



■ Art calendar

August 1 – September 30

Simply Elemental

Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech

How to add to the loveliness of a garden? Add art! Stop by the horticulture garden and you'll be delighted by the display of 28 works of art placed throughout the grounds.

August 14 – October 2

Floyd Center for the Arts Juried Exhibition 2020 Parkway Lane South, Floyd

This exhibit features works from artists across the country, including some of your fellow BRAA members. The art will be displayed until October 2 in the Hayloft Gallery of the arts center. Visit www.floydartcenter.org for exhibit hours and more information.

October 1

Reception, Studio School's 50 for \$50

Left of Center Art Space, 24 Campbell Ave., Roanoke • 5–8:30 p.m.

Help support the fabulous Studio School during their 50 for \$50 sale. This reception takes place during downtown Roanoke's Art by Night event, so take it all in! The fundraiser continues throughout the month.

October 8

BRAA Monthly Lunch

Heritage Park Pavilion, 2300 Glade Rd., Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pack a lunch and join your fellow members at Heritage Park, located on Glade Road across from Rising Silo Brewery. The shelter is a short walk from the parking lot. This month's Art Spot will be a Show and Tell, so bring two works to share, either finished or works in progress.

October 9

Plein Air Painting with Gerri Young and Margaret Sue Turner Wright

Radford University's Selu Conservancy • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

After an introduction to concepts and approaches to plein air landscape painting and nature, artists will be invited to explore the conservancy's designated visitor areas and paths to find appealing views. The event is free and limited to 15 artists. Participants must bring their own lunches and beverages. The rain date is Oct. 16. Visit <https://ruarboreal.com/calendar/> for more information and registration link.

continued on page 2

Art assignment a journey into enlightenment

by Matt "Sharpie" Gentry

Matt Gentry is a member of BRAA, a photographer for the Roanoke Times, and an accomplished artist and sketcher. In this article he shares his plein air journaling experiences during a two-week Wyoming visit. He earned the nickname "Sharpie" while hiking the Appalachian Trail.

"My assignment is to document my vacation for my local art club" was my refrain. Never mind that I had actually made this assignment for myself and that I was using my BRAA membership as an excuse to make art in public places during our journey. The New River Art and Fiber store in Blacksburg set me up with the supplies I needed for the task.

My muse and my journey as an artist was to interpret our visit to the parks and greater Wyoming area in a way that was unique to us. The entire plan of the trip was to have fun, relax, and make art. The mission was accomplished.

People that know us could not believe we had not been to America's first national park! Well, let's just say we saved the best for last. No, we had not been to Yellowstone!

Summer 2021 was the time and Wyoming the place. My wife Colleen and I had the perfect journey to Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Thermopolis, a quirky little town in Wyoming. The purpose of this story is to share this experience with you and perhaps inspire a visit to the wild-wild west like what we experienced.

Along with having fun and enjoying each other's company, my goal on this trip was to create a watercolor art journal worth sharing with friends and the greater art community. What JOY I had delving into ART as a part of our journey! Making art has always been a pleasure but also a mission in my life.

continued on page 3



Photo by Colleen Gentry

Matt Gentry art journaling from Artist Point overlooking the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone National Park.

BRAA and The Artful Lawyer

For a number of years, the Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA) has enjoyed a relationship with The Artful Lawyer owned by James Creekmore. Members of the art association have often been represented in the exhibitions hosted in the building. When the Community Arts Information Office on College Avenue was unexpectedly closed in 2019, Creekmore quickly invited BRAA to move into his spaces on N. Main Street where we remain today. Sadly, with the advent of the COVID pandemic, the building and its popular quarterly art exhibitions and receptions were closed. Only The Art Space, recently opened by BRAA, continued to operate on limited hours.

Recently, exciting things are happening again! Read on to see more.

Welcome back from The Artful Lawyer

By Katy Shepard, The Artful Lawyer manager

During the pandemic we missed everyone something fierce, but now that we have reopened, we are back with more arts community projects than ever before.

Our current exhibit, "Reflections: Art in the Time of Covid-19," runs through Oct. 15 and features over 60 local artists! Upcoming shows include a quilting show from TAVA, Textile Artists of Virginia, opening in November, and our long-awaited photography exhibit (previously delayed by the pandemic) opening January 2022.

If you haven't shown with us yet, be on the lookout for our calls to artists for the 2022 season which will include the topics "We March So that We May...", "A Summer of Sustainability and Mother Earth," and lastly "Memories."

Before we roll into the new year, other arts opportunities to get involved at The Artful Lawyer include the return of figure drawing sessions and paint nights, community rental space for artist workshops and activities, a new gift shop project titled "Blind Date with an Artwork," and our Inaugural Holiday Art Market on December 4-5, open noon to 7 p.m. each day. Use the email in the next paragraph to sign on as a selling artist for those two days.

If you aren't on our listserv yet and want to learn more, email us at info@artfullawyergallery.org to be added. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see our Artist Spotlights to learn more about the currently exhibiting artists!

A little bit about Katy

Katy Shepard lives in Christiansburg with her life partner, Sam, and 16 assorted animals. She is an artist who owns Scallywag Letterpress upon which she and Sam create hundreds of original greeting cards. She is a professor, a passionate gardener and pasta maker, and somehow finds time to belong to the Blacksburg swing dance community.



"Reflections: Art in the Time of Covid-19," featuring works by 60 local artists, will be displayed at The Artful Lawyer through October 15.

She holds a wealth of academic degrees: PhD Alliance for Social Political Ethical and Cultural Thought 2021, GA Moss Arts Center Salaam Project 2018-2019, MA in Philosophy, GA Office of Sustainability 2016, BFA Studio Art, BA Political Science, and a BA in Philosophy 2014.

The Art Space @ the Artful Lawyer

The Art Space which opened earlier this year is BRAA's first venture into having a continuing location at which BRAA members can exhibit and sell their artworks.

Located in the left-hand portion of The Artful Lawyer at 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg, The Art Space operates several days a week manned by the exhibiting artists themselves. A number of artists show each quarter, offering everything from greeting cards to jewelry, painting, photography, ceramics and fiber arts. Artists featured in a given quarter also act as salespersons for all the artworks on display.

Sue Hossack has set up and managed The Art Space for the past six months and Ava Howard is coordinating the BRAA holiday market which will feature more BRAA artists and their works from Oct. 15 through January 9, Friday through Sunday.

"The Art Space will be different for the weeks of the holiday market," said BRAA president Charlotte Chan. "There will be more artists represented showing a variety of artworks aimed at holiday buyers. Customers will find everything from greeting cards to paintings, ceramics, jewelry and more. A number of BRAA artists will participate and all will take a turn at operating the market."

Go to blacksburgart.org/holidaymarket, for further information.

Calendar *continued from page 1*

October 23

Reception – New River Art Biennial
Tyler Art Museum, Radford University • 5–7 p.m.

This year's biennial event was coordinated by the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley in Pulaski, and co-sponsored by the Floyd Center for the Arts and the BRAA. Come view the display and celebrate the award winners! Works will be displayed until December 4.

■ Art journey *continued from page 1*

Art is a universal communication. It is immediate and sincere. One of my favorite memories from the trip was being at the Old Faithful geyser basin on the Fourth of July. All of America was there after a year of pandemic precautions lock-up!

Upon arrival in Yellowstone National Park, we settled in with an anxious crowd to see the eruption of the famous Old Faithful geyser. The sheer joy of the crowd as it erupted was a moment I will never forget. It was the best Independence Day show ever! I made composite sketches in my journal of three eruption events that day. Starting with a mid-day eruption and moving on with more eruptions later in the evening, Old Faithful blows its stack approximately 1.5 hours apart every day.



Photo by Matt Gentry

Old Faithful Inn and geyser sketch made on July 4th.

The greatest joy came during the last eruption on July 4, 2021, as the sun set. I continued to embellish on the compositions I had made earlier in the day,

deepening and darkening the sunset before me. Unbeknownst to me, a small crowd had gathered behind me as I painted. I was conscious of people watching me paint, but I was "in the moment" making art. A group of a dozen people were watching me paint!

Later, as I turned the pages of my journal, sharing my illustrations with them, this wonderful group of people applauded. I felt validated as an artist, but also elated I was able to connect with people through art.

Here is my take away from this moment: America needs art, wants art, and loves art being made in public! What a joy I had sharing my artful experience with my fellow visitors in that time in that place on that day!

Moving to Yellowstone Falls, we set up at an area called Artist Point; me with all my painting gear and Colleen in place on a boulder with her knitting. "Look! An actual artist at Artist Point!" was the voice I heard from behind as fellow visitors watched and photographed me painting on location. "I wish I had brought my sketchbook" was a comment by another visitor claiming to be an Urban Sketcher. I told her I wish she had brought it also, because I could really use some "backup." "Well, you don't see that every day," remarked another visitor upon seeing Colleen knitting on the boulder.

Several of the dozens of people that made photographs of me painting from Artist Point that day said "thank you" for sharing my inspiration to create art. How do I get to be an artist in residence in a National Park? Sign me up!

"I'm totally blown away," said Sioux, our host in Thermopolis, Wyoming. We had just spent a few minutes connecting while sharing my sketchbook in her cozy community where she is the proprietor of Round Top Mountain Hotel. Seeing her community through the eyes of an artist brought her joy. Sharing the creative processes of making art of our journey and the appreciation of her hospitality and town warmed my heart. The hot springs of Thermopolis was the draw for our visit there, but it was the people that warmed our hearts. I was so inspired by this small community's offerings that the pages in my art journal just kept coming. We wanted to meet the real Wyoming, and we accomplished that by visiting this wonderful place we dubbed "Wytheville of the West" (after Wytheville, Va.).

In conclusion, art journaling continues to deepen my experience as a traveler, always has and, hopefully, always will. As artists, our journey calls on us to live in the moment with an open heart and an open mind. Safe travels and may the artists with-in become the artists with-out.

Oh, and always bring your sketchbook. ■

■ Now showing

July 15 – October 15
(unless noted otherwise)

Pat Bevan, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Riley Chan, The Alexander Black House (thru October 3)

Judy Crowgey, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Carole Davis, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg

Aileen Fletcher, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru September)

Dianne Gillis-Robinson, Blacksburg Transit

Pam Goff, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Carol Josefiak, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru September)

Maxine Lyons, Long and Foster Realty, Blacksburg

Sally Mook, Zeppolis, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Martha Olson, Montgomery Museum of Art and History, Christiansburg (thru Oct. 29)

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

Diane Relf, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Samantha Rigglin, Glade Church, Blacksburg and The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru September)

Joy Rosenthal, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru September)

Robi Sallee, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Lois Stephens, The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg (thru September)

■ New members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members **David Ferrell** and **Diana Mazor**.

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

29th Annual Pumpkin Festival September 25 – October 31 • Sinkland Farms, 3020 Riner Road, Christiansburg

If you'd like to paint pumpkins and sunflowers, mark your calendar for this event! The festival is open on weekends and features 10 acres of pumpkins and 10 acres of sunflowers. If you want to paint on any of the weekends when there is an entry fee of \$12, just tell the ticket person at the entrance you are there to paint and you will get in free. You can set up in all sorts of places around the farm. The sunflowers were planted in stages to keep blooming through to the end. There are restrooms and the gift shop will be open and some food will be for sale. If you want to go during the week without the crowds, just go there, no fee to paint or enter. Visit <https://sinklandfarms.com/pumpkin-festival-about> for full information about the farm and the festival.

BRAA Holiday Market October 15 – January 9 • The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg

Deadline: **September 30**

Hurry, don't miss this opportunity to participate in our Holiday Market at The Art Space @ The Artful Lawyer. If you wish to participate, you must register and fill out an inventory list. All participating artists will be required and assigned shifts to work. Currently, we estimate that if 25 artists participate, with two people working each shift, each artist will have to work one four hour shift three times (3x) over the three month period of the market.

For more information, contact Ava Howard at membership@blacksburgart.org or visit <https://www.blacksburgart.org/holidaymarket>.



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Double Delight II" (left, watercolor, 15x22") by Carole Davis. This and more of her work is on display at Warm Hearth Village Center until mid October.

Inaugural Holiday Market at The Artful Lawyer December 4–5 • 12–7 p.m. • The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg

Deadline: **October 15**

Arts and crafts vendors are invited to apply for space for a six ft. table (tables not provided). Seventeen slots are available and the fee is \$30 per day or \$50 for the weekend. All items sold must be handcrafted or in some other way designed/created by one or more persons running the vendor's booth. (Exceptions apply: i.e., prints of original artworks by the vendors are allowed.) Representative images of the type of items that will be sold must be provided with application to be approved. Vendors will also be asked for content (which may include a brief story, photo, and high-resolution images of works sold, etc.) that can be used to advertise vendors on social media throughout the month of November leading up to the event.

For more information or to reserve your spot please email info@artfullawyergallery.org with a description of the types of items you would like to sell, participation dates, and representative photos of your work. If you have previously had a booth at a craft event, booth photos would be appreciated but are not necessary for first time vendors!

"Inspiration is a guest that does not willingly visit the lazy."

~ Tchaikovsky



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 chair
- 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, Lisa Acciai, Pat Bevan, newsletter editorial board