



■ Art Calendar

January 20

Figure Drawing

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery, Inc., 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

The model, easels and drawing boards are provided and the cost is \$10. Reserve your spot by contacting diana@creekmorelaw.com or calling 540-443-9350, ext. 707. Fee may be paid at the door for this session. Look for information about future sessions at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

January 25

Roanoke College Juried Biennial

Exhibit Reception

Olin Hall Gallery, Salem • 6–8 p.m.

This juried exhibition exemplifies works from artists within a 200-mile radius of Roanoke College. Juror lecture and award ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Works will be displayed until March 17.

January 30

Walk or Talk: Meet the Artist

Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion,

Blacksburg • Noon – 1 p.m.

Artist Kathleen Madigan will talk about her exhibition. Works will hang through the end of February.

January 30

Whet Your Palette Exhibit Reception

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery, Inc., 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 5:30 p.m.

The theme of this show is "Abstracts." Exhibit will be on display until April 17.

February 1

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.

February 2

Members Only Gelli Plate Play Date

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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New year, new opportunities

It's that time of year. If expanding your art experiences is among your list of resolutions, perhaps one of the following opportunities will be just what you need to get started.

Nearby workshops include your very own **BRAA** offerings. On February 2, join fellow members to explore **Gelli plate painting** with acrylics. The play date will be held at Warm Hearth Village Center from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The cost (including lunch) is covered by the organization but limited to 21 attendees (first come, first served). Please email Charlotte Chan at charlotteychan@gmail.com to enroll. Fellow member and international quilting expert, Paula Golden, will be teaching a **quilting workshop** on July 12-14. Watch for more information about this and other BRAA events by visiting www.blacksburgart.org.

The **Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center** is offering a three-day workshop for watercolor and acrylic enthusiasts, **Draw Your Way to Better Paintings**. Popular Roanoke artist Robin Poteet will be leading this workshop on May 9–11 at St. Paul Methodist Church in Christiansburg. For more information, visit montgomerymuseum.org, email director@montgomerymuseum.org, or call 540-382-5644.

Figure Drawing is a great way to get back to the basics and sharpen your skills. **The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc.**, in Blacksburg provides this opportunity most every other Sunday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The next session is January 20 — see calendar at left for more information. Registration and information about future sessions will be posted soon at artfullawyergallery.org/events.

Virginia Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute (for adults 50 years of age and older) offers art and other creative courses twice each year and spring enrollment is now open. BRAA member Paula Golden is teaching **beginning quilting** on Mondays starting January 28. Member Jesi Pace-Berkeley is teaching **essential concepts of plein air landscape painting** on Fridays beginning February 8. Member Lois Stephens will be leading a class

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It was elbow to elbow at BRAA's 2018 Holiday Market at the Community Arts Information Office in downtown Blacksburg during the Winter Lights Festival. Read more about it on page 3.

Lois Stephens

Calendar *continued from page 1*

Escape the winter doldrums with a fun day of exploring Gelli Plate painting. Lunch will be provided. This is a free event but limited to the first 21 enrollees. To sign up, email charlottteychan@gmail.com.

February 8 and March 8

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.



February 15–16

h'ARTS on Main Festival
Great Road on Main, 100 W. Main St.,
Christiansburg

Visit 23 booths during the day and enjoy art and music in the evening. Tickets for evening concerts are \$30 per person. For more information, contact the Montgomery Museum at 540-382-5644 or visit bit.ly/hartsonmain.

Have you paid your dues?

Membership fees for 2019 were due **Dec. 31**. To download a membership form, select the join/forms tab at: <https://www.blacksburgart.org/> Those who have joined after Oct. 1 do not have to pay another fee for the following year. If you are over the age of 80, you do not have to pay for membership, but need to submit a form to indicate your desire to stay involved and receive BRAA communications. For more information, contact Rafael Bedia at bediari1@cox.net.

New year *continued from page 1*

on **exploring oil painting** on Thursdays beginning January 31. More course listings and enrollment information can be found at cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning.

BRAA member Betty Moore will be teaching a watercolor workshop at the **Blacksburg Community Center**. **Fun with watercolor** is suitable for both beginning and advanced painters and will be held Monday and Wednesday, March 18 and 20, from 9:30 am – 12:30 p.m. each day. Registration is at the Blacksburg Community Center, but questions about the workshop can be sent to Betty at kmoore48@verizon.net.

The **Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech** offers learning opportunities through workshops with visiting artists, lectures and symposia, master classes, hands-on experiences, and more. For more information, visit artscenter.vt.edu/.

The **Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley** is located in downtown Pulaski and occasionally offers workshops. To keep abreast of their activities, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/pg/facrv.

The **Floyd Center for the Arts** offers classes throughout the year in most any medium imaginable. Local artists teach many of the courses, but nationally known artists from other regions are also enlisted. View their offerings by medium or month at floydartcenter.org/.

The Studio School in Roanoke has been providing art education and exploration to thousands of art enthusiasts for 27 years. Classes are taught at all levels by the area's leading artists and small classes ensure that everyone receives individual attention. Most winter classes are already underway, but one and two-day classes are still available. They are also offering a **watercolor workshop** with Pennsylvania artist Ron Thurston on June 25–28. For more information, visit thestudioschool.biz.

For those who desire distraction-free time away from home, there are many opportunities within a few hours' drive. **Penland School of Crafts** (penland.org) in Bakersville, N.C. offers classes in drawing and painting, clay, photography, and more. Activities begin in spring and continue through fall. Water media classes are available March 30 – April 5 at **Kanuga** (kanugawatermediaworkshops.com) in Hendersonville, N.C. Students may choose from 12 instructors or study independently. **Nimrod Hall** (nimrodhallart.com) is located less than two hours from Blacksburg in Bath County and offers both weekend and week-long workshops from June through July.

Prefer independent study? There is a wealth of information on **YouTube** and beyond. While they may not hone your skills, there's much to be learned from podcasts. **Artists Helping Artists** (artistshelpingartistsblog.blogspot.com) is hosted by Leslie Saeta, who brings guests on the show to give specific art practice tips and share advice about what has worked for them. It requires a bit of patience for giggling and personal anecdotes, but is worth a listen. **Plein Air** podcasts provide an in depth look at the experiences of outdoor painters (outdoorpainter.com/podcast/). **The Lonely Palette** (thelonelypalette.com) offers a fun dose of art history to museum visitors. Another fun, history-related podcast is **Art Curious** (www.artcuriouspodcast.com). Simply search your browser for "art podcasts" to find more.



BRAA members learned the benefits of working in a series in last year's workshop led by Danie Janov.

Gerri Young

Holiday market fun for artists and shoppers

by Carole Davis

The 2018 BRAA Holiday Market at the Community Arts Information Office (CAIO) in downtown Blacksburg was a two-month event this year. Following the lead of other downtown businesses, we opened for Small Business Saturday on Nov. 24. Additionally, we opened on Sat., Dec. 15 to capitalize on Virginia Tech's winter graduation and, as is tradition, we hosted a reception during the Winter Lights Festival in early December. Many thanks to all artists who so willingly participated during these extra openings and special thanks to CAIO staff who handled sales Monday through Friday. We couldn't have done this without their help.

This year we hosted a guest candy artist for the first time. I believe she did well and has a membership form just in case she wants to participate again.

Although we hoped extra weeks and special openings would boost sales, it was not the case this year. Sales were about \$600 less than last year with a total of \$2,739. Fewer artists participated than the prior year, but I don't think that has much to do with totals based on comments about sales being down in 2018 for artists and vendors alike. I believe we had an attractive market this year with less crowding. Shoppers could easily see all the items offered for sale. A complete report with ideas for next year will be submitted to the board later this month. Meanwhile, it's not too early for artists to be thinking about items they would like to create for the 2019 market! ■

Creative challenge ahead!



Remember the dozens of mannequin arms that morphed into colorful caterpillars and gazebo-gracing seed pods at the Hahn Garden a few years ago, thanks to the talents of half a dozen BRAA members? We have a new challenge for the Hahn Garden's **2019 Simply Elemental** outdoor exhibit. No, Nancy Norton didn't buy another bunch of mannequin parts at a going-out-of-business sale. But she has volunteered to gather BRAA volunteers again to dream up and execute an installation of many porch post supports offered by Diane Relf from her amazing barn stash of items of unlimited possibility.

Please contact Nancy Norton at npngm64@gmail.com or 540-257-9977 to join in this creativity-challenging and fun project. We'll get together sometime to April to brainstorm ideas and decide on one to pursue. Then, with the arrival of warm weather, we'll begin project execution. Diane has generously volunteered not only the porch posts but also her place for us to paint, etc., and husband Dave to install our creation. ■

The business of art

Would you like to see topics related to art business in this newsletter? Your newsletter board is considering such a series. Maybe you'd like to know how to use Square for art sales, or need to know how to write a press release about your exhibit, or are interested in outlets for selling online. If you have ideas about topics you'd like to see addressed or are interested in contributing a business-related article, please email loisstephens56@gmail.com by February 1.

■ Now Showing

January 15 – April 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Lisa Acciai, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Charlotte and **Riley Chan**, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Paula Golden, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

Sidra Kaluszka, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru February)

Diana Law, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Blacksburg Transit

Maxine Lyons, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Cheryl Mackian, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Sally Mook, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

David Pearce, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Robi Sallee, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Linda Weatherly Shroyer, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Lisabeth Weisband, Holtzman Alumni Center Gallery, Virginia Tech (thru May)

Shaun Whiteside, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru February)

Norma Woodward, Glade Church, Blacksburg

■ Kudos

Congratulations to **Martha Olson** and **Shaun Whiteside** who had works accepted in Roanoke College's 2019 Juried Biennial Exhibition. The display runs from January 25 through March 17.

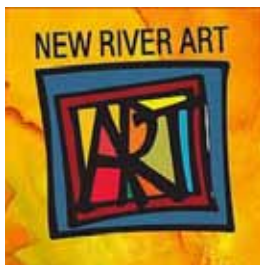
"You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will."

~ Stephen King

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

2019 New River Art Juried Biennial Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech June 13 – August 3, 2019

For the first time the biennial will take place in the beautiful Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech. This facility will allow for more and larger



pieces to be exhibited than ever before and is expected to draw a high caliber of fine arts ranging from paintings to sculptures, textiles and more. Due to the excellent video capabilities of the center, video entries will be accepted for the first time.

Juror for the show was selected by the Moss Arts Center and is Emily Smith, executive director of 1708 Gallery, a non-profit contemporary art space in Richmond.

Full details of the biennial may be found at www.callforentry.org and www.blacksburgart.org. Applications are being accepted at www.callforentry.org. Deadline is **March 1, 2019**.

Whet Your Palette 2019 Exhibitions

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc, 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg

Mark your calendar to apply for one or more of these shows — something for everyone! For more information, visit www.artfullawyergallery.org or email diana@creekmorelaw.com.

April 24 – July 17 • Pottery, Poetry & Pastels

Application deadline: **March 22**

July 24 – October 9 • Inside Out: Selfies

Application deadline: **June 21**

October 15 – December 18 • Fiber Art

Application deadline: **September 13**

Montgomery Floyd Regional Libraries

Libraries in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Shawsville and Floyd are looking for 2-D and 3-D artists to showcase work in their spaces in 2019 and beyond. Exhibits usually run for two months. The libraries provide publicity in print and online calendars, weekly email blasts, and flyers in the libraries. Some locations offer receptions and opportunities for artists to give talks about their work.

The Blacksburg library has openings for 3-D work for 2019. For more information, contact Kerri Copus at kcopus@mfrl.org.

To display 2-D work at Christiansburg Library, contact ssullivan@mfrl.org.

For 2 or 3-D exhibits at the Meadowbrook Library in Shawsville, contact bcooper@mfrl.org.

The Jessie Peterman Library in Floyd offers an in-depth article in the Floyd Press and will send to other local papers as requested. Those interested in displaying 2 or 3-D works should contact cmackian@mfrl.org.

New year *continued from page 2*

Strathmore paper company offers free online educational offerings. **Realistic Drawing with Charcoal** begins March 4; other classes include **Urban Sketching Basics** on May 6 and **Intro to Painting with Gouache** on Sept. 3. For more information visit strathmoreartist.com/artist-studio/. **Craftsy** (craftsy.com/art) offers classes in pen and ink, colored pencil, and acrylics, most ranging from \$20-40.

These ideas just scratch the surface of available resources. It's a great time to be an artist, so challenge yourself! With vast learning opportunities nearby, afar, and online, you can make this a year of exploration and artistic growth.



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Ready to Roll" (left, acrylic, 13 x 24") by Robi Sallee. This and more of her work can be viewed at [Shaheen Law Firm in Blacksburg](http://ShaheenLawFirm.com) through mid-April.



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