

■ Art Calendar

March 3 and March 17

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, by the Friday before each session. More information and tickets are available at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

March 8 and April 12

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 March, David Pearce will be speaking about wood working and clay sculptures.

March 13

Botanical Illustration Workshops

2084 Derring Hall, Virginia Tech campus

The Virginia Tech Massey Herbarium is hosting three events demonstrating and teaching the botanical illustration of bryophytes. Lara Call Gastinger from the Flora of Virginia Project will be teaching the illustration sections. There will be a free public presentation from 9–10 a.m. A pen and ink workshop costs \$70 and will be held from 10 a.m. – noon. The watercolor workshop is \$85 and will be from 12:30– 3 p.m. To register, visit <http://bit.ly/2GoELFQ>.

May 9–11

Draw Your Way to Better Paintings with Robin Poteet

St. Paul Methodist Church Annex, 220 W. Main St., Christiansburg

The Montgomery Museum is once again bringing this talented artist and teacher to Christiansburg. Drawing demos, exercises, experimentation and watercolor techniques will be featured. Students may work in watercolor or acrylics. The fee is \$175 per person; register by calling the museum at 540-382-5644.

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Baby it's cold outside!

But that's no reason not to paint plein air if you are prepared.

by Pat Bevan

Painting outdoors in the winter can be exciting. The raking winter light creates gorgeous long shadows. Snow cover provides a crazy reversal of the sky/ground value contrast. The subtle tans and grays of the landscape offer a wonderful opportunity to see and capture fine nuances of subdued hues.



Pat Bevan

If you decide to venture out to create, it is important to have a plan to keep your core and extremities warm for comfort and to prevent cold weather injury. Indeed, you are likely to have a time limit — there's only a certain amount of time you're going to be able to work before you become too cold to continue. Think quick studies or small paintings without too much detail.

Clothing

Standing still outdoors is much different than going walking or hiking. You will not get warmer as time progresses, but more likely — colder. Layering for your torso will help provide extra warmth but at the same time can be bulky, especially in the shoulders as you move your arms to paint. Legs that stay warm during hiking are likely to feel very cold when still. A wool base layer under warm outer pants is often a huge help. Wool socks under heavy, waterproof boots are a must, especially if there is snow on the ground. And adding toe warmers over wool socks can provide several hours of toasty feet.

Gloves or mittens to keep your fingers from getting stiff and to prevent frostbite are crucial for winter painting. Unless you use both hands for media application, consider the extra cold your hand holding brushes, pastels or a pallet might feel in comparison to your moving painting hand. A mitten might be helpful for your still hand. You also might consider switching from more to less bulky gloves on your painting hand depending on whether your strokes require more or less precision. Also hand warmers can provide an extra bit of heat.

A visor or hat with a wide brim and sunglasses are a good idea on sunny days and a must if there is snow. The brilliant white of snow causes our eyes to adjust, darkening

the appearance of all shadow values and changing our perception of depth of field. Gazing only at shadow areas for a time can allow our eyes to readjust temporarily. Sunglasses can also change our perception of values and of color too, so removing them during the painting process is a good idea.



Pat Bevan

A plein air pastel study by Pat Bevan.

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

June 13

Opening Reception, New River Art Juried Biennial Exhibition

Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech • 5–7 p.m.

Be among the first to view the exhibition and hear the presentation of awards. Works will be displayed until August 3.

July 12–14

Quilting Workshop

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg

Paula Golden, internationally recognized fabric artist, will be teaching a quilting workshop. Watch for more information or contact charlotteychan@gmail.com to express your interest in attending.

July 20

Art and Breakfast at the Market

Draper Road, Blacksburg • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Have breakfast, listen to music, and stroll this sidewalk exposition of unique works where you'll find paintings, collages, photography, sculpture, and more.

September 27–29

Yupo Workshop

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg

Popular water media artist, Jesi Pace Berkeley will be teaching this workshop on how to create exciting effects on the synthetic paper known as Yupo. Watch for more information or contact charlotteychan@gmail.com to express your interest in attending.

Cold outside! *continued from page 1*

Finally consider clothing colors. Black or dark neutral hues help prevent unwanted colors from reflecting back onto your painting surface while working in the sun.

Hydration and Nourishment

In winter, we tend to go for longer periods without water, not realizing that breathing cold and dry air causes the body to lose significant amounts of fluid. Cold weather also tends to move body fluids from your extremities to your core, increasing your urine output and adding to dehydration. So when you're out in the cold, don't rely on thirst to tell you when you need to drink. Drink often and before you're thirsty.

To avoid dehydration in cold weather:

- Take fluids with you.
- If you don't feel like drinking water, drink a warm non-caffeinated drink, such as hot herbal tea to help the body stay hydrated.
- Drink often, even if you are not thirsty.
- Don't consume fluids that can dehydrate the body, including alcohol, carbonated drinks and caffeinated drinks.

Finally, if you are outside for a long time, don't forget to snack. The body's process of metabolism will likely make you feel warmer.

Painting Supplies

When you are painting in cold weather it also is important to consider your painting supplies. Are they temperature sensitive? If you paint with soft pastels you should not notice changes in your supplies. If you paint with oil, you might find that your colors get a little more stiff and difficult to mix. Some artists thin their paints with turpentine or linseed oil to allow the paint to flow more freely in colder weather.

If you paint with water-soluble paint such as watercolor or acrylics, your main issue is freezing water. One artist discovered that adding a small amount of vodka into the wash water kept the pigments from freezing on palette and paper. The ratio suggested for the mix is approximately one part vodka to five parts water.

With this quick primer in hand, don't let the cold weather keep you from painting outdoors in chilly temperatures. Know your limits, gather your winter weather gear, and get outside to paint. What adventures await! ■

Don't let this be your last issue!

Membership fees for 2019 were due **Dec. 31**. Those who have not renewed their memberships will not receive newsletter mailings beginning in March. 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.

Exploring Gelli Plate Techniques

BRAA members interested in creating water media images with Gelli plates gathered on Feb. 2 to share tips and techniques.



The day-long "play date" was held at the Warm Hearth Village Center in Blacksburg and was offered free for participants.

Kirk Carter had a prolific day (right) and shares his work with the group (above).



Gerri Young

H'Arts on Main 2019

Months of hard work and planning are now behind the Montgomery Museum and Great Road on Main team as the event came to fruition Feb. 15-16.

Eighteen artists offered their works for sale in two of the largest spaces of the facility. The variety offered included paintings, jewelry, sculpture, photography, pottery and more. Artists came from Floyd, Christiansburg, Blacksburg and Pulaski.

Still more artists participated by directing workshops for children in which vacant seats were happily filled by parents!

Evening hours were filled with the art of music and speaking as ticket holders enjoyed lectures by historian Scott Crawford and visual artist P. Buckley Moss. The world of music was represented by the Classic Strings Duo of Christiansburg, Justin Craig of Blacksburg, Harry Lester of Georgia and the Loose Strings Band of Galax, Va.

Sue Farrar, director of the Montgomery Museum appreciates all who participated. "This is our second annual H'Arts event in the Great Road on Main," said Sue. "We use this weekend as a fund raiser for the museum and to give as many artists as possible in our area a place to showcase and sell their work in the comfort of the indoors in winter."

"It takes the efforts of many people to pull these two days together and I would like to thank all those who participated," she continued, "especially our planning committee and museum board members."

"We learn something to do different every year and would appreciate any comments from both artists and attendees regarding how we can make it better next year. A special thanks to Sherri Box of Events by Sherri, who has energetically headed the project from the beginning," Sue stated. "Also to Alex Crookshanks, a graphic artist in Blacksburg, for designing our wonderful logo."

Comments concerning the event may be sent to director@montgomerymuseum.org.



Ruth Lefko arranges her art display during H'Arts on Main.

Gerrit Young

■ 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)

Teri Hoover, Blacksburg branch of the Montgomery–Floyd Regional Library

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

Lois Stephens, Bluefield College, Bluefield, Virginia (thru April 12)

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

Shaun Whiteside, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru February)

Norma Woodward, Glade Church, Blacksburg



Linda Correll

The children's workshops were a popular feature during the H'Arts on Main event. The effort was organized by Linda Correll and supported by BRAA.



Tri-State Sculptors to hold annual conference in Radford

Member Larry Bechtel reports the annual conference of the Tri-State Sculptors will be held October 3–5 at Radford University's SELU conservancy near campus. Artists and appreciators are invited to attend. The schedule is just now being put together but Charlie Brouwer will be speaking on Friday night, and possibly participating in cooperative environmental artworks at SELU on Saturday. There will be another speaker on Saturday evening. The conference features workshops, informational sessions (such as a slide show and commentary on "the arts in Cuba") and demonstrations of such arts/crafts as blacksmithing and glass blowing at the Art Annex. For more information, contact larrybechtel@rocketmail.com. More notices to follow!

"Artists do not own the meaning of their work."

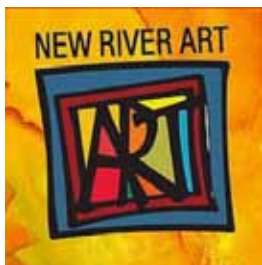
~ Roberta Smith

HURRY! Entry deadline for New River Art Juried Biennial is **March 1**. See page 4.

■ 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**.

Stormwater Public Arts Project

The Town of Blacksburg is seeking design submissions for a new round of murals to be painted on storm drains around town. The storm drain mural project is centered around raising awareness of our local waterways and the ecological communities that depend on them. There is a common misconception that the water from storm

drains goes through a treatment process. To the contrary, leaking automotive chemicals, pet waste, sediment, and litter all go directly into underground aquifers and streams diminishing our water quality directly. Even natural materials like leaves and grass clipping do damage by creating blockages in the storm drain infrastructure which can increase the risk of surface flooding.

Artists over the age of 18 are invited to submit a design to raise public awareness of the choices (and changes) we can all make to restore the health of our local waterways while addressing one or more of these themes:

- The Town of Blacksburg's Freshwater Heritage
- The Protection of Stroubles Creek
- New River Watershed's Natural Beauty: local wildlife, healthy habitat, and natural beauty

A committee of judges will select designs that are graphically bold with clear messages and potential to engage multiple audiences. Design submissions will be accepted through **March 22** and finalists will be selected and notified by March 29. Artists will receive a \$350 stipend for their completed works. For more information, contact Blacksburg's sustainability manager at 540-443-1617.

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**

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Snowy Scene I" (left, acrylic, 36 x 24") by

Maxine Lyons. This and more of her work can be viewed at Blue Ridge Cancer Care in Blacksburg through mid-April.



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Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (loisstephens56@gmail.com)

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