

■ Art Calendar

NOTE: Some of following events may be postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic.

Second Fridays

(recovering after an all-clear signal)

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot
Bull and Bones, First and Main, Blacksburg •
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch, hear the featured speaker's Art Spot, and share news about the latest art happenings.

April 25-26

Open Studios Tour — Roanoke
Facebook and Instagram

Stay at home and visit five neighborhoods, nine studios and 27 participating artists! The Open Studios Tour was founded in 2001 to build community awareness of the professional artists and artisans in the Roanoke Valley and to share their creative processes. For more information and a mobile friendly map, visit www.openstudiotourroanoke.com.

August — TBD

Design Theory and Composition Workshop
Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg •
Times TBA

Danie Janov will teach this workshop to build artists' design and composition skills. More details coming soon, but you may contact Charlotte Chan at charlotteychan@gmail.com for immediate information.

August 15-16

62nd Annual Sidewalk Art Show
Downtown Roanoke • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Come check out this perennial favorite in the heart of Roanoke's historic area where you'll find original paintings, prints, watercolors, etchings, mixed media, photography, fine craft, jewelry, and sculpture. This event has been rescheduled from June.

October 24-25

Botetourt Open Studios
Botetourt County • Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Visit scenic Botetourt County in this self-guided driving tour of artists who will be offering their work and sharing their creativity in their unique studios. For more information, visit <https://openstudiosbotetourt.com/>.

Do you know your new officers?

charlotte chan president

Charlotte Chan moved to Blacksburg in October 1984 when her husband, Riley, started working at Virginia Tech. Being a young family, Charlotte looked for ways to entertain their young daughter and discovered that Nichole was very interested in art. Working at a Montessori pre-school in town, Charlotte found she enjoyed doing art with her daughter and the other children. Later on, Nichole's kindergarten teacher revealed that Nichole was gifted in art. So Charlotte signed her up for private lessons with a local artist.

Running her daughter back and forth to lessons each week, it occurred to her, "Why can't I do art myself at the same time?" She had taken Chinese watercolor lessons in Hong Kong but that was a totally different technique. However, work took time away from her art lessons, so they eventually fell by the wayside.

Later on she joined the YMCA board of directors and in late 1990 became more involved with their International Women's Group. At one of their meetings she met Nadine Allen, who was very active in BRAA. Charlotte was so inspired by Nadine's generosity in sharing her art knowledge that she credits her as her reason for joining BRAA.

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alisa moore colpitts vice president



Born and raised in southwestern Virginia, Alisa was first interested in art during high school. She started taking classes at the YMCA in Blacksburg in the early 90's with Nadine Allen and continued studying art at Kanuga, Cheap Joe's, Springmaid Beach, and with Vera Dickerson and Stephen Quiller. She was a member and BRAA exhibiting artist in the 1990's and early 2000.

As her children grew older, she shifted her time to their activities. Avid skiers, her family traveled often to Snowshoe, W.Va., and she became a part-time ski instructor. Her children became very good at skiing, so she and a few other ski instructors decided to start a ski team to keep the kids occupied. She was one of the founding members of the Snowshoe Ski Team. She was the team's vice president for two years and the president for 10 years. As vice president, her duties included fundraising and social gatherings.

During those initial days, they became a 501(c)3, and formed their own bylaws and team handbook. They raised money to purchase equipment for ski racing and uniforms.

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sue hossack secretary

Originally from the United Kingdom, Sue now resides in Christiansburg with her husband, Mike Crawley. She moved to the United States in 1982, and has lived in New Jersey; Rhode Island; Atlanta, Ga.; and Saint Augustine, Fl. She moved to the New River Valley in 2004.

Although she studied art in high school there was never much time for painting once she graduated with a degree in Pure Mathematics and embarked on a career in software engineering. In 2001, she decided to change careers and retrained as an occupational therapist, which she felt

would make more use of her creative talents. She retired in 2012, with the ambition of finally getting back to painting.

She began taking art classes at the Studio School in Roanoke and with local artist Shaun Whiteside in Blacksburg. Her preferred medium is acrylic but she also paints with ink and watercolor. She is fascinated by the play of light on water, and the effect of shadows, which is noticeable in her paintings of trees, animals, and boats. She also makes stained glass pieces and has a studio in Christiansburg with two other artists.

Sue states that when she finally started taking painting classes, she did not know what she wanted to paint. She started going over photos she had taken from travels over the years to places such as Peru, Thailand, South Africa, and of course England and Wales. The first ink drawing she did was of a boat on a dock from a photo taken years before. She discovered she had taken lots of pictures of boats in the past, which began serving as inspiration. Sue was attracted by the play of light on water, the curve of boats and their reflections. She also enjoys hiking and nature, so some of her paintings are of flowers and leaves.

In addition to serving as BAA secretary, Sue is also dedicating her computer expertise as the association's web administrator and Facebook administrator.

■ alisa *continued from page 1*

When she became president, her duties were to run all business meetings, be the liaison between the team and mountain management, hire and keep coaches' schedules, send notifications to all parents and team members, and schedule races with other teams. She worked diligently with Snowshoe mountain management to ensure the ski team had dedicated slope time every weekend for practice. By working in harmony, they established a successful team.

Now that her children are grown and she has retired from her position on the mountain, she is happy to return to her art and settle her roots back in Blacksburg. She is looking forward to working once again with BAA. ■

■ charlotte *continued from page 1*

She took a collage class from Nadine through the YMCA. Then Nadine encouraged her to join their Tuesday Night Painting Group. She approached Charlotte one day and told her she just had to take a workshop offered by BAA called BIG COLOR, BIG SHAPES! But she felt she was not prepared to be with a group of experienced artists and sat in a corner without any image on hand to paint. Another member, Nancy Hedges, helped her get started and offered advice: "Paint every day, no matter how much you can do!" So Charlotte followed her advice.

Charlotte has such a long tenure with BAA that she cannot remember exactly when she started attending board meetings. When Gerri Young came on board as president, Charlotte agreed to be co-vice president with Teri Hoover since they both traveled frequently.

While serving as vice president, Charlotte led the charge in bringing BAA-sponsored workshops to members and the community. Believing it is crucial to provide affordable and high-quality art classes to members, she has tapped into talented local instructors as well as negotiated nationally-known artists to teach in our area. She is currently working on bringing well-known artist Keiko Tanabe to our area in October and Mark Mehaffey in May 2022.

Six years after agreeing to be co-vice president, she has stepped in as president and feels humbled by the confidence the board has placed in her. She expresses gratitude at having Alisa Colpitts and Sue Hossack serving as vice president and secretary. She is aware that hard work is ahead with budget planning as well as focusing on our organization's future. She is thankful for Gerri Young's leadership and diligent service and looks forward to working together to further advance our association. ■

Online art opportunities abound

As the pandemic spreads and our time at home stretches on, the good news is the increasing opportunities for online art instruction. In addition to watching your favorite artist's YouTube demonstrations, you can view free art videos from companies that want to direct attention to their offerings. Streamline Art Videos is posting **Artist of the Day videos** on Facebook daily at 3 p.m. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/StreamlineArtVideo/>. Studio 56 Boutique (all things urban sketching) has been live-streaming interviews with creatives, many of which were recorded and can be viewed on **Studio 56 Facebook** and the **Studio 56 Youtube** channel. The **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** (of which BAA is an affiliate) is offering viewing access to their collection as well as activities on their home page at <https://www.vmfamuseum/>. Or participate in one of BAA's Facebook activities! You may join the group, **Art at a Social Distance**, where members create and submit art around a daily theme. Or if a daily assignment isn't your cup of tea, submit your work to the **Seclusion Art** photo album by emailing your image to sue@ot-care.com or younggerri@gmail.com.

30 days of drawing with Amy *Materials Guide for Sketching*

A wise teacher once said, "what you're really looking for can't be found in the art supply store." In other words, art supplies do not make the artist. Having said that, they can be a help or a hindrance. Get acquainted with your media. What follows are a few of my thoughts and practices regarding drawing supplies. My best advice is to do a lot of experimenting on your own, ask others "how'd you do that?," and embrace a spirit of playfulness. Every drawing will teach us something if we are listening. There is no "formula" for success, and if there were, I would tell you to run away! The best stuff happens when we dwell in the spirit of curiosity and experimentation.



Amy D'Apice

"Working yourself out of a jam is an opportunity for something wonderful to happen." — me

Paper has two basic qualities to consider: weight and texture (oh, and size). The heavier the paper, the more abuse it can take. If you want to work in mixed or water media, go with a watercolor paper, bristol, or mixed media paper. The weight of the paper is listed on the package or sketchpad. It varies from about 50 lbs. (lightweight sketch paper) to 200-300 lbs. (watercolor). Texture or "tooth" is strictly a personal preference. Papers range from "rough;" cold pressed (a little less rough); and hot pressed or smooth. Brown or toned tan paper is also a great option. I tend to use a smoother paper, although I have all kinds in my arsenal. Buying some high quality paper can be a quite a treat unless it becomes so precious you're afraid to use it! Always have less expensive, lightweight sketch paper on hand, in addition to all your sketchpads, which should multiple like bunnies. Pocket sketchpad, purse sketchpad, plein air sketchpad, car sketchpad, etc.

Pencils are not all created equal. Your standard school pencil is a 2H. "H" stands for hard, and the higher the number, the harder the pencil. These have a precise point, but not much ability to shade or darken. Then there are the "B" types, which are softer. Higher numbers represent blacker and softer. Graphite in the B range is best for art purposes, but may smudge. Personally, I like smudge. Not only is it a great word, it's a welcome presence in a drawing. You can always do clean up later. My all time favourite pencil is a 4B. Erasers come in all shapes and sizes. They should be used sparingly. I prefer a white "blocky" style as it can smudge, erase large areas, as well as create lines when used on its edge. Erasers should be considered a drawing tool rather than The Terminator.

Pens of the black ink variety are a staple. Consider whether or not you want waterproof or non-waterproof. The pens you're looking for will come in a variety of widths and be available for testing. I use .08 or bigger. Pens are not particularly expensive. If you find one you like, buy five of them. Markers make marks. Embrace this. Colors tend to be very high-key (saturated) regardless of the brand, so I often modify with coloured pencil and/or grey toned makers. Any self respecting marker will have dual tips: pointed on one end and chisel/brush on the other. Copic is the Cadillac of Markers; other good brands include Tombow, and Prismacolor. When using markers, it's best to work light to dark. Markers can be used on top of watercolour, which can be quite liberating. Also, be sure and get some grey-scale markers. They come in very handy for modifying bright colours and creating shadows.

Colored pencils are one of the few supplies on which I recommend (no insist) you spend good money. The cheap ones are fairly useless. Colored pencils should be soft and blendable. Prismacolor is the gold standard. Dick Blick also has a house brand that is about as good. I use coloured pencils sparingly. It is quite laborious to cover a large area and obtain a solid color. My primary use is for modifying markers, most often light pencil over a dark marker color. Try it!

White media is an essential tool. It allows you to work in both directions in terms of value.

- White coloured pencil (makes a soft white; can create a relatively large shape)
- Faber Castell PITT pen 101-marker (also a soft white; will take marker color on top)
- White-Out correction fluid (makes a hard, fluid white line; will take marker color on top) The best brand is Pentel or Presto (same company-different countries)

■ Still Showing

January 15 – Whenever!

(except where indicated otherwise)

Lisa Acciai, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

Alisa Colpitts, Glade Church, Blacksburg

Linda Correll, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Paula Golden, Blacksburg Transit

Maxine Lyons, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Cheryl Mackian, Glencoe Museum, Radford (thru May 7)

David Pearce, The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

Dianne Gillis-Robinson, A New Leaf Gallery, Floyd (thru April)

Joy Rosenthal, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Karen Sewell, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Lois Stephens, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Linda Weatherly, Zeppolis, Blacksburg

Norma Woodward, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

■ New Member

A hearty welcome to new BRAA member **Taylor Carroll**.

"Solitude is the furnace of transformation."

~ Henri Nouwen



photo by Steve Johnson from Pexels

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■ Exhibit and other opportunities

■ *Simply Elemental* — Call for Artists

August 1 – September 30 • Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech

The Simply Elemental exhibit has provided an outdoor art experience for the public in the New River Valley for the past six years in a beautiful garden setting. This outdoor sculpture show calls for artists to create and exhibit garden sculptures for the public's enjoyment. This show is for anyone who wishes to create and display art for others to enjoy! The only requirement is that the art be family friendly and be able to withstand two months in the elements. This year's theme is Art Among Us — Be Inspired. New this year is a People's Choice award of \$100.

The deadline for applications for participation in this year's event is **April 30**. The opening reception will be held from 5–7 p.m. on August 2. For more information, visit the Hahn Horticulture Garden website at <https://www.hort.vt.edu/hhg/index.html> or email vtgarden@vt.edu.

■ *Unleashed*

August 3–28, 2020 • Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA

This national juried exhibition is open to all residents residing in the U.S. Unleashed: 1. To free from or as if from a leash – let loose; 2. To throw, shoot, or set in motion forcefully. Gallery Underground invites artists working in all media to submit work reflecting the theme “Unleashed” as defined above. Artists may wish to create works with a literal in-



terpretation of setting free or set in motion, or a more figurative response to the theme. Cash prizes awarded. Entry fee is \$35 for up to two digital images and the deadline is **June 12**. For complete prospectus and to enter, visit <https://galleryunderground.org/>. Email art@galleryunderground.org for questions or more information.

■ *C.O.D. — Curator Off Duty* **January 2022 • Olin Hall Galleries, Roanoke College, Salem**

This exhibition is open to all Virginia artists. The only curatorial criteria is that each submission must fit within one cubic foot. The exhibition aims to unite the Virginia visual arts community through diversity and inclusion. Olin Hall Galleries will host material studies and process oriented workshops until the opening of the exhibition in January 2022. At the closing of the exhibition, participating artists will have the option to sell their work to support a local cause. Artwork is now being accepted and may be dropped off any time during regular gallery hours. Each artist is invited to submit three individual works of art. Any medium is allowed and must arrive ready to hang or install. For further information, visit www.roanoke.edu/curatoroffduty.

■ amy continued from page 3

Watercolor is another “get the best you can afford” medium. The easiest to work with is the PAN variety (as opposed to tubes). You may want to buy an additional watercolour brush, one bigger than what the set provides.

Amy D'Apice is an artist, teacher, and writer. She earned a masters degree from the University of Washington and has been an instructor of art for more than 30 years. She currently teaches workshops and exhibits in both the United States and Southeast Asia. She currently resides in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Visit her website at artconspiracy.net.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is “Doors” (left, commercial fabrics, 18x24”) by Paula Golden. This piece was created for the “From Bedroom to Boardroom” exhibit at the Virginia Quilt Museum featuring southwest Virginia quilters. New beginnings, departures. Do doorways open up with possibilities and new adventures? Or are we afraid and never cross the threshold?

This and more of Golden's work can be viewed at Blacksburg Transit.



Making BRAA Work —

Charlotte Chan, president
Alisa Colpitts, vice president
Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
Sue Hossack, secretary
Rafael Bedia, membership
Gerri Young, past president
Jeanette Bowker and **Nancy Norton**, gallery committee
Gerri Young, marketing and plein air chair
Charlotte Chan, workshop chair
Robi Sallee, luncheon/hospitality chair, theme show chair
Lois Stephens, newsletter chair
Gerri Young, Teri Hoover, Pat Bevan, newsletter editorial board
Sue Hossack, web administrator
Linda Correll, bylaws review chair
Betty Moore, high school workshops chair



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



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

Twitter @BlacksburgArt1
 Instagram: blacksburgartassn

Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (loisstevens56@gmail.com) by the 15th of each month or July 1 for June/July and Dec. 1 for Nov./Dec. issues.