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Painter gets jump-start at MLAC

By Tara Lynn Johnson

Just a couple more days to enjoy the 71st Annual Members' Exhibition at the Main Line Art Center. More than 200 artists display their one-of-a-kind works in a variety of media, including painting, printmaking, drawing, ceramics, jewelry, photography and more. The Annual Members' Exhibition includes work by both new and long-time members, and like all Art Center exhibitions, is free and open to the public. The exhibition will be juried for prizes by Brian H. Peterson, Senior Curator at the James A. Michener Art Museum.

Founded in 1937 by a group of local artists, Main Line Art Center's mission is to inspire and engage artistic creativity for individuals of all ages and abilities and to celebrate and strengthen the essential role of visual art in community life.

Painter Bonnie Gross features her landscapes in the show.

"I literally draw on my environment. What ultimately becomes a painting is what I take home inside me, to surface later on a canvas or panel," she said.

A recent trip to Sicily offered up a series of Sicilian landscapes, of which her displayed "Twilight Farm" is a part.

"It reflects roughened red earth beneath a rolling carpet of farmland typically speckled with sheds, all weathered by the ever-present sea," she said.

After graduating from Moore College of Art, with combined study in graphic design and painting, Gross enjoyed a career as creative director and designer in communication and packaging graphics. In 2000, she returned to painting and discovered the Main Line Art Center and classes/travel workshops were the jump-start she needed. The interaction with other artists provides a welcome balance to more solitary home studios, she said. And as a new member of the MLAC Board, she's become even more aware of the enrichment that the art center brings to many lives.

'Art is the reflection, communication and expression of humankind, knowing no borders and speaking all languages," she said. "Art is not necessary to survive, but it is necessary to be alive, at least for me."

The Art Center's gallery is open Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Members' Exhibition ends Jan. 10.