



■ Upcoming

June 2

Art Walk

Downtown Blacksburg • 5-7 p.m.

Rain or shine, stroll through an evening of art in downtown Blacksburg. A variety of businesses will participate in this free art walk. To get started, make the Community Arts Information Office on College Avenue your first stop.

June 3

Mosaic Workshop with Nikki Pynn

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio, 106 Faculty Street, Blacksburg • 2-4 p.m.

Don't miss this opportunity to design and create mosaics. The stained glass will be prepared for safe handling and finished pieces will go home ready to hang. The fee of \$25 supports local art initiatives. For more information, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>

June 3-4

Sidewalk Art Show

Downtown Roanoke

This annual show infuses downtown Roanoke with energy, excitement, and creativity. Don't miss the great selection of original paintings, prints, watercolors, etchings, mixed media, photography, fine craft, and sculpture from more than 140 artists.

June 4

Plein Air Painting Among Alpacas

Cobb Hill Alpacas, 448 Turley Farm Rd., Wytheville • Noon to 3 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for sketching, painting and photographing adorable alpacas. Email rlefko2@gmail.com to participate in this adventure.

June 9 and July 14

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

Golden Corral (June), Christiansburg; July location TBD • 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch and hear about the latest art happenings. The June Art Spot will be presented by Jerry Niles who will be talking about art opportunities with Virginia Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute. Lauren Blakemore, director of Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. will be the July speaker.

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Suzanne Ross and Michele Walter

Art — it's a family thing

By Gerri Young

Art and enthusiasm exist in great supply for BRAA members Suzanne Ross and Michele Walter, a mother and daughter team that can sling paint with abandon or detailed care as the pieces demand.

According to Suzanne, the mother who now lives in Roanoke, art pretty much runs in the family and recalls that, as a child, she visited an art museum where she continually got too close to the works because she found them so interesting. This, of course, was spotted by the museum guard who then followed her everywhere she went.

Her daughter, Michele, of Blacksburg, can't claim to be on a guard watch list, but you know she is an artist the minute you walk in her home and find her studio immediately to the right of the door.

Suzanne works only in watercolor. "I think in watercolor and express in watercolor," commented Suzanne. "I have a two-hour attention span so the quickness of watercolor chose me!" Her passion of the present is painting portraits. She is successful entering juried shows and winning awards. She once paid for show fees by offering to paint "portrait quickies" in 20 minutes for \$20.

Michele works in acrylic and watercolor and runs the gamut from landscapes to portraits and animals. The latter two are her favorite subjects. Stencil work is often seen in her colorful works.

■ Suzanne

An enthusiastic talker, Suzanne says this has been the best year of her life and is looking forward to a family cruise to the Bahamas this year in celebration of her 80th birthday.

It is obvious she has not wasted those years. She raised her family of four in Rocky Mount, Va., with her husband, Bill, who taught racecar driving and was vice president of a bank. When all the kids had left the nest, they looked around and decided they didn't need their house and land. They soon bought a big recreation vehicle and became vagabonds of sort for the next 12 years.



Teri Hoover Photography

Suzanne Ross has a passion for painting in watercolor.

"It was easy to go to art workshops and events because we took our home with us!" recalls Suzanne.

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June 17

*Reception, New River Art Biennial
Juried Exhibition*

Floyd Center for the Arts • 5-7 p.m.

This reception will celebrate works in this biennial exhibition, which is a joint effort of the Floyd Center for the Arts, Pulaski's Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley, and BRAA. The art will be on display until August 5.

June 29

*Reception, Radford City Fine Arts Show
Radford University Art Museum Downtown,
1129 E. Main Street, Radford • 5-7 p.m.*

Meet the artists at this opening reception. Works will be exhibited through July 21.

July 5-7

*Obsessive Compulsive Collage with
Vera Dickerson*

*Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 W.
Main Street • 9:30-4 p.m.*

This workshop will be three days of joyous color and pattern art. Participants will produce collage papers using stencils and stamps and then refine their color sense by selecting those which describe the chosen images. The fee is \$175; supply list will be provided. Contact Sue Farrar at Montgomery Museum at 540-382-5644 for more information.

July 15

Art at the Market

Blacksburg Farmers Market • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

This juried exposition and celebration of the town's vibrant arts community is held in conjunction with the annual breakfast at the farmers market, which showcases local food and live music.

July 20

*Reception, BRAA Annual Theme Show
Blacksburg Farmers Market • 9 a.m.-2 p.m.*

Join fellow members at this opening reception and view the array of abstract art. Works will be displayed until Oct. 13.

August 2-4

*Watercolor with Robin Poteet
Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 W.
Main Street • 9:30-4 p.m.*

The fee for this workshop is \$175; supply list will be provided. Contact Sue Farrar at Montgomery Museum at 540-382-5644 for more information.

August 26

*Heritage Day
Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St.,
Christiansburg*

Don't miss this day of fun activities for the whole family. Plein air painting, demonstrations, children's activities, and more.

a family thing *continued from page 1*

She received her masters in art education from Radford University and describes herself as "a student forever," taking many courses and workshops. One instructor told her to paint 100 pieces first before she complained about the process! She went on to paint many more pieces, learning along the way in many workshops. She shared that knowledge by becoming an elementary school art teacher for 10 years in Franklin County public schools. She also taught art in Franklin County Community College, Ferrum College, Virginia Western College, Roanoke's Madison High School and Roanoke College. She taught every age from elementary to elders.

Her art passion led her to be one of the founding members of the Virginia Watercolor Society. Listening to her tell of all her too-many-to-mention-here art adventures is rather like getting a rundown on who's who in Virginia art and which associations one should belong to — League of Roanoke Artists, Bald Knob Artists, Smith Mountain Lake Artists, and, of course, the Blacksburg Regional Art Association along with her daughter.

Widowed for seven years, Suzanne never lacks for something to do. She is a member of the Lions Club in Roanoke and the Athenians Society; volunteers for non-profit groups, for Brambleton Center Parks and Recreation and for the Center in the Square in downtown Roanoke. She currently teaches for the Roanoke City Parks and Recreation Department. She is so obsessed with art that she draws the people around her while sitting in church!

She and artist friend Martha Rhodes will be teaching gelli plate printing for the League of Roanoke Artists this year at their Camp Alta Mons retreat.

■ **Michele**

Michele and her husband, Brian, director of software engineering with Modea in Blacksburg, have three children — 19-year-old Ross is a student at Virginia Tech. Seventeen-year-old Alex attends Blacksburg High School while nine-year-old Bethany is home schooled.

Michele attended Virginia Commonwealth University and graduated with a business degree. "I wasn't sure I could make a living with art" said Michele, "but I was still interested in art. I was able to get a scholarship to attend the American College in Atlanta and studied art there for a year."

Along the way, Michele worked and did little art. She sold snow skis, taught dancing at an Arthur Murray studio and was a pharmaceutical representative for six years which brought her to Blacksburg in the '90's. "I did no art for 12 years," recalls Michele. "Then someone asked me to do a portrait and I began again. My kids were toddlers and I needed the money so I began taking portrait commissions." Today, she continues to do a lot of commission work in both acrylic and watercolor.

Many people in the Blacksburg area have benefitted from Michele's talent when she teaches frequent paint parties for The Artful Lawyer and Imagination Station.

Also benefiting from all this family art talent is Michele's young daughter Bethany. Suzanne joined Michele and Bethany in the Past, Present and Future exhibition, which took place at Floyd Center for the Arts earlier this year. "As for the JAX art show, we all had current pieces we had done. We showed in the Falcon gallery with very



Michele Walter in her studio of acrylic and watercolor work.

Teri Hoover Photography

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colorful portraits of people and animals. Many folks commented about how colorful and happy it all went together. The art center uses the Falcon gallery for art classes, too, so lots of folks got to take a peek."



Teri Hoover Photography

Suzanne, Bethany, and Michele recently displayed their work in a three-generation exhibit, "Past, Present, and Future."

Both Michele and Suzanne are gallery artists for BRAA. Michele will exhibit from mid-October to mid-January in Pointe West Management in Blacksburg. Suzanne is currently at Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea in Blacksburg.

Informative links:

Michelewalterart.com ■ Nimrodhallart.com ■ Michele on Facebook under Michele Ross Walter Art ■ Bathcountyyarts.org ■ Floydartcenter.org



Get promoted!

Want to spread the word about your upcoming art event? There is a free community calendar on the Step Into Blacksburg website.

Anyone can submit local events at: <http://stepintoblacksburg.org/homecalendar/submit-your-event.html>.

Additionally, The Mountain FM has a new Blacksburg Arts and Entertainment Calendar where you can submit your events for free. Send your events to Blacksburgarts@themountain.fm at least one month in advance. The calendar is now on the air and with online listings in the near future.

Information provided by The Blacksburg Partnership Collaborative for the Arts

Do you have an art tip to share? Email loisstephens56@pemtel.net or younggerri@googlemail.com.

This summer the mother-daughter, workshop-loving team signed up to spend a week at Nimrod Hall Summer Art Program in Millboro, Va., painting plein air landscapes. It will be their first time experiencing this rustic art retreat in the mountains near Hot Springs. They are currently getting ready for the Bath County Art Show in Hot Springs, Va. Members of the Virginia Watercolor Society, they generally enter this well-known show and have received a variety of awards.

Artists invited to paint gardens

The annual New River Valley Garden Tour on July 8 offers opportunities for plein air painting. The self-guided tour is hosted annually by the local Friends of the Library. Visual artists and musicians are invited to paint/perform in the tour gardens as a backdrop to the event. Tour hours are from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Plein air artists may visit the gardens and decide where they are inspired. Featured sites this year are the homes of Dave Angle and Diane Relf, Terry and Paula Golden, Scott and Barbara Hagood, Tom and Lisa Hammett, Bill Ryan and Debbie Plunkett, Dennis and Linda Schneckner, and Phil and Georgette Wickham.

Call 540-449-6621 or email Lynn Brammer at lbrammer@vt.edu to make arrangements. Registered performers and artists are asked to purchase the tour ticket which gives entry into all the gardens. Please make arrangements with Lynn before selecting the garden you wish to paint.

■ Now Showing

April 15 – July 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Lisa Acciai, Zeppoli's wine room, Blacksburg

Raf Bedia, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Pat Bevan, Zeppoli's dining room, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, The Farmhouse, Christiansburg (thru June)

Charlotte Chan, Blacksburg Transit

Marie Collier, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru June)

Judy Crowgey, The Farmhouse, Christiansburg (thru June)

Carole Davis, Holtzman Alumni Gallery, Virginia Tech (until Sept. 4)

Susan Hensley, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg and Blacksburg Library (thru June)

Teri Hoover, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Ruth Lefko, Christiansburg Library (thru June)

Sally Mook, First Bank and Trust, Christiansburg

Betty Moore, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

David Pearce, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru July 6)

Diane Relf, VTLS, Blacksburg

Suzanne Davis Ross, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Karen Sewell, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Linda Weatherly Shroyer, Rack Space, Blacksburg

Jane Thorp, Route 8 Donuts, Christiansburg (thru June)

Nancy Trump, New River Bank, Christiansburg

Tuesday Night Painters, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg (thru June)

Michele Walter, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

"The work of art which I do not make, none other will ever make it." ~ Simone Weil

■ Exhibits and other opportunities

Virginia Watercolor Society

October 14 – January 7
Museum of the Shenandoah Valley,
Winchester, Va.

The 38th annual juried exhibition of the Virginia Watercolor Society is now open for entries. The deadline is **June 1** and VWS membership is required. Go to www.viriniawatercolorssociety.org for full information, schedule and application.

Radford City Fine Arts Show

June 29 – July 21
Radford University Art Museum Downtown,
1129 E. Main Street

Southwest Virginia artists are invited to enter works completed within the past 18 months. Top cash award for Best in Show is \$500. The entry fee is \$15 for one piece and \$25 for two works and the deadline is **June 2**. For more information, visit www.radford.edu/content/cvpa/home/art-museum/radford-city.html.

Art at the Market

July 15
Blacksburg Farmers Market

Art, music, and breakfast at the farmers market are the highlights of the day. The entry deadline for displaying your art is **July 1** or until spaces fill. For more information and application, email events@downtownblacksburg.com.

BRAA Annual Member Theme Show

July 20 – October 13
VTLS, Inc., 1701 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg

The theme for this year's exhibit is "abstracts." There is no entry fee and



members may submit up to two pieces. Three cash prizes will be awarded by voting attendees for "best of theme." The deadline is **July 5** (or as soon as the 50 slots have been filled). For more information and application, visit www.blacksburgart.org.

Annual Bath County Art Show

July 22–30
Valley Elementary School, 98 Panther Drive,
Hot Springs, Va.

This annual event brings artists and art lovers together each year. All donations and proceeds from artwork sales are used to support community programs, award scholarships to students, sponsor visual and performing arts programs and art education in the Bath County Public Schools. In 2016, 262 artists from six states entered 715 works of art in the show. Entries will be received from 1:00–5:00 p.m. on **July 15-16**. The fee is \$10 for each work of art (limited to three works). The Bath County Arts Association receives a 30% commission on all sales.

Montgomery Museum Events

300 Pepper St., Christiansburg
 Please contact Sue Farrar at 540-382-5644 if you are interested in being a part of any of the following activities.

June 17 — Mountains of Music on Main, Downtown Christiansburg. Vendor and demonstration opportunities for artists. \$25 booth fee.

August 26 — Heritage Day, Christiansburg. Plein air painting, demonstrations, and children's activities.

Figure Drawing

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.
Floyd Center for the Arts

Live model figure drawing each week for \$7 per session. Register by emailing Jen Leary at jdleary@ncsu.edu.

■ Kudos

Linda Weatherly Shroyer won Best of Show in the Appalachian Artist Association's Spring Show at Bea Paine Gallery in Bluefield, West Va., for her pastel painting. Congratulations, Linda!

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Alison Dreams" (left, watercolor, 9.5 x 8") by Linda Weatherly Shroyer. This and more of her work can be viewed at Rack Space in Blacksburg until July 15.



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