and it requires effort to get your work seen. Promotion takes as much creative energy as the artwork, and unfortunately, is often the part of an art-life that is most difficult.

When my time opened up to me at age 65, I made it a goal to exhibit as often as possible... at least a couple of times each year, and I have been pretty successful at doing that. In the last five years my artwork has been seen in ten shows, including the latest selection to the AVA Gallery's 2015 juried Summer Exhibition (Lebanon, NH) through August 28th. I have also been lucky to have sold artwork while participating in some of these exhibits, and often have had positive responses to my work.

Whether the exhibit is a large solo exhibit, a modest joint exhibit with another artist, a group show, or a single work selected to a juried exhibition, it always feels good to get onto the "field of play"!

It is also a good place to meet "art lovers" and fellow artist friends. For this show, Harry Bernard, a neighbor and friend of mine, was instrumental in my inclusion in the AVA exhibit. (I noted his show at the AVA gallery in my January, 2015 newsletter). Harry is an active painter, who called my attention to the upcoming juried show being held at the Lebanon Gallery and urged me to enter.



Harry with his painting



"Glacial Retreat - Aerial View" and me

AVA Gallery and Art Center's 2015 Juried Summer Exhibition continues to be on display throughout all the galleries at 11 Bank Street in Lebanon, NH through Friday, August 28.

"The works in the exhibit were chosen from 331 works by 189 artists from 86 communities throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. Of these, 59 works by 50 artists were selected. The juror, Susan Strickler, Director of the Currier Museum of Art, states "Of the 331 works submitted, I saw very competent work ranging from geometric and organic abstract compositions to painterly landscapes and detailed urban scenes rendered as paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, textile and folded paper, among others. To make the final selection of about 60 works, I considered how the artist addresses his subject, how well she uses her chosen medium, what he or she has to say to the audience: does the work reflect a certain passion or point of view? It was impressive to see the emotional terrain the artists covered from the contemplative and evocative to the compulsive and playful." "

\*AVA Press Release