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Newsletter Update for March 2011

You may actually want to read this newsletter as somewhere in it are a couple of answers to questions that could win you wonderful Elephant tote bag, designed by the folk artist, Sharon Johnson. This bag retails for \$165.

Or a painting by Coastwalker, Ken Oberholtzer retail value \$50.

You may sometimes look at a good painting and ask yourself what is it worth. Alison Mandel-Stein, representative of AskART, has a special offer to customers of our gallery. Here it is:

Special offer for Graves Country Newsletter readers— Receive 50% off your first month subscription to AskART (for New Subscribers only) when you enter the promo code GCE511 on the billing page ('Promotion or Discount Code' field). This is valid from 4/1/2011-5/1/2011.

AskART is an online fine art marketplace and research database, covering over 200,000 historical and contemporary artists from around the world. Information includes upcoming and past auction records with images, "artwork for sale" and "art wanted" ads. Artist profiles can include images, literature references, biographies, essays on important art movements, and statistics on the market. You can also receive Artist Alerts on your favorite artists when new information is available.



I speak with Sharon Johnson at least two or three times per week. You can find her website by going to our website www.gravescountry.com and clicking on her name under Links. She makes all kinds of things ranging from paintings, tote bags, jewelry, note cards, and gosh what else? You will have to find out for yourself!

Last month the winner of the prize, a painting by Sharon, was Beth Loasil of Niherne, France. She was the first one to provide the name of Sharon's son, Zoejah. (Yes folks, we have customers in Europe.)

Sharon is obviously one of our favorite artists, Her paintings are still very reasonable but all are going up in price.

I hear from Juanita Leonard fairly often. My heart is always with her. She is the truest folk artist I have ever known. As many of you know, she has built her own environment and her own church. She ministers in that church and will pray for you upon request. I love Juanita Leonard!

I would like to remind you of a fun event I wish I could attend . Perhaps you can **“Well, I know that is really a long shot, but I just viewed your work on FB and thought that I would invite you to join us for Art At The Barn, Saturday, May 7 here on Sweet Seasons Farm- located At Valley Head, Al. We are about 40mins. south of Chattanooga. This is our third annual show, and this years is really going to be big. We are one of the oldest and largest sheep farms in Alabama. And that alone seems to bring the crowds from the cities. As I said, I know it is a long shot to get you here, but just maybe if you are coming this way or maybe you have family that you would like to visit??? Oh well, If possibly you might be interested just let me know. Thanks, Paulette Manning Oh yeah, I really like your work!!”**



Have you discovered the Connecticut Yankee potter, Jason Mahlke? He is a high school teacher in New York but lives in Connecticut. He has decided that Northerners can play with pottery too and he is doing a bang up job. I am hooked! You must check him out on my website. I have purchased his first Totem pole and six or seven of his face jugs. The expressions on his jugs are remarkably human! I love this young man, his wife Pamela, and their children!

Speaking of great potters, Michel Bayne is firing up his kiln and will soon be bringing his pottery to us again. His restoration of his Revolutionary War home is almost done.

I spend hours on ebay and on the internet looking at art and artists. I see a few that I am interested in but not enough to get involved with. I have recently purchased seven

paintings by Georgia red Mud Artist, Steven Chandler. One of them is his great masterpiece, the Bride and Groom painting. This one was his favorite. I also purchased two early Finster paintings, one an Angel from 1987. In addition, we have several paintings in our inventory by Sharon Johnson.

We discovered, through the help of Ernie Boone, an absolutely great antique shop, The Bean Barn, in Linden, Ca. It is well worth a visit to this area. It reminds me of the huge barn full that I used to find traveling through the East. What fun it is to spend a couple of hour browsing! During my two visit I managed to drop a few hundred dollars, happily spent!

My daughter, Wendy helps me straighten out the confusion I create with my book keeping. I try hard but it doesn't come easy. Today she and I met with our Income Tax Representative, Laura Strombom. Laura is the great lady that defended us with the successful IRS audit. Laura took one look at my business records and told me that our markup was not high enough—that I would have to sell the item for at least 25% over my cost of the item to make a profit what-so-ever. I must go through my inventory and make upward adjustments. I am still going to try and be the most reasonable gallery anywhere!

Just a couple of thoughts---I am on facebook as a few artists and potters are on there, as well as my grandchildren and friends.

I am often disheartened to see the profanity coming from my own grandchildren whom I want to respect. I can't seem to understand why they have to express themselves with four letter words, racial remarks, and just plain ignorant statements. I guess I am just not fitting into this world as we know it today!

I have written enough so the prize will be an Elephant tote bag (very nice) created by Sharon Johnson. It will go to the first person who emails with the name of the person who won the prize last month AND where she resides.

The prize of the painting will go to the first person who emails me with the name of the state this artist resides in.

And please note---Our website now has a large red banner on the front page of it. You can't miss it. It will be updated daily. Starting tomorrow, and for one week, the names of the winners will be posted on that banner.



I almost forgot –I want to share this picture of S/Sgt Myles and Holly Corbin’s baby daughter Addy. Myles is the EOD Tech who has served twice overseas and is a heavily decorated Airman! He is my grandson! He was serving in Afghanistan when Addy was born.

In closing, may God protect and keep each of you safe.

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