

■ Upcoming

March 20

Salvador Dali Aliyah: The Rebirth of Israel
The Malcolm Rosenberg Hillel Center, 710
Toms Creek Road, Blacksburg • 7 p.m.

Professor David R. Blumenthal, Jay and Leslie Cohen Professor of Judaic Studies at Emory University and proprietor of Aliyah Suite, will speak about the exhibit on display at the Center, "Salvador Dali Aliyah: The Rebirth of Israel." He will share his insight into the context of Aliyah Suite's commission and elaborate on the historical events that Dali chose to depict. A reception will follow Blumenthal's lecture. This is a free event and no RSVP is required.

March 23

A Taste of Art and Wine with
Scott Crawford
Gothic Hall (Old Baptist Church), 100 W.
Main St., Christiansburg • 6 p.m.

During this fun and lively evening, Scott Crawford will tell about his exploration of the Gilbert Stuart 1796 portrait of George Washington. Advance \$20 tickets are required (includes wine and hors d'oeuvres). Proceeds benefit Montgomery Museum. For more information, contact the museum at 540-382-5644.

March 26 and April 9

Figure Drawing
The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 6-8 p.m.
The model, easels and drawing boards are provided and the cost is \$10. Reserve your spot online by the Friday before each session at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

March 31 – April 2

Expressive Watercolor Portraits
Floyd Center for the Arts • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Instructor Susanne Davis Ross will help workshop participants develop confidence and spontaneity with watercolor using their photos of people of all ages and walks of life. Previous experience with watercolor is necessary. Supply list will be provided. Fee is \$132 for Center members; \$165 for non-members. For information and registration, visit floydartcenter.org.

April 7

Art Walk
Downtown Blacksburg • 5-7 p.m.

Rain or shine, stroll through an evening of art in downtown Blacksburg. A variety of

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Plein air with fishing boats and new friends

By Gerri Young

I recently visited the little town of Calabash, North Carolina, north of North Myrtle Beach, where seafood restaurants abound and fishing boats tie up just feet from dining tables. It was a crisp sunny day with just enough wind to make me want shelter for my task of doing a plein air painting of a well-worn fishing boat or two.

Finding a sheltered spot at the end of the dock, I was setting up my chair when along comes a handsome man who seems to belong here. "Is it okay if I set up here to paint?" I asked. "Of course," he said. "Sit any where you like." I asked if he owned the nearby boat. He promptly pointed at each of the half dozen or so vessels and said "I own this one, and this one and this one and ..." I was obviously talking to the owner of the Calabash Fishing Fleet and I liked him instantly.

"Make yourself at home, if you need anything, my name is Bob." And a fine Bob he was. While my other half, Bill, went off exploring this end-of-the-road place, I began my somewhat intimidating pencil sketch of the Miss Serena (named after Bob's wife, I later learned). There are so many bits and pieces to a fishing boat ... lines (called rope elsewhere), colorful round floats, radar, lights, windows, signs, booms and buckets, winches and whatevers. I knew I could not capture them all, but I needed to get enough of it in there to show the complexity, the danger, the incredible knowledge and experience needed to run this boat safely and bring it home full.

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Fiber art exhibits materialize throughout region

It's an exciting time to be a fiber artist! BRAA member and internationally-recognized fiber artist Paula Golden shares information about several events.

"TRANSfiguration" by the members of the Textile Artists of Virginia (TAVA) is now showing at the **Blacksburg Library** on Miller Street and will be on display until the end of April. The prefix "trans" means "across," "beyond" or "on the opposite side." The dictionary lists 440 items that begin with this Latin noun. These five letters are just the start. Add more and enter a new world, a new topic or a new concept. TAVA meets bi-monthly in southwest Virginia to support each member as a fiber artist, to explore the boundaries of the medium, and to educate and increase public awareness of fiber art. See more about TAVA at <http://textileartva.wix.com/tava>.

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The work above is by Karin Tauber and is part of the TRANSfiguration exhibit at the Blacksburg Library.

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businesses will participate in this free art walk. To get started, make the Community Arts Information Office on College Avenue your first stop.

April 12 and May 11

Paint Parties

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio, 106 Faculty Street, Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.

“Goldfinch and Cherry Blossoms” will be the subject of the April 12 party. On May 11, the theme will be “Desert Cactus.” Join in the fun — \$30 covers all supplies. Register at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

April 14 and May 12

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

Lucie Monroe's Christiansburg • 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch and hear about the latest art happenings. The April art spot will be presented by Jenny Boyd who will speak about Warm Hearth and all it has to offer the community and artists. In May, Leia Wood of The Floyd Center for the Arts will be sharing information about their programs and opportunities for artists.

April 27

Reception, Research in the Abstract

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

This exhibit features the results of collaborations between medical researchers and artists. Works will be on display through July.

May 20

Plein Air Opportunity at Cruise In

Downtown Christiansburg • 4-7 p.m.

Plein air artists are invited to paint at the annual Cruisin' in Downtown Christiansburg event. For more information, contact Ruth Lefko at rlefk02@gmail.com.

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 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.

Fishing boats *continued from page 1*

I quickly started at the bow of the boat which was pointed outward toward the river and marsh. I was using my Strathmore sketchbook which provided a long, two-page format which would be good for getting a wide view of the marsh. I have learned not to agonize over the details too much; get the pencil down quickly, then pull out my Micron pens and do my first inking, keeping my fingers far back from the point in order to make it easier for me to stay loose. I don't know when I start where I will end up and let the drawing develop as I go. Weird as it sounds, I believe the drawing somehow tells me what is needed next.

Just as I start applying the watercolor to the sky, marsh and water, two young girls come around the corner and see me painting. Instantly interested, they stand beside me to watch and ask questions. They are ages 11 and seven. They have no techno in front of their pretty faces and they are ENGAGED! Engaged in the beautiful day, the fascinating place and my art. I love them right away and start to teach them as I paint, explaining what I am doing and why. One asked if they were bothering me.

Absolutely not, I tell them, I am happy to have such an interested audience. Over the next half hour or more, they come and go, telling me they are checking in to see how much further I have gone on the painting. It was a joy to meet these young ladies who have obviously been raised very well by their parents. They are at home on the docks where their dad is doing electrical work for the fleet owner, Bob, and their mom is along to enjoy the day and watch over them.

Before we leave the docks, I look for the kids again in hopes of a photo with them. Their mom agrees to be the photographer. My day in Calabash is complete. My faith in today's children is restored, my painting awaits one more treatment with my ink pens and the fisherman, restaurant owner and cook shares his way of steaming shrimp with me. We try it a couple days later and it was wonderful! The waterfront at Calabash is now one of my favorite places. And my boat painting? I love it! ■



Gerri Young with her new painting and two new young friends.

Fiber Arts *continued from page 1*

Throughout March, the **Community Arts Information Office** (CAIO) on College Avenue in downtown Blacksburg is exhibiting “A Sampler of Quilts in the New River Valley: Celebrating Virginia’s Quilting Heritage.”

The **Alexander Black House** is featuring The Fiber Artists @ Loose Ends through April with a show theme of “Wind Chimes: Elements and Seasons.” The 10-member group created this eight-part installation featuring the four elements of Fire, Water, Air and Earth and the four seasons. Within the parameters set by the group, the eight pieces reflect each artist’s unique style and individuality. Techniques range from traditional quilting designs, painting on silk to fused fibers that have been stitched and melted.

Farther down the road, the **Virginia Quilt Museum** in Harrisonburg has several offerings through May 20 — *Two Golden Ages of Applique: 1840–1870 and 1920–1940*, *Fiber Art Virginia: P’s and Q’s* (which combines photography and printmaking), *Treasures From the Vault: Wool for Winter*, and *Eclectic: Top of the Virginia Quilt Guild*, an exhibition highlighting recent award-winning quilts as well as works chosen to represent members’ mastery from traditional to contemporary. ■

■ President's Report

Beth Parker, president of the Blacksburg Newcomers Group, recently requested BRAA's participation in their annual member social event at the Blacksburg Country Club. Not long after, our co-vice president Teri Hoover and I met Beth and two of her event planners at the facility to find out more about it. After consideration with the rest of the BRAA board we decided this was a marketing event we should not pass up. The theme for the evening is the promotion of local art and artists and following are the details.

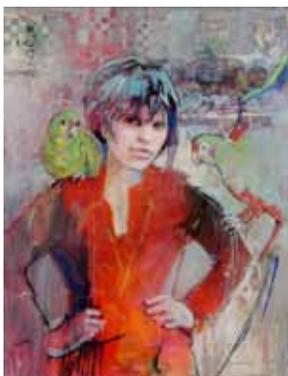
- April 11, 9–11:30 a.m. — Membership meeting at Lutheran Memorial Church in Blacksburg. Ruth Lefko and I will start a "paint by number" group project for the members. After that meeting, I will finish the painting at home and the final artwork will be auctioned on May 23 for a local charity (to be determined by the newcomer group).
- They want to promote art in the area by connecting artists with their members (new-to-town and long-term residents willing to help the newbies).
- On May 23 for the big event, I need no more than 10 artists to attend the event and set up some of their work in the banquet room. Attendees will be allowed to shop the artworks and meet the artists who will then join the members for the buffet dinner (at no expense to the artists).
- Each artist will have one 8-foot, draped table to display their works. Selling will be allowed before and after dinner.
- One jeweler is desired by the group.
- I will make a brief presentation about BRAA at some point in the evening and will have BRAA business cards and membership brochures available.
- The finished "paint by number" piece will be on exhibit all evening in the silent auction and three other donated artworks for the auction are being sought from participating artists (or others).
- The newcomers group will advertise the contributions of BRAA before hand so we will get good exposure, along with the exhibiting artists who participate. See more about the Blacksburg Newcomers Club on Facebook and on their webpage at <http://www.blacksburgnewcomer.wixsite.com/bbnc>.

What I need now is response from artists who are willing and able to participate on the evening of May 23. I will take the first 15 people who volunteer and will select no more than 10 of them based on getting a good mix of art for the newcomers to see. This information will be available on our website and I will send out the request by email as well. Email your interest to me at younggerri@gmail.com.

On a different note — thank you for your patience during our search for a new luncheon home for BRAA. We have arranged to use Amelia's, Lucie Monroe's and Golden Corral over the next few months to try them out and make an informed decision. Afterwards, we will solicit your opinion as to where we should settle down.

Our plein air arranger, Ruth Lefko, is already thinking of locations for us to visit! Click here to make suggestions to Ruth for either your favorite or somewhere we have never gone: rlefk2@gmail.com.

Your partner in art,

■ Kudos

A watermedia painting, "My Lovely Parrot Head" (left) by **Vera Dickerson** was awarded 3rd place in the Watercolor Art Society – Houston's (WAS-H) International show. The judge for the exhibit was Stephen Quiller.

Linda Correll's photo, "Beautifully Aged," was accepted in the 22nd Juried Art Exhibition at the Fine Art League of Cary, North Carolina. The show will be on display until April 15.

Congratulations, Vera and Linda!

■ Now Showing

January 15 – April 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Alison Armstrong, Zeppoli's wine room, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Jennifer Carpenter, River City Grill, Radford (thru April) and Bluefield College (thru April 13)

Paula Golden, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Sidra Kaluska, Hahn Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech (thru April)

Angela Kinzie, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Rack Space, Blacksburg

Susan Lockwood, Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech Campus (until April 9)

Cheryl Mackian, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Sally Mook, First Bank and Trust, Christiansburg, and Art Pannonia, Blacksburg (thru April)

David Pearce, VTLS, Blacksburg, and Hometown Bank, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Joy Rosenthal, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, Zeppoli's dining room, Blacksburg

Karen Sewell, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Lois Stephens, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Shaun Whiteside, Blacksburg Transit

Gerri Young, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

"To make art well is to raise life to its highest level and to live it at its best."

~ *Glenna Goodacre, Sculptor*

Welcome, new members!

BRAA welcomes all new members, most recently **Sharon Day**, **Charity Hall** and **Susan Crockett**.

■ Exhibits and other opportunities

Floyd Plein Air Festival

August 14–19
Floyd County

This weeklong festival will bring artists from far and wide to paint the beauty of Floyd County's open spaces and favorite places. More than \$3,500 in prizes will be awarded to winning participating artists, including: \$1,000 Best in Week Grand Prize and a ¼ page artist's ad in an upcoming issue of Plein Air Magazine (valued at \$1,200). The application deadline is **April 4**. For festival details and more information, visit www.FloydArtCenter.org/floyd-plein-air-festival/.

Simply Elemental 2017

August 1 – September 30
Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech

The theme of this year's outdoor installation is Garden Variety. The proposal should include a .jpg file of the planned work and possible location, approximate measurements and any special needs. Include with the proposal a short bio with an image of the artist(s) and contact information. Because this is an exhibit of relatively short duration, materials used in the pieces can be non-permanent but need to hold up to the elements for eight weeks. As the Hahn Garden is open to the public at all times, the garden cannot guarantee security for the works on display. The entry deadline is **April 15** and submissions should be sent to artinthegarden@vt.edu.

New River Art 2017 Biennial Juried Exhibition

June 9 – August 5
Floyd Center for the Arts

Visual media artists within 150 miles of Floyd are invited to submit artwork for this 14th biennial exhibition. The exhibit rotates every two years between the Floyd Center for the Arts, the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley in Pulaski, and the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. Top cash prize is \$500 and other cash prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded. Artwork will be selected by Juror Amy Shawley of Virginia. The deadline is **April 25** and the entry fee is \$40. For more information visit floydartcenter.org.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Doors" (right, fabric, 18 x 24") by Paula Golden. More of her work can be viewed at the Blue Ridge Cancer Care in Blacksburg until April 15.

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.virginiawatercolorsociety.org for full information, schedule and application.

Montgomery Museum Events

300 Pepper St., Christiansburg

The Montgomery Museum is sponsoring several opportunities for participation by artists. Please contact Sue Farrar at 540-382-5644 if you are interested in being a part of these activities.

May 20 — Cruisin' Downtown Christiansburg Classic Car Show. Artists are invited to paint en plein air.

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.

Habitat for Humanity

Create an artistic or functional piece and enter the NRV Habitat for Humanity's 4th Annual Earth Day Challenge! Prizes awarded in group, adult and children's categories. Entries will be displayed in the Habitat ReStore beginning **April 11**. Judging takes place April 22. Visit habitatnr.org/restore for more details.



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