

■ Upcoming

Jan. 13 and Feb. 10

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

Famous Anthony's, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch and hear about the latest art happenings. January's Art Spot will be presented by Kirk Carter, who will speak about cartooning.

January 13

Jennifer Carpenter Reception

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg • Noon – 1 p.m.

Jennifer Carpenter will be making a presentation about her colored pencil work, which will be displayed through January.

Jan. 15 and Jan. 29

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>.

January 19

Artist Coffee House

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation • 5:30–7:30 p.m.

This arts community information gathering session is hosted by the museum and sponsored by the Blacksburg Partnership's Collaborative for the Arts. These meetings are designed to gain insight into the local arts communities' needs and how the collaborative can best support their work. This session focuses on dance and theatre, and all are welcome to attend.

January 26

Susan Lockwood Reception

Holtzman Alumni Center Gallery, Virginia Tech Campus • 5:30–7 p.m.

"A Photographic Journey, France, Italy and Spain" is the theme of this exhibit by Susan Lockwood. Works will be on display until April 6.

January 27

Opening Reception, Olin Hall Galleries

Biennial Juried Exhibition

Smoyer Gallery, Roanoke College, Salem • 6–8 p.m.

Forty-three artists' works will be on display

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Little art book delivers big

By Gerri Young

Daily Painting by Carol Marine, ISBN 978-0-7704-3533-2

I am the owner of probably way too many art instruction books. I buy them new, used, and very used if they are very good! I look at them as they come into my hands and they eventually make their way to my shelf to mingle with the many other books already there.

Sometimes I regret my purchase. Occasionally, a book rises above the rest for me and gets to live beside my place on the couch or atop my bedspread where it gets to act like a beloved dog curled up within arm's reach for weeks. From those two perches, a favorite art book will get picked up frequently; read in bits and pieces in no certain order, over and over, and highlighted or underlined as art wisdom really strikes me.

This little book, 8x8 inches, 182 pages, has claimed those spaces and even gone on our Christmas road trip with me. Well, sort of. It was a Christmas present given to me by my niece in Ohio so it really had to go on the road trip to get home with me.

Even though I have produced some art lately, I have felt in a bit of a rut and needed some inspiration to get me jump started again. Big canvases and papers seemed daunting so the premise of this book is that you paint daily and small. Carol Marine was inspired to do this book after surviving a period of wanting to quit and become anything but an artist; being in "the dark place" where the words "I'm not going to paint any more" came out of her mouth.

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The book and the two acrylic paintings it inspired. The coffee cup piece was first. The signature on the pieces is done with a Uni-ball Signo UM-153 white ink pen. Let it dry thoroughly and then seal it with Krylon spray varnish. If you plan to seal the painting with gel, the ink will run if you don't protect it with the varnish first.

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through February 26. Award announcements will be made in the Olin Gallery at 6:30 p.m.

February 1

Draw the Performers

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Movement in Art is the theme for the first 2017 gallery show at The Artful Lawyer. Performance artists will occupy four rooms. Visual artists are invited to draw the group performers or models. Participation is free. For more details and to reserve your spot visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

February 24–26

Abstract Painting Workshop

Hahn Pavilion, Virginia Tech Campus

This exciting BRAA-sponsored workshop will be taught by member Rita Montrosse (www.ritamontrosse.com). The fee is \$225 and class size is limited to 16 participants. Email charlotteychan@gmail.com to express your intent to register. Registration will be finalized when your check is received. Registration information will soon be posted to BRAA website (www.blacksburgart.org).

Are you renewed?

Annual membership fees were due **December 31**. This will be the final issue sent to last years' members, so if you have not paid your 2017 dues, keep on top of the news by going to www.blacksburgart.org for a printer-friendly membership form.

Membership benefits include —

- Monthly art-conversation luncheons with art spot speakers
- Workshops with reduced fees
- Opportunities for solo exhibits in participating galleries (with no commission on sales)
- Open enrollment in annual theme show and other group events
- Group fun at plein air events
- Opportunity to participate in annual holiday market
- And much more!

Resolve to spend more time with your tribe and your art this year!

Holiday market sales top \$1800



Artists celebrating the holiday market opening reception included Teri Hoover, Larry Mitchell, Robi Sallee, Carole Davis, Gerri Young, Jennifer Carpenter, and Jeni Benos.



Larry Mitchell was one of 21 artists who participated in the Holiday Market at the Community Arts Information Office.



From the Fall issue of the Strathmore Art Papers newsletter (<https://www.strathmoreartist.com/artist-newsletter.html>) and Reid Schlegel, who studied at Virginia Tech and now works as a designer for frogdesignNYC —

Copy, Copy, Copy:

Don't be afraid to learn from the masters. Find a sketch that inspires you and reproduce it repeatedly to learn what makes it successful. Over time implement your findings into your sketch process to develop your own unique sketch style. (tip submitted by Gerri Young)

Do you have an art tip to share?
Email stephens1@pemt.net or younggerri@googlemail.com.



Little art book *continued from page 1*

I said those very words several times in the last few months.

Her book gives you the pep talk, acknowledges all the road blocks to painting time she and we all face and provides lots of constructive ways to deal with that.

I particularly liked the benefits of painting small and often. I never painted miniatures until last year when I did a bunch for Christmas gifts and found them really fun and freeing to do. Marine confirms the benefits: fits your schedule, inspired to experiment on small canvases, less emotionally attached. (How many pieces do you have that you refuse to sell because you loooooove them?)

Small canvases are not intimidating, they are fun, give you confidence, are less tedious and the successes with them give you confidence to attack the larger canvases or papers. Small artworks are easier to sell with their smaller prices.

A Botetourt County artist whose studio I have visited twice normally painted very large oils. Following surgery, he painted a series of small square canvases featuring things like coffee cans and such because he was not up to the physical demands of big painting. His small series is delightful and successfully sells.

Marine's book is aimed mostly at oil painting, but she acknowledges other painting mediums and gives examples and advice that works for them all. She includes writing by other artists who tell their own stories of painting struggles and successes both in the studio and en plein air.

She covers the practical aspects of painting from materials, to care of brushes to lighting your still life setups and taking paints on airplanes. The all-important composition gets chapter 7 and photographing your art gets chapter 10.

Yes, all of these subjects can be found in other art instruction books, but she takes hers further by devoting chapter 11 to tips for better online sales, blogging, webs, emails and social media and she explains it all quite simply. I ended up with ideas I want to try soon. I discovered small painting is a bit of a movement in the art world and explored dailypaintworks.com because of this book.



Daily Painting is a photo and color rich publication made more so by my yellow highlighter! It is on excellent paper in sturdy soft cover. I was inspired to pull out two 6x6 inch canvases and just go for it. It was as she said, freeing and fun and fast in my acrylic paints augmented with gels. I like the work by Carol Marine and I like her book. You can find it on Amazon, but please use Amazon Smile so you can create a small donation to BRAA with your purchase.

Happy daily painting! ■

If you would like to review an art publication or workshop for this newsletter, contact the editor, Lois Stephens, at stephens1@pemt.net.

■ Now Showing

January 15 – April 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Alison Armstrong, Zeppoli's wine room, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, CAIO (Community Arts Information Office), Blacksburg (Feb.) and Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Jennifer Carpenter, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg (Jan.)

Ava Howard, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru Feb.)

Angela Kinzie, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Rack Space, Blacksburg

Susan Lockwood, Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech Campus (until April 6)

Cheryl Mackian, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Larry Mitchell, CAIO (Community Arts Information Office), Blacksburg (Feb.)

Martha Olson, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg (Feb.)

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 Office

Gerri Young, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

“And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.”

~ Meister Eckhart

■ Exhibit opportunities

The New River Valley Through an Artist's Eye

October 4 – December 13
The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg

Photograph, paint, collage, or otherwise interpret artistically what moves you in the New River Valley. All original works will be contributed to The Artful Lawyer Gallery and will be featured in both the juried Whet Your Palette show in October, and in a corresponding book project that will be published and offered for sale throughout the New River Valley and beyond. Additionally, all original works will be part of a live and silent auction during the Whet Your Palette juried show with funds raised going to the collective book project. The application deadline is **January 23**. For more information and an application, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/gallery-shows>.

Art at the Mill — Clarke County Historical Association

April 29 – May 14
Berryville, Virginia

The Clarke County Historical Association is now accepting submissions for Spring 2017 Art at the Mill. The registration fee is \$35 for up to seven entries and the historical association retains 35% of the sale price for maintenance and operation of the mill. Entries can be submitted at <https://artatthemill.artcall.org/>. The registration deadline is **February 22**. For more information, email artatthemill@gmail.com or leave a message at 540-837-1799.

“Skill to do comes from doing.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Life Imitating Art" (right, oil, 20 x 16") by Cheryl Mackian. More of her work can be viewed at Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea in Blacksburg until April 15.

■ Kudos

Congratulations to BRAA members **Jennifer Carpenter** and **Linda Correll**, whose works were accepted in Olin Hall's 2017 Biennial Juried Exhibition at Roanoke College. The opening reception is January 27, 6–8 p.m., and the exhibit runs through February 26.

■ Welcome, new members!

BRAA welcomes all new members, most recently —

The Charles Bruce family (Charles, Docie, Kalyn, Marley) and **Michael Urban**

Acrylic Painting and Color Theory Class Offered

BRAA member **Shaun Whiteside** will be teaching a Beginning Acrylic Painting and Color Theory Class at the Warm Hearth Village Center. The sessions begin February 22 and will be held on six Wednesdays from 4:30–6:30 p.m. To register or for more information, contact Mardy Baker at 540-443-3434. Registration deadline is **February 17**.

Do you teach art classes? If you would like to be included in a future article about members who teach, email your class information to stephens1@pemt.net.



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Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to **Lois Stephens** (stephens1@pemt.net)

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