

■ Upcoming

December 1

Winter Lights Festival

Downtown Blacksburg • 3–8 p.m.

Join in the fun and stop by the BRAA-stocked holiday market in the Community Arts Information Office (CAIO) during the art walk. Other activities include Santa at the Lyric, tree lighting ceremony, tuba performance, and parade.

December 5

Reception, Carilion Clinic Patient Exhibit

Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, 1906 Bellevue Avenue SE, Roanoke • 5:30 p.m.

This is the second exhibit for Carilion patients and works will be displayed in the hospital lobby through January 25.

December 6

Paint Party

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery, Inc., 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.

Participants will explore Expressionist Painting, Pollock-Style. The fee is \$30. For more information, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

December 8

Reception, Space

Terrace Gallery, Bower Center for the Arts, Bedford • 5–7 p.m.

Awards during the reception for the “Space” themed exhibit will be presented at 6 p.m. The Bower Centers’ Annual Holiday Concert will follow the reception at 8 p.m. Free and open to the public!

December 8 and January 12

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

Bull and Bones, First and Main, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch, hear the featured speaker’s Art Spot, and share news about the latest art happenings.

January 14

Figure Drawing

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

After a brief hiatus, figure drawing resumes every other Sunday. If you are interested in modeling or being added to the figure

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Perils of plein air

by Phil Ramsey

I am new to BRAA and have only been a resident of Blacksburg for a few months. We left our home in South Boston and those we love of 31 years; however, I have been warmly welcomed by this community and already feel a strong sense of belonging for which I am very grateful and know I will be for years to come.



photo by Gerri Young

Matt Gentry (right) photographs Phil Ramsey as he paints the Palisade Cliffs towering above the New River in Eggleston.

Since arriving in the New River Valley I have discovered this area possesses an abundance of magnificent areas to paint on site or — en plein air. I was told there are several plein air enthusiasts with this association and, sure enough, recently I was able to join Gerri Young and Matt Gentry at the beautiful Palisade Cliffs (Bullard Rock) near Eggleston with a marvelous painting experience during a glorious afternoon. There is something about the meeting of like-minded artists that have a unique understanding of our

craft and the internal appreciation of the world around us and joyful sharing of that experience in time.

Plein air painting — sounds like an ethereal, wondrous event but it is not for the faint of heart. However, it is similar to attempting anything new and out of your comfort zone. There is a learning curve and like anything else, once you become familiar with it, the process becomes extremely enjoyable. Kind of like snow skiing — after the first experience one may wonder why sane people actually enjoy a downhill attempt at suicide. The challenges of plein air, however, are as follows but not limited to such:

1. More often than not, it takes more time scouting out a good spot for the plein air painting than to do the actual painting. You must find an area where you can park your car, then find the best angle for the outdoor subject being painted; know the best time for

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holiday market



Shop local! Works by BRAA artists featured at the Community Arts Information Office on College Avenue through December. Stop by for refreshments, find unique gifts, and chat with the artists on **Friday, December 1, 5–8 p.m.**

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drawing mailing list, please contact Diana Francis at 540-589-1431 or visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

February 9

Colored Pencil Workshop

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg

Popular instructor Jennifer Carpenter will be sharing her colored pencil expertise in this one-day workshop. For more information, contact Charlotte Chan at charlotteychan@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCING —The Best of YUPO Workshop with Sandy Maudlin

September 5–9, 2018

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg



If you love texture and gorgeous color, this workshop is for you. Many diverse methods will be explored to achieve great results on this slippery, synthetic paper, and you'll see why Sandy says that painting on YUPO is a blast.

Each day will include well-organized demos of various techniques, followed by studio time and lots of individualized attention including informative critiques. Sandy's own "Tape Batik" technique using fluid acrylics on YUPO will begin the workshop. Subject matter can be whatever you want to paint — there's just no limit what can be created on YUPO. Both transparent watercolor and fluid acrylics will be used. Whether you're a beginner or master, this YUPO experience will be a fascinating, creative challenge that will enrich your artistic journey.

Sandy Maudlin is enthusiastic about making beautiful art and enjoys sharing what she knows with other artists. She teaches workshops throughout the country as well as overseas each year and currently facilitates several classes weekly in her studio near Cincinnati. She's won numerous awards and is a signature member of both Ohio and Indiana watercolor societies. She holds a bachelors degree in art education from Indiana University and loves to teach as much as she loves to paint!

IMPORTANT: Email charlotteychan@gmail.com to express your intent to register. Your email simply lets her know how many people want to take the workshop. More information and registration form will be posted soon at <http://www.blacksburgart.org>.

Perils of plein air *continued from page 1*

lighting — either morning or afternoon sun, and if on private property, getting permission from the owners so you will not encounter the unpleasant experience of being at the wrong end of a shotgun.

2. While painting cityscapes, you always need to be mindful about continuing to pay the parking meter, unless you relish running after the tow truck shouting "but I'm an absent minded artist, please come back with my car!"
3. Swatting insects, enduring the hot draining sun, threat of rain, wind, or trying to keep your hands thawed during freezing weather — treating for frostbite is a bummer.
4. The possibility of your wooden Julian easel collapsing (because of wear and tear) and dumping your paint and canvas on the dirt during a plein air competition (which happened to me).
5. The passersby who stop to have a conversation over 20 minutes about their cousin "who is a really good artist, too."
6. The light continually changing as the day progresses.
7. Learning how to paint really fast to capture the subject before the light changes.

Besides all of that, plein air painting can be an exhilarating experience; a way to combine the wonders of nature and the adventure of art. There is no photographic substitute for painting from life. Nothing substitutes painting outdoors for capturing color, depth, values, and atmosphere. It is worth the challenges and the sometimes-uncomfortable circumstances. Once you can get past that, you will lapse into a zone beyond compare. And if you are with other artists you can rejoice with the plein air experience and laugh at the challenges, which then become — well, not that bad after all. ■



photo by Kirk Carter

Terry Ellen Carter (above, left) organized an art card making workshop for the benefit of Montgomery County Christmas Store. Robi Sallee, Linda Correll, Nikki Pynn and Kirk Carter each collaged sets of notecards for donation to the store, which provides income-qualified families an opportunity to shop for holiday gifts.

Get renewed!

Your annual membership fees are due **December 31.**

Go to www.blacksburgart.org for a printer-friendly membership form.



2017 annual meeting



photos by Raf Bedia

Donald Schrader, Ph.D., talked about frescos and other Renaissance art during the BRAA annual meeting. President Gerri Young offered the association's gratitude and presented him with notecards following his presentation.

More than 50 art enthusiasts attended the BRAA annual program and meeting on October 22 at the Blacksburg Community Center. Donald Schrader, adjunct professor of art history at the University of Mary Washington, shared fascinating insights of Italian Renaissance frescoes. His visit was organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and was supported, in part, by the Paul Mellon Endowment and the Jean Stafford Camp Memorial Fund. The Blacksburg Regional Art Association is a community partner of the VMFA. Schrader's presentation was followed by the BRAA annual business meeting.

HOT Stitches

Textile Artists of Virginia (TAVA), a locally-based fiber art group, discovered how productive it can be to work within a focused group of like-minded artists when they took the two-day HOT workshop this past spring with Susan Lenz from South Carolina.

Using layers of polyester velvet, metallic foiling, and recycled acrylic felt, heat was applied with the help of household and soldering irons, and a heat embossing gun. These one-of-a-kind creations were further embellished with beads and thread.

BRAA member Paula Golden reports that works from this class are on exhibit from **November 1 through December 31** at the Montgomery – Floyd Regional Library in Blacksburg. Stop by and see these one-of-a-kind creations!

Kudos

Congratulations to BRAA member **Sidra Kaluszka** whose painting, "Summer's Reflection" was named by the ArtistsNetwork as one of the 10 best watercolor paintings of 2017. Juror Chris Krupinski said, "This painting is so dynamically strong ... a wonderful use of contrasts: value, temperature, shapes, and hard and soft edges. Although it's a realistic painting, it has a nice abstract feel to it."



Now Showing

October 15 – January 15
(except where indicated otherwise)

Lisa Acciai, Rack Space, Blacksburg

Jennifer Carpenter, Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech campus (until Jan.)

Jeanette Bowker, Warm Hearth Village Center (thru Dec.)

Kirk and Terry Ellen Carter, Glade Church Gallery, Blacksburg (until Jan. 15)

Riley Chan, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, Blacksburg Transit

Paula Golden, Virginia Tech Library System (VTLIS), Blacksburg

Ava Howard, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Sidra Kaluszka, First Bank and Trust, Christiansburg

Ruth Lefko, Zeppoli's wine room, Blacksburg

Maxine Lyons, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, Zeppoli's dining room, Blacksburg

Ara Radler, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Linda Weatherly Shroyer, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Lois Stephens, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Michele Walter, Point West Management, Blacksburg

"Inspiration does not come like a bolt, nor is it kinetic, energetic striving, but it comes into us slowly and quietly and all the time, though we must regularly and every day give it a little chance to start flowing, prime it with a little solitude and idleness."

~ Brenda Ueland

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

H'Arts on Main

February 16–17, 2018

Ignite (Old Baptist Church, Christiansburg)

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this new event. There will be live entertainment both Friday and Saturday evenings. Artists are invited to set up booths in the Great Hall on Friday and Saturday. The cost is \$45 for the weekend and space is limited. Set up takes place on Friday morning.

For more information or to reserve space, contact Ruth Lefko at Rlefko@gmail.com or 540-449-1328.

Montgomery Museum

The Montgomery Museum invites all BRAA members to show work from previous workshops (not necessarily museum-sponsored events) during July and August, 2018. For more information, contact Sue Farrar at director@montgomerymuseum.org or 540-382-5644.

Also, mark your calendars for these 2018 workshops:

- Art class with Robin Poteet, March 7–9, Christiansburg Presbyterian Church
- Art class with Vera Dickerson, July 12–14, location to be determined.

Gateway Sculpture into Downtown Roanoke

The City of Roanoke seeks artists or artist teams' qualifications to design, fabricate



and install a sculpture or other suitable art in a park located at Entranceway Park, 114 Wells Ave N.W., which serves as a gateway into downtown Roanoke. The art work shall reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of the population of the City of Roanoke. The project is funded through a one-time allocation that recognizes the tenth year of the City of Roanoke's formal Percent for Art Program. Deadline is **December 15** by 2:00 p.m. See more information at www.roanokeva.gov/2339/Gateway-Art.

Design Opportunity for Backlit Panels

The Old Southwest, Inc. neighborhood organization of Roanoke, Va., is seeking an artist to create four designs for backlit panels that will be manufactured by city vendors and placed on columns on a bridge on Franklin Road, at the south end of the Old Southwest neighborhood. The artist will only submit drawings, and will not manufacture the panels. One submission per artist. The deadline is **December 15**. Visit <http://oldsouthwest.org/> for more information or contact Jan Keister at jan@lasrv.org.

Call for Public Works of Art

The Roanoke Regional Airport Commission is seeking proposals for six temporary public works of art representing aviation to be on display at the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport in Roanoke. The display will consist of art to be exhibited on the second floor corridor on the west end of the terminal building from January 16, 2018 – April 16, 2018. The commission is not accepting sculpture at this time. Artists living and/or working within the region (the airport's 19-county passenger service area) who wish to be considered for exhibitions in the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport may submit electronic images of their work with supporting materials. Deadline is **December 15**. For more information, visit <http://flyroa.com/current-bids-and-proposals> or email amandad@flyroa.com.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Mutual Affection" (acrylic on canvas, 12 x 9") by Ara Radler. This and more of her work can be viewed at Blue Ridge Cancer Care in Blacksburg through mid-January.



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