



Master by Gary Hulam. | Photo by Greg Strelcki

Masters in the Making

THE MADISON ARTISTS GUILD SHOWCASES LOCAL ARTISTS

by Karen Strelcki

The Madison Artists Guild (MAG) has been welcoming local artists into the fold since its inception in 1985. It began as an organization of seven founding members with the purpose to support and encourage its members and to champion local Morgan County artists. Even though MAG's membership has grown to exceed 150 members hailing from as far away as Macon, Augusta, Cumming, Atlanta and even Arkansas, the Guildies, as they are affectionately known, still believe that the strength of local communities is reflected in their "creatives" and that the art spirit is worth nurturing.

The heart of the Guild is found in the Cottage Gallery, a restored 1830s structure on the northwest corner of Madison's Town Park. Originally constructed as a business office for the thriving cotton agribusiness some 30 years before the Civil War, the cottage has served as a barbershop and an alterations business among other ventures in the local community. After the building's recent award winning renovation, the City of Madison and the Downtown Development Authority invited MAG to serve as docents in the cottage and to utilize the building as Guild Headquarters and Member Gallery.

