



■ Art calendar

March 13 – May 1

*American Watercolor Society Annual Exhibit
Piedmont Arts, 215 Starling Ave., Martinsville*

American Watercolor Society's 153rd Annual Exhibition includes 40 paintings, with styles ranging from hyperrealistic to abstract, by artists from around the globe. This year, 143 paintings were selected for the annual exhibition and 40 paintings were selected to travel on a cross-country tour of six museums and galleries, which culminates at Piedmont Arts.

May 8–9

*Plein Air Journaling
Historic Smithfield Plantation, Blacksburg •
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

Participants will work with local artists Gerri Young and Matt Gentry to learn how to journal with watercolor (or the medium of choice) onsite at Historic Smithfield. The workshop is suitable for beginner to intermediate painters, ages 15 and up. Fee is \$15 and the class is limited to 15 students. For more information or registration, email kjewell@historicsmithfield.org.

May 14, June 11

*BRAA Monthly Lunch
Via Zoom • 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

Meetings are held online via Zoom or until weather is suitable for outdoor gatherings. Watch for email notification on how to join or logon from the website at <https://www.blacksburgart.org/meetings>. In May, Beth Lohman will discuss "Discovering the Huckleberry Trail in New Ways."

May 21-23

*Fluid Acrylic on Yupo
Christiansburg Moose Lodge • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

Tracy Budd will teach this three-day workshop in acrylic on Yupo, a synthetic

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A virtual chat with Dianne Gillis-Robinson

As told to Gerri Young

Home town: I currently divide my time between Blacksburg and Anchorage, Alaska. As a military kid, I've lived in three different countries and between eight different states, some multiple times, so I don't really have a hometown but I've adopted Blacksburg as my own.

A little bit about your family: I met my husband over 35 years ago on a blind date arranged by family members. We also ended up attending the same university so our partnership was meant to be! We have two adult children, who are Hokie grads and live too far away for my taste. My family has been very supportive during my artistic journey and my biggest cheerleader is my husband.



Snowbound (oil) by Dianne Gillis-Robinson

Do you have a pet? We have a 13-year-old labradoodle who is the best dog in the world, or at least mine.

Why do you belong to BRAA and how long have you been a member?

When I moved to Blacksburg five years ago, I could not wait to join BRAA. The major city where I had previously lived had great museums and a vibrant art scene for artists who were selling their works for five and six figures. However, there was limited support for those who were just entering the art world or for those who wanted to connect with other artists. BRAA has done a wonderful job in welcoming and building a supportive community for creatives.

What media do you work in and which is your favorite?

Because I am a slow painter, I love working in oils. Recently,



Dianne Gillis-Robinson

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**REGISTER TODAY for
PLACE • A Juried Invitational
Exhibit at Perspective Gallery**
See more information on page 2.
**Email robisallee@hotmail.com
if you intend to submit work.**

Register today for the Fluid Acrylic on Yupo workshop

Tracy Budd of The Studio School will be teaching this **May 21–23** workshop where participants will explore acrylic on Yupo, a synthetic plastic watercolor paper. Learn the different techniques of controlling and not controlling the paint to build beautiful, exciting surfaces. Stencils, rollers and markers will be used, along with fluid paint and opaques to layer and build intriguing surfaces and integrate representational subject matter into the paintings.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Christiansburg Moose Lodge. The fee (including lunch) is \$150 for BRAA members and \$180 for non-members. For registration or more information visit <https://www.blacksburgart.org/tracybudd>.



Calendar *continued from page 1*

watercolor paper. Different techniques will be explored for controlling and not controlling the paint to build beautiful, exciting surfaces. Stencils, rollers and markers, along with fluid paint will be used to layer and build intriguing surfaces and integrate representational subject matter into the paintings. More information to follow, or visit www.blacksburgart.org/ for updates.

June 8 – July 31

PLACE — A Juried Invitational Exhibit
Perspective Gallery, Squires Center, Virginia Tech Campus

This annual theme show will feature an array of work by BRAA members. Call 540-231-6040 for gallery hours. For more information, visit www.blacksburgart.org/2021-themeshow.

August 21–22

Taubman Museum's 63rd Annual Sidewalk Art Show
Downtown Roanoke • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Originally scheduled for June 5–6, this event has been rescheduled for August. This art show infuses downtown Roanoke with energy, excitement, and creativity. Check out works of painting, sculpture, fine art photography, fine crafts, jewelry, watercolor and much more.

The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer launches

April 10 marked the opening day for the BRAA's newest venture, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer. Member artists **Trenia Bell, Diamond Gabriel, Sue Hossack, Tom Jennsen, and Mary Ratliff** are exhibiting their work through June.

Members may sign up for a booth space which requires both a monthly fee and commitment to volunteer in the gallery. Full details can be found at <https://www.blacksburgart.org/artspace>. Sign-ups are on a quarterly basis. October through December will be set aside for a holiday market in which everyone may participate. Current hours are 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment (540-315-3208).



Paintings, pottery, jewelry, and cards are among the treasures available for purchase at The Art Space.

Call for art instructors

New River Art and Fiber is looking for artists with teaching experience to offer classes through the store (at their location or yours). For more information, visit www.newriverartandfiber.com/work.

The Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley plans to offer a two-hour class every month beginning this summer. Instructors in any medium are needed for September, October and November. The center can provide the space and a safe environment for on-site classes. Instructors are paid a flat fee of \$150. If interested, contact Toni Bowman at 540-616-8582.

Exhibit and other opportunities

BRAA Theme Show

June 8 – July 31, 2021 • Perspective Gallery, Virginia Tech

Entry deadline: **April 30 and May 1**

This juried exhibition for current BRAA members invites works with a theme of "Place." The concept for the title has to do with being in a 'place' and reflecting on that through the creative process of the visual arts. The theme may be interpreted by each artist through his or her medium of choice. Artwork must have been created between 2019 – 2021 and not have been previously exhibited at Virginia Tech. There will be no physical opening reception due to COVID restrictions.

The juror will be Jenine Culligan, director and curator at the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University. She will select art for inclusion in the exhibit as well as the

\$500 "Best in Show" award recipient.

Members may enter up to two pieces per artist. The actual work must be submitted to Perspective Gallery for jurying on Friday, April 30, from 12–7 p.m. or Saturday, May 1, from 12–5 p.m. Early or late entries cannot be processed. The pick-up date for art not selected is May 17 or May 18 between 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.blacksburgart.org/2021-theme-show>

Plein Air Roanoke

May 17–22, 2021 • In and around Roanoke
 Entry deadline: **April 30**

Plein Air Roanoke and The Little Gallery are delighted to announce the Second Plein Air Roanoke! This is a wonderful opportunity to paint or watch some of the best artists from

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■ Gillis-Robinson *continued from page 1*

I have been playing around with pastels, and hope to use them in plein air opportunities. I don't want to have a lot of dust in my studio, so they will have to come out on a sunny day when I can get outside.

How long have you been actively pursuing artistic endeavors? I have pursued art professionally for over a decade now, but, before then, I did my best to carve out time from the usual demands of work, parenting and volunteering. While my parents graciously paid for my college education, they did place limitations on my direction of study, so I have a B.S. in business instead of the arts education I desired. But "truth will out," as they say and I have been able to return to my original plan to create art.

Do you have work in a current show? I was to be a featured artist at the International Gallery of Contemporary Art in Anchorage, but, because of the pandemic it has been postponed for a bit.

Do you have a favorite art/other media instructor? If so, who and where does she/he teach? I am indebted to Laura Spector, my teacher and mentor, who had just moved from Thailand when I took classes from her at Rice University's Glasscock School and Art League in Houston. Her technical skills, combined with her pursuit of artistic beauty, endowed many of her students with a stronger practice and drive to improve.

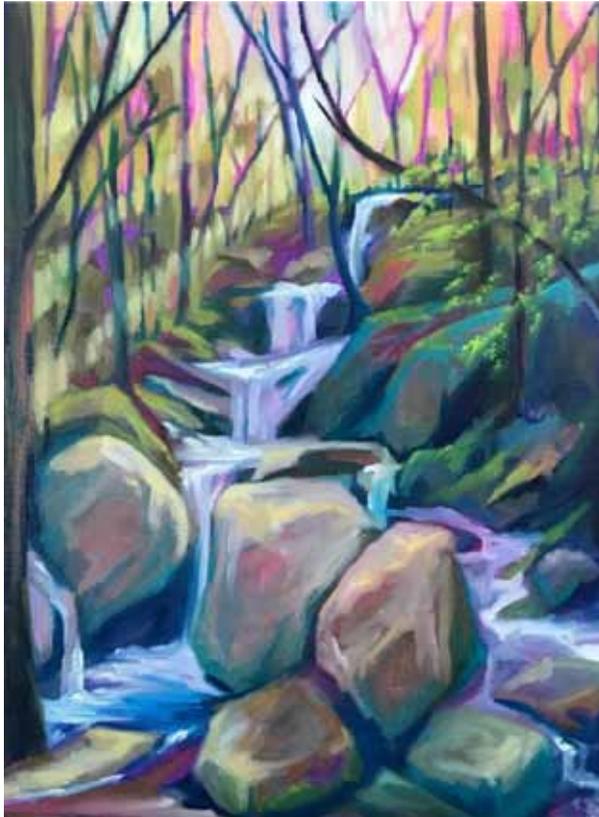
How has COVID impacted your usual creative practice? Creating more? Less? Differently? Perhaps the lockdowns have caused folks to stare at their walls and realize they need more art! I have had more collectors this year than I've had in the past. However, I feel I've been less productive, perhaps because I planted a large garden last summer.

If you weren't doing art, what would you be doing? I can't imagine a day where I am not creating or making something so this is a hard question for me. I would probably find myself involved in more farm work as we have 13 bee hives and a new apple orchard.

Do you have a studio? How frequently do you create? I have a studio in Blacksburg just a few steps from my house so I spend almost every day there. I just love the time alone, when I can get as messy as I want or experiment with new painting techniques.

What tip or trick do you wish you had known about when you began making art? To use more paint on the palette and to not worry about the cost of supplies. I still have to convince myself to squeeze big heaps of paint down before I begin working.

The just for fun question: What was the last song you sang along to? "Stranger Things Have Happened" by the Foo Fighters. I have made a playlist of mellower music for working in my studio, otherwise I'd be dancing around instead of painting! ■



Waterfall (oil) by Dianne Gillis-Robinson

■ Now showing

April 15 – July 15
(unless noted otherwise)

David Angle, Long and Foster Realty, Blacksburg

Raf Bedia, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Trenia Bell, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru June)

Patricia Bolton, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Riley Chan, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Alisa Colpitts, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg

Judy Crowgey, Glade Church, Blacksburg

Diamond Gabriel, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru June)

Paula Golden and Textiles Artists of Virginia, Blacksburg Transit

Sue Hossack, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru June)

Tom Jessen, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru June)

Susan Lockwood, Zeppolis, Blacksburg

Sally Mook, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg and Art Pannonia, Blacksburg (thru May)

David Pearce, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Mary Ratliff, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru June)

Walter Shroyer, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Samarth Swarup, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

■ New members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members —

Kathryn Elich
Heather Gearhart
Taylen Gearhart
Blake Gore
Sara Taylor
Sarajane Taylor

"The principle of true art is not to portray, but to evoke."

~ Jerzy Kosinski

■ **Exhibit and other opportunities** *continued from page 2*

across the country paint Roanoke and the Blue Ridge landscape. This event encourages outdoor painting for all ages and includes cash prizes, special events, a gala, and open sale. This year the event kicks off with a workshop by nationally recognized plein air artist, Mary Garrish, on May 16-17. The "paint outs" will take place at different locations such as Taubman Museum, Mill Mountain, Gallery 202, Roanoke River Greenway, Carvins Cove, Keeley Healing Garden, and the historic Roanoke City Market. These dates will also have Nocturnes and Fast Paint/Quick Draw sessions!

For the schedule of events and other information, visit www.pleinairroanoke.com.

Call for Mural Design
LewisGale Hospital Montgomery

Entry deadline: **May 9**

Artist(s) are invited to create a mural on one wall located in the cafeteria section of the hospital where visitors and staff gather and travel frequently.

The theme is nature and the New River Valley. The suggested material for the mural is metal panels from Signarama and the hospital will hang the panels. All details will be defined with the artist chosen to paint the mural. For details, email publicart@blacksburgart.org.

Taubman Museum of Art's 63rd Annual Sidewalk Art Show

August 21-22, 2021 • Downtown Roanoke

Entry deadline: **May 14**

Celebrating 63 years of fine art, this annual event has become one of southwest Virginia's most anticipated events. Works include original paintings, prints, watercolors,



etchings, mixed media, fine art photographs, fine crafts, and sculpture.

This year the museum is also offering the opportunity for artists to list their artwork in an online art sale. This affords high exposure to the museum's patron base through digital marketing efforts. The online art sale will be active July - August 2021. Artists can select to exhibit in both the physical show on August 21-22 and the online art sale or choose one over the other. Artists for either presentation will be subject to the jurying process.

Artists may apply to participate at: www.taubmanmuseum.org/happenings/sidewalk-art-show.

Bath County Art Show
July 17-25, 2021 • Valley Elementary School, Hot Springs, Virginia

The Bath County Arts Association invites painters, photographers, sculptors and mixed media artists to participate in its 56th annual art show in Hot Springs. This event offers the area's only opportunity to view and purchase art work from more than 200 regional artists. Proceeds from this annual event support scholarships, grants, arts education, music and much more in Bath County. This is the largest non-juried art show in the Alleghany Highlands with many categories of cash awards. Artists (18 years and older) may enter up to three works and the entry fee is \$15 per item. The BCAA will retain 30% of sales.

To register for this year's show and for more information, visit www.bathcountyarts.com or email artshow.bathcountyarts@gmail.com.

Sunflower Festival
Mid-July through August 2021 • Sinkland Farms, Riner, Virginia

Sinkland Farms is looking for artists to display and sell artwork at their Sunflower Festival. This new event will feature eight acres of sunflower fields, with over 175,000 blooms, and 20 different varieties of flowers! There will be three weekends jam-packed with activities, music, food, and fun! If interested, contact the Sinkland Farms team at sinklandfarms@gmail.com.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Floating Market, Thailand" (left, acrylic) by Sue Hossack. This and more of her work is on display at The Art Space @ the Artful Lawyers through June.



Making BRAA Work —

- Charlotte Chan**, president
- Alisa Colpitts**, vice president and workshop chair
- Marvi Stine**, treasurer
- Sue Hossack**, secretary and web administrator
- Gerri Young**, past president
- Ava Howard**, membership chair
- Charlotte Chan**, community gallery committee
- Teri Hoover**, marketing chair
- Ruth Lefko**, member meeting chair
- Lois Stephens**, newsletter chair
- Linda Correll**, public art chair
- Betty Moore**, education/outreach chair



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

Lois Stephens, Gerri Young, Teri Hoover, Pat Bevan, newsletter editorial board