

■ Upcoming

July 17

BRAA Annual Theme Exhibition Reception
5–7 p.m. • VTLS, Inc., 1701 Kraft Drive,
Blacksburg

Come to the opening reception and see how fellow artists have interpreted this year's theme of "Family."

July 19

Art at the Market
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Downtown Blacksburg

Stop by the BRAA tent featuring art by Fred Jones and Gerri Young. Visit other tents with art by members Nancy and Dale Norton, Sally Mook, Robi Sallee and Larry Mitchell.

July 23

Robert Miller at Perspective Gallery
6–7 p.m. • Squires Student Center, Va. Tech

Robert Miller, owner of Miller off Main Framing and Gallery, discusses his extensive collection of prints now showing in this gallery. Free to BRAA members and friends.

August 2

BRAA Play Date
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. • Newport Rec. Center

Play increases creativity! Join Ava Howard as she teaches CitraSolv Techniques, "Pictures in the Clouds." Cost is \$5.

August 8

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot
11:30 a.m. • Famous Anthony's, Blacksburg

Luncheon followed by art spot by Danie Janov, who will talk about her September workshop, "Realism to Abstract."

August 9–10

Stephen Doherty Plein Air Workshop
The Studio School, Inc., Roanoke

Steve Doherty, artist and editor-in-chief of *Plein Air* magazine, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Roanoke. The workshop is \$200 and includes lecture and demonstrations. For more information, visit www.thestudioschool.biz.

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First play date a big success

Trying a new concept for a BRAA "workshop" was fun!

Nine attendees showed up for the first ever BRAA Play Date at the Newport Recreation Center.

Ava Howard, BRAA member and advocate for the art scene at the center, was gracious enough to let the play date happen in her personal studio.

The concept of the play dates is a one-day gathering, very inexpensive and coordinated by a volunteer who is willing to teach some simple art process to a small group of students. Gerri Young was in charge of the first event.

"I put together an idea to teach how to turn ordinary deli sandwich paper into beautiful, colorful papers that could be used in collage," said Young. "I didn't invent this process. I learned it from Vera Dickerson at The Studio School in Roanoke. I thought it was simple enough to teach in one day and I already had a bunch of the supplies needed that were not consumables ... stencils to be used by everyone, for instance, and I had a huge box of the deli paper on hand.

"Students had to bring their own paints, rollers and any stencils or stamps of their own. I gave everyone an info sheet on what I would provide and what they would need to bring. The cost was only \$5 for the day because we were using Ava's studio so had no rent to pay. I provided instruction and examples of my own finished papers so that price basically just reimbursed me for some of the costs of my personal supplies being used up and the time and effort of putting the day together."



Robi Sallee (left) and Ava Howard look at some of the work created during BRAA's first artists' play date on June 28.

Gerri Young

The next play date will be in the same location and taught by Ava Howard on the subject of CitraSolv art techniques. Calling her play date "Pictures in the Clouds," she will hold it on August 2 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "People can always stay longer if they wish," said Howard. CitraSolv art can be found at CitraSolv.com/art. More info to follow on this event.

How about a play date on using your iPad? All could bring their devices and share knowledge of how to get the best use out of them. Anyone interested in this subject, or interested in leading a play date, please email younggerri@gmail.com.

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Self Portraits

October 3 – November 29 •

The Jacksonville Center for the Arts

Self portraits have been a part of the art world since the beginning of time. From the realistic to the surreal, interpret this topic in your own unique way. All media are welcome. Application deadline is **Sept. 2**. Reception is Oct. 11. For more information visit the "For Artists" tab at <http://jacksonvillecenter.org>.

■ Other Opportunities

Figure Drawing

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio at 106 Faculty Street, offers live model drawing opportunities. Upcoming Sunday sessions are **July 20, August 3** and **17**, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per session and easels and drawing boards are provided.

Reserve your spot by emailing diana@creekmorelaw.com by the Thursday before each session. Space is limited to seven participants.

Plein Air Painting

July 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., 706 Draper Road, Blacksburg

Aug. 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., painters invited to set up during Heritage Day at Montgomery Museum at 300 S. Pepper St., Christiansburg

Taking a break from painting during the June 22 plein air session are (left to right) Gerri Young, Jean Galloway, Ruth Lefko, and Nancy Norton. Matt Gentry gets a stretching workout while painting (right).



Photos by Carl Lefko

Of abstracts, inks and oils

By Gerri Young

I have been on a bit of an art class blitz lately.

After months of very little creativity, I went to France on an art trip and came back with the bug.

My studio is a wreck. There is a big acrylic on the easel for the theme show, a chunk of hemlock painted with oils on a table, a bag for twice-monthly live model drawing, a bag for an ink drawing class and stuff all over my workbench. The floor is littered with boxes and carts just coming back from somewhere or getting ready to go somewhere. It would all be at the point of no return if I hadn't at least organized (sort of) the top of one surface and shoved some things off to the left of another surface.

There were four sessions at The Studio School in Roanoke with Jane Widders Frank. "Composition Boot Camp" it was called. Sounded like something I needed. Nancy Norton signed up, too.

The first day we rode together she marveled at how much stuff I was taking. By day four I heard myself saying to her, "OK, I have just saved you for the fourth time (as I handed her the Q-tip/eraser/textured paper/masking tape she wanted but didn't have), no more comments about me bringing too much stuff!"

Composition Boot Camp covered cruciform, wedge, shapes within shapes and opposing forms (maybe it was opposing forces, I don't know because I never got that far). This was my first class with Jane and she was a lovely lady and terrific teacher. Her work she shared with us was wonderful, her patience terrific and her sense of humor kept us from taking things too seriously.

I didn't realize every piece for this class would be abstract. Cruciform composition came first and I like the watercolor piece I did for it quite a lot. So did Jane. I was encouraged. Next came wedges and my so-so acrylic (had to bring another paint box). The third thing was shapes within shapes and I was inspired, encouraged, stumped, exhausted.

Making art up out of my head was hard! I got inspired, fell in love with my drawing and then feared I would mess it up. My weakness in understanding all things color made me get too careful and I felt stuck.

In the meantime, everyone moved on to opposing forms while I was still sorting out my shapes. I was relieved when class was over and I could set my shapes piece on the pile of unfinished artworks and move on, promising to send a photo of it to Jane when it is done.

Meanwhile, a pen and ink drawing class at the YMCA in Blacksburg started on the same day as my last class with Jane. I rushed home from Roanoke, grabbed a burger and arrived at the Y.

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16 Squares project now displaying at Alexander Black House

By Gerri Young

To have the Blacksburg Regional Art Association be a part of the opening of the Alexander Black House and Cultural Center is quite an honor.

BRAA art can be found in two rooms. In one room, an on-point square nearly five feet by five feet is filled with individual pieces from 12 of our artists. Media ranges from hand quilting to fused glass with acrylic, mixed media, pastel, oil, photography and alcohol ink in between.

This consolidated artwork, called 16 Squares, is based on the original 16 Blocks aspect of Blacksburg's history. Dominating the wall, it offers a glimpse of the enormous variety of art styles and skills enjoyed by local artists involved in BRAA. Spearheaded by members **Paula Golden** and **Nancy Norton**, the project began months before the house opened its doors this month.

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■ President's Report

Summer is in full swing and so is BRAA!

We've had fun times with the plein air events and some of those efforts will be on view at The Artful Lawyer as part of the July *Whet Your Appetite* show. Opening reception is set for **July 16**. Several BRAA members are included in this landscape-oriented show: **Danie Janov**, **Ruth Lefko**, **Donald** and **Joanna Sunshine**, **Gerri Young**, **Betty Moore** and **Marie Collier**.

Our first play date was such fun and a second one is in the planning stages.

The "Family" theme show at VTLS has developed into an excellent show. Twenty-one artists entered 34 pieces so it should be a good one! Opening reception is set for **July 17** from 5-7 p.m. Much gratitude goes to **Jeanette Bowker** for managing this show and to **Teri Hoover** for helping to hang it.

By the time you read this a test build of the two tents owned by BRAA will have been completed in preparation for the Art at the Market in Blacksburg on **July 19**. Teri Hoover's beautiful front yard may never be the same again! Showing in the tent during the event will be members **Fred Jones** and yours truly, the Pres! We'll be marketing BRAA and hoping to sell some more Kroger cards to benefit our organization. We'll take orders for more BRAA T-shirts at that time as well. If anyone wants to kick my artwork out of the tent and take over the space, just let me know and that can easily happen. Maybe you'll sell a piece or two of art that day. At the very least, come on down to cheer us on.

Workshops are set for September (**Danie Janov**) and October (**Jennifer Carpenter**).

We received our first check from Amazon for BRAA's participation in the Amazon Smile program. It was only \$10 so all you Amazon shoppers need to register for Amazon Smile and make the Blacksburg Regional Art Association your favorite non-profit. We expect to receive our first donation from Kroger very soon because we are approaching the \$5000 target for funds loaded on to the cards used by members. Those funds will generate a \$250 donation from Kroger to BRAA.

We welcome our new members, several of which have been approved as exhibiting artists: **Tom Wilkinson**, **Tina Shamohammadi**, **Norma Woodward**, **Dane Bowker**, and **Laura Jean Fender**.

Your partner in art,



■ Now Showing

July 15 – October 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Pat Bevan, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

BRAA Theme Show, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Charlotte Chan, Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion (through August)

Marie Collier, Real Life Dental Care, Blacksburg

Vera Dickerson, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Anne Hammond-Tooke, Virginia Tech Women's Center, Blacksburg

Teri Hoover, Community Arts Information Office (CAIO), Blacksburg (July)

Lois Stephens, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Vikki King, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Maxine Lyons, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Dale and Nancy Norton, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (mid-May to mid-Nov.)

Lisabeth Weisband, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (mid-May to mid-Nov.)

■ Kudos

Congratulations to member **Larry Mitchell**, first place winner in the 3D category at the Rescue Mission's Permanent Art collection competition for his fused glass work, *Joy of Life*.

Two new members works were accepted into the 2014 JAX juried exhibition: **Patricia Bolton's** photograph, *Schoolhouse*, and **Tom Wilkinson's** piece, *Seeking Spirit*.

"Art is the only way to run away without leaving home."

~ Twyla Tharp

Of abstracts *continued from page 2*

Shaun Whiteside is the teacher and he does a great job; patient and thorough. He knows a thing or two about using ink and all those little nibs sort of like George Washington used except without feathers. No color issues for me here ... white paper, black ink, no big decisions.

I like ink and all its precision. I don't like the fluorescent lights screaming from the ceiling of our workroom and making my eyes see pink instead of black by the end of two hours. We draw a cube and then ink it, attempting to give it form. We draw a cylinder and get to use things like cross hatching, stippling and scribbling. At last all that grammar school scribbling gets some validation. I have seven weeks to get better and, hopefully, never spill the India ink. (Are you sure we can't use Micron pens, Shaun?)

I check out Facebook frequently. I see a chance to watch a two-hour oil painting demo for \$25 in Roanoke. The painter is Andre Lucero, brought to Roanoke by Margaret Sue Turner Wright of the 202 Market Square Gallery where she has a studio. I ask my friend and BRAA member, Mina Hejazi (an oil painter), if she wants to come with me (a watercolor/acrylic painter).

Off we go, eat dinner at a sidewalk table, find the gallery and watch in fascination as the artist creates a landscape in a little over an hour, slowed down somewhat by the needs of teaching us on a Friday night.

The next morning I am the teacher at the first ever BRAA Play Date. I'm tired and glad what I am teaching is very simple because I am not qualified to be an art teacher and a really good art teacher is one of my students for the day!

By my figures, there were nine days of art taking, teaching or doing in two weeks. Did I tell you about the plein air day from behind a tractor on a farm or the live model session immediately after that on the same day? ■

16 squares *continued from page 3*

In a spinoff from the 16 Squares piece, **Rhonda Morgan**, executive director of the Blacksburg Cultural Foundation located in the Alexander Black House, invited the artists included in the consolidated artwork to exhibit more of their works in the next room over the next few months. Currently on display are works by **Fred Jones, Darcy Meeker, Paula Golden** and **Robi Sallee**.

Other artists exhibiting at later dates are **Anne Hammond-Tooke, Marie Collier, Patricia Bevan, Gerri Young, Larry Mitchell, Nancy Norton**, and **Lisabeth Weisband**.

The house is now open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming *continued from page 1*

August 23

Heritage Day
Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg
Plein air painters are invited to set up to record the day and be part of the fun. Contact Sue Farrar for more information at 540-382-5644.

September 13-15

Danie Janov Workshop
Newport Recreation Center
Realism to Abstract is the theme of this exciting workshop. For full information, see the calendar of events at www.blacksburgart.org.

October 17-19

Jennifer Carpenter Workshop
Newport Recreation Center
Jennifer Carter returns to lead this workshop to further explore the intricacies of colored pencil. More information to be provided soon.



BRAA Officers

- Gerri Young**, president
- Charlotte Chan**, co-vice president
- Teri Hoover**, co-vice president
- Jeanette Bowker**, treasurer
- Fred Jones**, secretary
- Nancy Norton**, membership
- Robi Sallee**, past president



<http://www.blacksburgart.org/>



www.facebook.com/BlacksburgArt

Send Facebook news postings to:
Gerri Young at
younggerri@googlemail.com
or **Teri Hoover**
at crystalirisphotos@gmail.com

Twitter @BlacksburgArt1

Send news, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (stephens1@pemt.net)

Thanks to Mish Mish for providing printed versions of this newsletter. Please support our local art supply store!

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Giving It Some Thought" (left, pastel on Rives BFK paper, 18 x 24") by Pat Bevan. This and more of her work can be viewed at Zeppoli's in Blacksburg through October 15.