

■ Upcoming

December 9

Shark Bite: How to Protect Your Creative Property Rights

The Creekmore Law Firm, Blacksburg • 12 noon

This event is for fine artists, writers, photographers and other creatives interested in protecting their rights. Lunch is included and provided by Hethwood Market. RSVP required by **Dec. 5** to diana@creekmorelaw.com.

December 11

Laura "Jeannie" Fender Reception *Glencoe Museum, Radford • 6–8 p.m.*

Fender's art opening features paintings ranging from landscapes to abstract creations. The event is held in conjunction with the museum's annual holiday open house.

December 12

BRAA Monthly Luncheon and Art Spot *Famous Anthony's, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m.*

This month's Art Spot will be presented by artist Vera Dickerson, who will talk about her Jan. 24-25 black gesso/acrylic workshop and show examples of her work using this process.

January 24–25

Vera Dickerson Workshop *Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech Campus*

Artist Vera Dickerson, founding member of the Studio School and renowned teacher, will be leading this BRAA-sponsored water media workshop focused on black gesso and acrylics. For more info and registration, visit <http://braaarts.wix.com/blacksburgart#>.

January 28

Whet Your Palette Reception for Art Through the Eras Exhibit *The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc., Blacksburg • 5:30–8:30 p.m.*

Come view artists' interpretations of old masters' styles – romanticism, surrealism, cubism, and much more.

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Energy and abstraction

By Melissa Philen • Photos by Teri Hoover

Dropcloths shielded the floor in a small, basement studio. Canvases laid arranged near a reference picture of Incan walls taken on a recent trip to Peru with a group of Shamanic practitioners. Bottles, loaded with acrylic, earth-toned paint, lined a nearby table. The artist paused with a spray bottle in hand.

The artist, Tom Wilkinson, began to spray, transforming the studio into a stage. While his arm swung, the artist's hand dispensed the toned pigment. A short pause gave way to several quick motions. His opposite arm acted in counterbalance by lifting, swaying, pausing. Movement appeared joyful as he danced 360 degrees around the canvases. Paint marked his gestures. All the while, Wilkinson analyzed the results.

After a quiet moment, Wilkinson stated, "I am an abstract expressionist. I really find much more energy and life for me in emotive painting." Wilkinson's paintings, photography, and installations incorporate movement mobilized by emotional, physical, or metaphysical energy. "Moving" and "building" emerge as themes and motivating forces in Wilkinson's life path.

Tom Wilkinson, who shares his Claytor Lake home with his wife, Connie, recently returned to art after a 35-year career in industry and academia. Wilkinson earned a bachelor's degree in art with a minor in education. He reminisced, "During that time, I was showing art, doing creative photography, and selling some art work. Because I took a different path, I dropped my career. I just closed that door and left for 35 years."

The Newport News native describes a career in instructional technology, education, and leadership. Wilkinson received a master's at Radford College in educational media with a minor in art. "That got me into instructional design, television production, and filmmaking." Over the years, he developed the New River Community College

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Tom Wilkinson finds energy and life in emotive painting, as evidenced by the colorful, expressionistic work in his studio.

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February 14

Reception, Annual New Works Exhibition
Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd •
 4-6 p.m.

This yearly exhibit of new works is a continuing reflection of the artistic growth in the region.

March 17, 19, 20

Robin Poteet Workshop
Christiansburg Presbyterian Church

Robin returns in spring! This time she will be exploring pouring techniques with water media. For more information, contact Sue Farrar by email at director@montgomerymuseum.com.

Camp Alta Mons retreat planned for 2015

Want to spend a "camping" weekend with art and friends? BRAA has reserved Sept. 25-27 at Camp Alta Mons in Shawsville for an art retreat. Most of the details have yet to be confirmed, but participants will likely arrive at the Burrows Retreat Center (no, you don't have to camp in a tent!) on Friday, get settled in, and have dinner in the next door dining facility. Saturday will be a workshop day (subject and instructor to be determined) and an evening of movie night fun. Sunday morning is breakfast, pack up, painting, hiking and checking out by 1:00.

Workshop, accommodations and all meals prepared and included for what is expected to be a very reasonable fee. This lovely camp area provides for plein air painting and hiking for those who wish to fill the extra hours with fresh air and nature. As details firm up, they will be announced, but in the meantime, reserve your calendar for Sept. 25-27! Member Nancy Norton coordinating.

"Love yourself and love your art; even if periodically you feel jilted." ~ Harley Brown

Energy and abstraction continued from page 1

educational media production facilities, built a training program for a large organization, and built an award-winning distance education and learning resources program at New River Community College.

Along the way, Wilkinson earned a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on instructional technology. In 1997, administrators at Virginia Tech asked if he would develop the university's emerging eLearning program. When he retired, he was the associate vice president of distance learning and summer sessions at Virginia Tech.

After retiring, Wilkinson took a couple of experimental art classes and recognized, "I'm coming back to my roots." By painting and manipulating photography, Wilkinson began pursuing his early aspirations. For the past three years, he has built a portfolio of new works expressing, "It was a long winding road that just ended up full circle." "This piece," Wilkinson gestured toward a wall in his studio, "I did in 1972, and just walked away from all of it. I had to get reacquainted with myself. I have it up there as an inspiration and reminder of where I have been."

Trying to break free from 35 years of not being artistically creative, Wilkinson completed a course called "The Painting Experience." Lightheartedly, Wilkinson recalled his final painting, "It was an absolute failure." He declared, "I'm never going to paint again." Happily he added, "I started painting again." When he feels a creative block, he returns to this lesson learned affirming, "You start creating. All of a sudden, some really marvelous things come out of it. It is hard to let go."

The lens, through which Wilkinson works, demonstrates his interest in "energy." Additionally, he has supported his portfolio with a two-year training program in Shamanic practice. Wilkinson noted, Shamans work with energy fields, which can affect everything from how you feel emotionally and physically." He gestured to a piece he completed, which contained seven canvases relating to the seven energy centers, or chakras, within the body.

Wilkinson illustrated a dialogue he has with his pieces, "I like to look at the canvas and let the canvas tell me what paint it wants, what kind of colors it wants. Sometimes I don't even know what I am going to start with, what colors. Other times I have an idea." Wilkinson reveals, "I don't like rules. If someone says, 'Here is a canvas. Paint on the canvas.' I want the canvas to move. I want it to do something else. I don't want it to just be flat. So, that is how I got into some 3D work."



Painted doors are part of Wilkinson's expressive oeuvre.

Teri Hoover Photography

"For 35 years, I had this door from my childhood home. I didn't know what to do with it." Wilkinson conceived, "So, I painted it. I built a white frame around it. Set it out in the woods." Not only do these colorful doors adorn his property, but, his art work is part of permanent garden installations in Richmond.

Alluding to his forthcoming shows, Wilkinson reveals, "In my new series, I am looking at 'organic energy.' I have taken, in this case, an apple. I slice it, and put it on a light box to highlight its energetic properties." He then manipulated his photographs with computer software.

On January 15, Wilkinson opens a show at Point West Management Company. On April 1, Eucalyptus Massage Therapy begins hosting another Wilkinson exhibit. Looking forward to the public receptions, Wilkinson states, "I hope they enjoy it, and that it stirs something inside them." Until the shows, you can follow Wilkinson's work on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/tomwilkinsonart> or visit his website at <http://wilkiearts.com/>. ■

■ President's Report

I couldn't be happier with the 2014 annual meeting of BRAA if I tried. Great support from the Blacksburg Library, great support from the members who pulled together the room, the audio-visual and the refreshments. By the time the last attendee was in the door we had set a record with 61 attendees, including 22 members. Our speaker, Anne Kenny-Urban from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, was excellent and her subject — "Stranger than Fiction – Great Art Heists in History" — was fascinating.

Your 2014 board of directors was voted back in for 2015 and fun plans are already in the making. Included on the back of the audience agenda was a list of accomplishments for 2014. Obviously everything is not included, but it is still amazing to see. It was a great year! The most important thing is that we now have well over 100 members thanks to the 39 new people who have signed up!

I am sharing that list with you all in this edition. Thanks for making all this possible. I look forward to another successful year in 2015. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Your partner in art,



2014 In Review

- 12 luncheons – we used to get about a dozen attendees, now we normally have nearly 30
- 10 Art Spots at our luncheons
- 6 board meetings – long ones!
- Color presentation by Chuck Hoover, Hoover Color Corp.
- Colored pencil workshop by Jennifer Carpenter
- Photo workshop by David Pearce
- Realism to Abstract workshop by Danie Janov
- 6 plein air days at gorgeous local places
- 4 Play Dates at the Newport Recreation Center
- Art at the Market exhibition tent
- 16 Squares exhibit at The Black House
- Newport Recreation Center art exhibit for library grand opening
- Judging and awards to high school students from Auburn and Christiansburg at Montgomery Museum
- Annual VTLS member theme exhibition with 46 pieces
- Judging Art on the Lawn, Pearisburg
- 47 gallery exhibitions in our community galleries
- Lost one gallery, added two new ones
- T-shirt sale with BRAA logo
- Joined Amazon Smile for fundraising
- Joined Kroger Community Rewards for fundraising
- Began partnership with the Center for the Arts, Virginia Tech
- Cleaned up our home space at the Community Arts Information Office (CAIO) on College Avenue: put BRAA sign on the window, activated the TV with BRAA presentation, sold excess tent, increased marketing materials
- Greatly improved marketing through www.blacksburgart.org, Facebook and Twitter, BRAA business card, brochure, slide on The Lyric screen
- Increased membership by 39 new members for a total of 128 people – most likely an all-time high!

Wow! This organization is rocking it!



Anne Kenny-Urban from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts talked about great art heists throughout history at the BRAA annual meeting on Nov. 2.

Photo by Lois Stephens

■ Now Showing

October 15 – January 15
(except where indicated otherwise)

Pat Bevan, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Charlotte Chan, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Pam Congrove, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Carole Davis, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Laura "Jeannie" Fender, Glencoe Museum, Radford (through Jan.)

Danie Janov, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Carole McNamee, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (mid-Nov. to mid-May)

David Pearce, Real Life Dental Care, Blacksburg

Cecilia Riegert, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (mid-Nov. to mid-May)

Joy Rosenthal, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Tuesday Night Painters, Virginia Tech Women's Center, Blacksburg

Norma Woodward, Idego Coffee, Christiansburg (through Dec.)

Gerri Young, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

time to pay your dues

All members who joined prior to Oct. 1, 2014 need to pay dues for next year before January. Membership renewal forms can be downloaded from the membership tab at <http://braaarts.wix.com/>. Mail your form and payment to the address indicated or deliver it to treasurer Jeanette Bowker at the Dec. 12 luncheon. Renewal in December is especially important for those artists scheduled to exhibit in BRAA community galleries starting in mid-January as non-current members will not be able to exhibit.

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Quilts in 16 Squares

Alexander Black House and Cultural Center

Artists are invited to create a 12 x 12" red and green quilt (designed on point) that is an interpretation of architecture of the Alexander Black House. All techniques accepted. Due date of finished piece is **Dec. 29**. For more information, contact Hilary Harrison at hharrison@blacksburghistory.org.

Art Through the Eras

January 28 – April 8

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc.

Artists are invited to imitate the old masters and create something new for a brand new year. Qualifying works may include painting, ceramics, textile, photography, and mixed media. Applications and \$25 fee (for up to three works) due **Jan. 6**. For more information, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/gallery-shows>.

Call for Exhibiting Artists

Beginning January 2015

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Artists are invited to apply to display their work in the general social areas of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation for three-month periods. There is space for approximately 25 large and medium paintings. Any sales will be directly between the artist and purchaser. If interested, submit two representative images to nancypnorton@comcast.net for consideration.

Call for Sculptors

First Danville Art Trail

The City of Danville is accepting submissions from sculptors for an "Imagine" themed exhibit. Seven works will be selected for an 18-month exhibition in various River District locations. A \$1500 stipend will be awarded to each artist whose work is selected. For more information, email playdanville@danvilleva.gov.

13th Annual New Works Exhibition

February 6 – March 26

Jacksonville Center for the Arts • Floyd

Ring in the new year by sharing your current creative inspirations! All media created within the past year and not previously shown at the center are welcome. Applications are due

Jan. 12 and may be downloaded from the "for artists" tab at <http://jacksonvillecenter.org/>.

Art in the Garden

May 9 • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech

Artists working in two or three dimensional mediums are eligible to enter. All art must be original and executed by the applicant. Only artists accepted through the jury process will be allowed to show their art. Application deadline is **Jan. 10**. For more information, visit the events tab at <http://www.hort.vt.edu/hhg/>.

Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition

May 18 – June 26

James Madison University, Harrisonburg

Water media artists may download the prospectus and entry form for this 36th annual show from the exhibitions tab at <http://www.virginiawatercolorssociety.org/>. Entry deadline is **Feb. 13**.

Simply Elemental: An Outdoor Art Adventure

August – October

Hahn Horticulture Garden • Virginia Tech

Artists, groups of artists, and art teachers and students working in any media are invited to submit a proposal with a conceptual design for art to be displayed along the garden paths and in the plantings and trees. This is envisioned as a fun exhibit featuring both realistic and fantastical pieces; visual puns and surprises encouraged! The deadline for proposals is **Feb. 1**. For a full prospectus, visit the Calendar of Events tab at www.braaarts.wix.com.



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Risk No. 1" (left, acrylic and collage) by Danie Janov. This and more of her work can be viewed at Zeppoli's in Blacksburg until mid-January.



BRAA Officers

Gerri Young, president
Charlotte Chan, co-vice president
Teri Hoover, co-vice president
Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
Fred Jones, secretary
Nancy Norton, membership
Robi Sallee, past president



<http://www.blacksburgart.org/>



www.facebook.com/BlacksburgArt

Send Facebook news postings to:
Gerri Young at
younggerri@googlemail.com
 or **Teri Hoover**
 at crystalirisphotos@gmail.com

Twitter @BlacksburgArt1

Send news, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (stephens1@pemt.net)

Thanks to **Mish Mish** for providing printed versions of this newsletter. Please support our local art supply store!