

■ Art Calendar

October 25–27

Blue Ridge Potters Guild Show and Sale
Patrick Henry High School, Roanoke •
Friday, 6:30–9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6
p.m., Sunday, 12 noon – 4 p.m.

This 20th annual show and sale is the largest all-pottery show in Virginia and features a wide range of work. More than 70 guild members will display and sell their works. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgepotters.com/>.

October 26–27

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 14 artists who will be offering their work and sharing their creativity in 11 unique artists' studios. For more information, visit <https://openstudiosbotetourt.com/>.

November 3

BRAA Annual Meeting
Hahn Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech
Campus • 2–4 p.m.

Featured speaker Margaret Hancock will be presenting Face Value: Portraiture in American Art. Her talk will be followed by refreshments, a short business meeting and election of BRAA officers for 2020.

November 3 and November 17

Figure Drawing
The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St.,
Blacksburg • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Come sketch live models! Tickets close on the Friday before each session and the cost is \$10. Boards and easels provided; artists need to bring their own drawing supplies. For more information and registration, visit <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

November 6 and December 4

Art Parties
The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St.,
Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.

Come paint Salvador Dali style on Nov. 6! Andy Warhol will be the style theme on Dec. 4. Cost is \$30 including supplies. Register at <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

A Salute to Gerri

by Pat Bevan

Gerri Young stepped down as BRAA president this fall. She had been at the helm of our organization for six years, beginning in the autumn of 2013. As one way to honor her devotion and leadership to BRAA, the newsletter staff wanted to offer a short piece about her and her time as president.

In March of 2010, Gerri came to Blacksburg directly from Germany and a position in public relations with the defense department, retiring after a total of 43 years in federal public service. But this was not her first time in Virginia. Gerri was born in Norfolk. In fact, both her parents were from this area. Gerri's maternal grandparents had a farm on Happy Hollow Road in Blacksburg. Her dad's family had a 100-acre plus farm off Old Lee Highway in Dublin where her parents met.

Gerri grew up all over the country, though, as her father was a Navy man. No matter where she lived, art was always a part of her, but it was not until she moved to Germany that she started to give more time to art, for example taking workshops in water-color and fresco in Germany and Italy. After moving here in 2010, Gerri quickly immersed herself in making art. She jokes about taking every class at the Jacksonville Art Center (now The Floyd Center for the Arts) except blacksmithing.

Gerri also quickly became involved in BRAA. The organization was struggling at that time with participation in its activities and its presentation to the public. There even was a question about its continuing as an organization. Gerri gradually began to assist with administrative and programming ideas, using her vast understanding of administrative, public relations, and design issues. Other BRAA members began to say to her "Oh, you should be president."



Gerri Young has served as BRAA president for six years.

Terri Hoover Photography

Gerri said she believed she had the knowledge and skills to help BRAA again become a vibrant organization and so she agreed to take the helm. Other BRAA members quickly volunteered to join the board. With a smile, Gerri related that in August or September of 2013 Robi Sallee, president at the time, handed her a box of BRAA documents, essentially installing her as the new BRAA president.

annual meeting

Sunday, Nov. 3 • 2:00 p.m.

Hahn Garden Pavilion

featuring

Margaret Hancock

presenting

**Face Value:
Portraiture in American Art***



Followed by refreshments, short business meeting and election of officers.

**This program has been organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is supported, in part, by the Paul Mellon Endowment and the Jean Stafford Camp Memorial Fund.*

■ **Calendar** *continued from page 1*

November 7

Reception, Member Exhibition
Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St., Christiansburg • 5–7 p.m.

Come celebrate this art exhibit featuring 25 museum member artists. Works will be displayed through December.

November 8 and December 13

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. In November, Jesse Burgardt will be sharing information about her new venture, The Nolley Art House. Artists are encouraged to share their latest works and projects at the December luncheon.

November 8–10

YMCA Crafts Fair
Blacksburg Community Center

The annual YMCA crafts fair attracts exhibitors from neighboring states and the New River Valley with its quality, handmade arts and crafts. Over 80 booths of juried artisans have handmade items for all ages and interest levels.

November 9

Art Blast
The Studio School, Towers Mall, Roanoke • 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come check out this sale of portfolio art and small works where you'll find a wide array of styles in various media, all reasonably priced. For more information, email vera.dickerson@gmail.com.

December 6

Winter Lights Festival
Downtown Blacksburg • 5–8 p.m.

Art, music, food and fun is the order of the evening. Don't miss the tuba concert, tree lighting and other festivities at this annual event.

salute *continued from page 1*

Gerri and the new BRAA board members quickly got to work on many ideas, meeting monthly for quite a while. They worked on BRAA's financial situation and record keeping to support all their other progress. They looked at all aspects of the organization, deciding what was working and what was not. They began to develop resources and to give BRAA an online presence through a new website and a Facebook page.

Many BRAA members got involved as Gerri guided BRAA, using her knowledge of administrative tasks and public relations issues to frame and support initiatives and her skills of empowering others through her positive attitude and enthusiasm and her honesty to get things done.

A short list of the BRAA tools and programs developed or expanded during Gerri's time at the helm include:

- A new website combining colorful design with information about BRAA events and people
- A new newsletter that is colorful and professionally designed and written
- A Facebook page for up-to-the-minute BRAA news
- An expanded monthly luncheon program that now includes guest speakers
- Playdates offering artists the opportunity to get together to have fun and learn on a less formal and time-intensive scale than a workshop
- Plein air opportunities giving artists a chance to connect and create out of doors.

Gerri shared that as she thinks back over her tenure as president, she considers this year's New River Art Biennial exhibition at the Virginia Tech Moss Center to be the pinnacle of her time as president. For BRAA to have the exhibition in the Moss Center galleries gave Gerri a sense that BRAA had become a vibrant, well-respected organization. From her perspective, BRAA has become a strong, all-volunteer organization, with many people contributing greatly and bringing new ideas to be investigated.

Gerri shared that as much as she has enjoyed being at the helm, being president has taken time away from creating her own art. In the past year and a half, she recalled, workshops became much less exciting and at times felt like a chore due to her BRAA responsibilities. At the same time, though, as BRAA president she had constant introductions to new people and art opportunities. She signed BRAA up to get notices from many arts organizations and herself took advantage of many offerings, including workshops that have greatly impacted her own art.

Gerri fondly shared "Every friend I have in this area is because of art." She added that she has learned so much from this circle of friends especially through encouragement and critique. The common thread of art, enriched with friendship, has allowed this social circle to continue to grow together. And Gerri added she also has developed a "town circle" as well, as the growth and success of BRAA could not have happened without the support of many townspeople in both business and government.

So we say farewell to Gerri as BRAA president with heartfelt thanks for all that she has given to our organization. At the same time, we look forward to continuing and deepening our relationship with her as an artist and a friend. We also look forward to continuing to strengthen and develop BRAA for our enjoyment, companionship, and learning and as a tribute to Gerri's guiding spirit. ■

Backyard stone carvers gather in Newport

Twelve carvers enjoyed a full and creative workshop on Sept. 12-15 at the Newport Community Center. This was a workshop with seasoned carvers, new carvers and some wood carvers! All were successful in learning new skills and techniques.

The group has its roots in a clay face sculpted more than a quarter-century ago by well-known Blacksburg artist Darcy Meeker. At the time, she was on the agricultural extension communications faculty at the University of Florida. After more clay projects, she signed up for a stone carving workshop that wound up motivating her to create a new life for herself as an artist. Meeker relocated to Blacksburg in the 1990s, and works in a variety of media, despite living with muscular dystrophy. She started asking a few people to come and carve in her backyard, and now is the teacher and inspiration for

continued on page 3



Riley Chan

Carvers gather for a critique during the September workshop.

■ New Members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members **jessee Burgardt, Sandra Johnson-Harris, Ellen Morris, Deborah Reul,** and **Samarth Swarup.**

■ Kudos

Roanoke College and Hollins University announced the winners of the 2019 Perry F. Kendig Arts and Culture Awards, which celebrate excellence in Roanoke Valley arts. A BRAA favorite winner on the list of recipients is **The Studio School**, a 28-year-old center for arts education in Roanoke. This art center, located in Towers Shopping Center, is operated by Vera Dickerson and her excellent staff of teachers. Vera, a member of BRAA, and her teachers have contributed to the success of many BRAA artists in Blacksburg and beyond.

Pat Bevan's painting, "Blue Lightning" won honorable mention in the animal and wildlife category in the 21st Annual Pastel 100 international competition. The competition is not a brick and mortar exhibition; rather an entire issue of the Pastel Journal is dedicated each year to the winners. Pastel artists from all over the world enter this competition that has five painting categories.



Blue Lightning by Pat Bevan

From 202 submittals from 10 states, **Donald Sunshine, Joanna Sunshine, Sidra Kaluska** and **Shaun Whiteside** each had two pieces selected for the National Juried Art Exhibit at the Bower Center for the Arts. Works will be displayed through Nov. 9.

Michele Ross Walter received a first place ribbon at The Hokie Bugfest on Oct. 5 for her painting, "Busy Work."

Congratulations to all!



Busy Work by Michele Ross Walter

Consignments Wanted: Montgomery Museum Opening Downtown Shop!

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History is pleased to announce the upcoming opening of a new museum gift shop located in the Great Road on Main building in downtown Christiansburg. The museum thanks their partners, Montgomery County Office of Tourism and Great Road on Main, for making this opportunity possible. The anticipated opening is around December 1.

Artists are invited to help stock the gift shop with art items. There will be wall space to hang paintings as well as lots of shelf space to display smaller items. Consignment details and a consignment review committee are underway.

Please contact Sue Farrar at 540-382-5644 or director@montgomerymuseum.org if you are interested in being part of this exciting new venture!

carvers *continued from page 2*

the Backyard Stone Carving family of artists.

"We all look to her experience in solving the next step in creating our sculptures," said Linda Correll, who started out photographing the artists' work and later started carving too. "The group shares ideas, tools and stone, and encourages each other."

The next workshop will be in May 2020. Contact Lcorrell83@gmail.com if interested in finding out more.

■ Now Showing

July 15 – October 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Jeanette Bowker, Larry Mitchell, Tom Jenssen, and **Rejane Pratelli,** The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Judy Crowgey, Warm Hearth, Blacksburg (Nov. – Jan. 15)

Diana Law Dougherty, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Paula Golden, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru Oct.)

Danie Janov, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

Delbert Jones, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Ruth Lefko, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Susan Lockwood, Holtzman Alumni Center Gallery, Virginia Tech (thru Jan. 31)

Maxine Lyons, Glade Church, Blacksburg

Larry Mitchell, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru Oct.)

Betty Moore, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Joy Rosenthal, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Karen Sewell, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Walter Shroyer, Blacksburg Transit

Lois Stephens, Hahn Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech campus (Nov. thru Dec.)

Lisabeth Weisband, Warm Hearth, Blacksburg (thru Oct.)

Gerri Young, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

"Personally, I experience the greatest degree of pleasure in having contact with works of art. They furnish me with happy feelings of an intensity that I cannot derive from other sources."

~ Albert Einstein

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

4th Annual Carilion Clinic Patient Exhibit

December 5 – March 24 • Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke

Artists who have visited a Carilion Clinic provider within the last three years are invited to participate in their annual patient exhibit. Works must be original and created within the last three years. Only one entry per person will be accepted. There is no fee to enter but a 20% commission will be charged on sales to benefit the Dr. Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts Program. Registration deadline is **October 31**. Reception will be held on January 14. For more information, visit <http://nationalartsprogram.org/carilionpatient>.

Taubman Museum of Art Juried Triennial

May 1 – September 20, 2020 • Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke

Homeward Bound is the second juried Virginia triennial and will feature work in all media by artists presently living in the Commonwealth. All artwork must be original and completed within the last three years (2017–2019). Artists may submit up to three entries. Installation and video proposals are encouraged. Submission deadline is **December 13**. Entry fee is \$40 or \$30 for museum members. The opening awards reception will be May 1. For more information and online entry, visit TaubmanMuseum.org/HomewardBound.

Harts on Main

February 14 (1–6 p.m.) and February 15 (10 a.m. – 6 p.m.) • Great Road on Main, Christiansburg

Artists and artisans are invited to participate as vendors or volunteers to assist in the third annual Harts on Main event. The booth fees are \$45 until **January 15**, and \$55 after that date. If interested in participating as a vendor or volunteer, please contact Ruth Lefko at rlfko2@gmail.com.



The Art of Anatomy

January 13 – April 17, 2020 • Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke

For many years art, anatomy, and medicine have shared a close relationship. The advancement of science and art have always occurred simultaneously, and there has never been a time when they have been divorced from one another. The Virginia Tech Carilion School of medicine is opening its Virginia Intercollegiate Anatomy Lab (VIAL) to local artists and art students. Models, specimens, cadavers and skeletons will be available for study. The lab will be open by appointment several times during the week and reservations are required. Art created during the program will be displayed during a summer exhibit at 2 Riverside in Roanoke. For reservations or questions, contact Courtney Powell at 540-526-2588 or email cbrakes@exchange.vt.edu.

Curator Off Duty

January 2022 • Olin Gallery, Roanoke College

“Curator Off Duty” is an open exhibition for all Virginia artists. This exhibition invites any and all artists to submit a work of art to be shown at Olin Hall Galleries. The only curatorial criteria is that each submission must fit within one cubic foot. This exhibition aims to unite the Virginia visual arts community through diversity and inclusion. In order to accommodate artists working in video and film, there will be an online gallery within the official “Curator Off Duty” YouTube channel. These submissions will be limited to 1:20 (80-second) total running time.

Olin Hall Galleries will host material studies and process oriented workshops until the opening of the exhibition in January 2022. Space and materials will be provided to encourage and inspire the community to get creative and show their artwork in “Curator Off Duty.” Local artists and art enthusiasts will share their processes to foster the individual creativity of others. At the closing of the exhibition, participating artists will have the option to sell their work to support a local cause. For more information, visit <https://www.roanoke.edu/curatoroffduty>.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is “Nova Scotia” (left, mixed media, 18 x 24”) by Walter Shroyer. This and more of his work can be viewed at Blacksburg Transit through mid-January.



BRAA Officers

Gerri Young, past president
Charlotte Chan, co-vice president
Vacant, co-vice president
Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
Pat Bevan, secretary
Rafael Bedia, membership
Robi Sallee, past president

Newsletter Editorial Board

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Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (loisstephens56@gmail.com) by the 15th of each month or July 1 for June/July and Dec. 1 for Nov./Dec. issues.