

■ Upcoming

July 5-7

Obsessive Compulsive Collage with Vera Dickerson

St. Paul Methodist Church, 220 Main Street, Christiansburg • 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This workshop will be three days of joyous color and pattern art. Participants will produce collage papers using stencils and stamps and then refine their color sense by selecting those which describe the chosen images. The fee is \$175; supply list will be provided. Contact Sue Farrar at Montgomery Museum at 540-382-5644 for more information.

July 7

Cheryl Mackian Opening Reception

Clifton Forge School of the Arts, 518 Church St., Clifton Forge • 5-8 p.m.

Join Cheryl Mackian for her solo show, *Five Hours in New York, More or Less*. A gorgeous Friday afternoon in August. A walk from E 82 Street to the Plaza and a cab ride back at dusk. The result? 18 paintings: Sixteen jewels of light, color, and frenetic energy book-ended by two paintings of very human moments; all with Manhattan as a backdrop. And the *More or Less*? A museum series of portraits, featuring art and patrons of the Met, Guggenheim, and Modern. Light hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served. The exhibit runs until August 19.

July 14 and August 11

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

The Farmhouse (July), Christiansburg; August location TBD • 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch and hear about the latest art happenings. The July Art Spot will be presented by Laureen Blakemore, director of Downtown Blacksburg, Inc., who will be discussing Blacksburg events. Members are encouraged to bring their work for show and tell at the August luncheon.

July 14

Ruth Lefko Reception

Hotel Floyd, 300 Rick Lewis Way, Floyd, Va. • 5-7 p.m.

Join BRAA member Ruth Lefko at the opening of her solo show, *Art Through Ruby's Eyes*. The exhibit is sponsored by the Floyd Center for the Arts and will be displayed until September 5.

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Nimrod Hall — a summer haven for artists

By Lois Stephens

For more than 30 years, artists have journeyed to Bath County to refill their wells of creativity. Often described as “art camp,” Nimrod Hall is where one goes to retreat to a simpler time, surrounded and inspired by the Alleghany Mountains, quiet pastures, and the meandering Cowpasture River.

Less than a two-hours’ drive for most areas of the New River Valley, Nimrod is a hidden gem of sorts. You won’t find this venue advertised in art or other publications. The program has grown via word-of-mouth and draws most of its participants from Richmond and Lynchburg, although nearly all weeks have out-of-state enthusiasts as well.

BRAA member Matt Gentry recently visited for the first time and said, “Nimrod opened my eyes and heart to the depths of the artistic community. I had great instruction from the staff and wonderful support from fellow artists. I would definitely recommend this as a place to get away from it all, see new things, make new friends and create new images.”

Artists can choose from weeklong workshops in June and July as well as weekend events. At least one artist in residence provides instruction each week, mostly in oils or water media. Those who simply crave the freedom to work independently may do so during “open week” or any time when space is available. Retreats for writers are held in weeks following the artists’ workshops.

Any artist who realizes he or she left home without cerulean blue paint need not worry. A visit to the mobile art store, supplied by The Art Box in Lynchburg, has just about anything an artist would need. Just a browse through the colorful selections can be inspiring!



The main building at Nimrod surrounds the original 1783 structure and has a colorful, inviting entrance.

Lois Stephens

Families who want to experience Nimrod can do so during weekends in June through August, as space allows or for one week during August. Visitors often include parents and grandparents who have fond childhood memories of Nimrod and want to share

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July 15

Art at the Market

Blacksburg Farmers Market • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This juried exhibition and celebration of the town's vibrant arts community is held in conjunction with the annual breakfast at the farmers market, which showcases local food and live music.

July 19

Printmaking Exhibit Reception

The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery, Inc., 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 5:30–8:30 p.m.

This exhibit features works by Erin Collins, Alex Crookshanks, Lam Tung Dinh, Kath Elich, Andrew Hill, L.S. King, Darcy Meeker, and Elvira Skuzinski.

July 20

Reception, BRAA Annual Theme Show

VTLS, 1701 Kraft Drive (Corporate Research Center), Blacksburg • 5–7 p.m.

Join fellow members at this opening reception and view the array of abstract art. Fifty works by more than 30 artists will be displayed until Oct. 13.

July 20 and August 16

Paint Parties

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

Paint Your Pet during the July 20 party! Limited to 10 people and tickets (\$35) will close one week prior to event. The theme for August 16 is elephants and the fee for this party is \$30. For more information, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

August 26

Gelli Plate Play Date

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This BRAA-member only event will explore making art with gelli plates and acrylic paint. There will be no formal teacher, but those who already use this method will share their knowledge. For more information, visit www.blacksburgart.org. Sign up by emailing charlotteychan@gmail.com.

August 26

Heritage Day

Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St., Christiansburg

Don't miss this day of fun activities for the whole family. Plein air painting, demonstrations, children's activities, and more.

September 21–24

Stonecarvers' Workshop

Newport Community Center, Newport

The Backyard Stonecarvers celebrate 15+ years of practicing this ancient art. Novices as well as experienced carvers are welcomed. For more information, contact Linda Correll at lcorrell@gmail.com or 540-599-7376.

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floating down the Cowpasture River on intertubes and quiet evenings on the porches with their families.

Owned by the Wood family from 1907 until 2013, Nimrod served as a summer resort for guests for more than 100 years and as a camp for boys and girls from the 1930s until the 1980s. The rambling Victorian main building was originally constructed as a log cabin in 1783. Today it houses the kitchen, dining hall, a small store, guest rooms and more — all forming a network of stairways, passages, and porches. Near one entrance is the 1909 hotel register that guests still sign today.

Located around the main house are six cottages (including the "old post office" which was in service until 1970), all with porches and rustic charm. Guests have private bedrooms and shared baths, which is not as much of an inconvenience as one would imagine. The décor of the bedrooms is best described as "shabby chic" — comfortable but not so fancy as to discourage painting inside on a stormy day.



Matt Gentry

Artists follow an instructor's lead during a sunset painting demonstration at Nimrod.

Invariably, a mention of Nimrod leads to a conversation about the food. Former owner and chef Frankie Wood Apistolas' meals were so remarkable that artists Judith Anderson and Margaret Buchanan created an illustrated cookbook, "Frankie's Kitchen." The tradition of delectable family-style fare lives on through chef Jim Stewart, who practices his culinary art at Washington and Lee University during the academic year.

Perhaps the most ardent champion of Nimrod is Richmond artist Laura Loe. She fell in love with the place when she first visited in 1993 — so much so that she was married there in 1997. By 1998 the original summer art leaders were ready to pass the torch and Loe took over as director. When Frankie Wood Apistolas and husband Jimmy decided to sell the 100+ acres and all it entailed, the choice was obvious. In 2013, Loe and husband Will Loving purchased the property so that Nimrod could live on and thrive.

Loe and Loving have energetically invested much time and resources into Nimrod's restoration and improvement. Nine private studios and a bathhouse have been added to a new section, "Studio Row." The spring-fed pond has been shored up, and is now surrounded by a gazebo with a beach-like atmosphere of chairs and umbrellas. As the fresh water never gets above 60 degrees, it makes for a refreshing dip on a hot summer's day.

One of the most remarkable improvements is the renovation of the circa 1930s recreation hall near the pond. As part of the former boys' camp, it was in the late stages of dilapidation and off-limits to visitors. With the help of a long-time Nimrod enthusiast and benefactor, the building was restored in 2016. It has become a gathering place

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for artists on the last night of their stay after the traditional Thursday evening walk-around, where artists set out their week's work and everyone strolls the grounds to admire all that has been created.

Loe acknowledges the delicate balance between upgrading Nimrod while maintaining the authentic, summer resort feel of an earlier century. "If we added air conditioning, everyone would be inside instead of relaxing and chatting on the front porches in the evening," says Loe. "Sure, we could extend the season by insulating and modernizing the cabins, but then it would be just like everywhere else."



Lois Stephens

The spring-fed pond at Nimrod offers a cool respite on a hot summer's day.

While rich in history and natural beauty, the vintage vibe of Nimrod is not for everyone. Those who desire a workshop with intensive instruction or who can't live without air conditioning or a private bath may be happier elsewhere. But for those who want to be inspired and productive in a peaceful, bucolic environment, Nimrod Hall is a magical place to be.

For more information about the summer arts program, visit www.nimrodhallart.com ■

■ Kudos

Charity Hall was awarded third place and **Susan Lockwood** won the Paul Ostaseski Memorial Award at the June 3–4 Roanoke Sidewalk Art Show.



Charity Hall's enamel brooch, *Yellow Jacket Swarm*.

Sidra Kaluszka and **Jennifer Carpenter** won Awards of Excellence at the New River Art 2017 Juried Biennial for their entries, *Culmination* and *Two in One*. Other BRAA artists whose works were accepted in the show were **Jeanette Bowker**, **Linda Correll**, **Laura Fender**, **Elizabeth (Diane) Gillis-Robinson**, **James Glass**, **Sue Hossack**, **Larry Mitchell**, **Roberta Sallee**, **Lois Stephens** and **Gerri Young**. The art will be on display until August 5.

Jennifer Carpenter was awarded Best in Show at the Radford City Art Show for her colored pencil work, *Past, Present, and Future*. Also, three of her pieces have been accepted in the upcoming 2017 Bower Center Annual National Juried Exhibition in Bedford, Virginia.

Gerri Young and **Sally Mook** had works accepted in the Central Virginia Watercolor Society show held from August to October.

The following members have been accepted to participate in the 38th annual exhibition of the Virginia Watercolor Society, October 14 – January 7: **Vera Dickerson**, **Sidra Kaluszka**, **Ruth Lefko**, **Sally Mook** and **Jane Schafer**.

Congratulations to all!

■ Want more ways to let the public know about your event? Artist Nikki Pynn has designed a new website to help connect art events to the public. The site, nrvarts.com, serves the New River Valley and information may be entered online.



■ Want to practice figure drawing in the comfort of your home or studio? The website, *Line of Action*, offers multiple options for timed drawings and other art practices. See more at line-of-action.com/practice-tools/figure-drawing/.

Do you have an art tip to share? Email loisstephens56@gmail.com or younggerri@googlemail.com

■ Now Showing

July 15 – October 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Patricia Bolton, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg, and The Farmhouse, Christiansburg (thru Oct.)

Jeanette Bowker, Zeppoli's dining room, Blacksburg

Charlotte Chan, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg (thru August)

Riley Chan, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, Zeppoli's wine room, Blacksburg, and Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru Oct.)

Judy Crowgey, The Farmhouse, Christiansburg (thru Oct.)

Carole Davis, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg, and Holtzman Alumni Gallery, Virginia Tech (until Sept. 4)

Paula Golden, Community Arts Information Office (CAIO), Blacksburg (thru July)

Delbert Jones, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Angela Kinzie, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Hotel Floyd, downtown Floyd (July 14 – Sept. 5); Christiansburg Library (thru Oct.)

Cheryl Mackian, Rack Space, Blacksburg, and Clifton Forge School of the Arts (thru Aug. 19)

David Pearce, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Diane Relf, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Jane Thorp, Route 8 Donuts, Christiansburg (thru October)

Norma Woodward, First Bank and Trust, Christiansburg

Gerri Young, Blacksburg Transit

“Things are not difficult to make. What is difficult is putting ourselves in the frame of mind to make them.”

~ Constantin Brancusi

■ Exhibits and other opportunities

New River Valley Garden Tour

July 8 • 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Around the New River Valley

Plein air artists are invited to paint in the tour gardens as a backdrop to this annual event. Featured sites this year are the homes of Dave Angle and Diane Relf, Terry and Paula Golden, Scott and Barbara Hagood, Tom and Lisa Hammett, Bill Ryan and Debbie Plunkett, Dennis and Linda Schneckler, and Phil and Georgette Wickham. If interested, call 540-449-6621 or email Lynn Brammer at lbrammer@vt.edu to make arrangements.

Art at the Market

July 15

Blacksburg Farmers Market

Art, music, and breakfast at the farmers market are the highlights of the day. The entry deadline for displaying your art is **July 1** or until spaces fill. For more information and application, email events@downtownblacksburg.com.

Annual Bath County Art Show

July 22–30

Valley Elementary School, 98 Panther Drive, Hot Springs, Va.

This annual event brings artists and art lovers together each year. All donations and proceeds from artwork sales are used to support community programs, award scholarships to students, sponsor visual and performing arts programs and art education in the Bath County Public Schools. In 2016, 262 artists from six states entered 715 works of art in the show. Entries will be received from 1:00–5:00 p.m. on **July 15–16**. The fee is \$10 for each work of art (limited to three works). The Bath County Arts Association receives a 30% commission on all sales.

Heritage Day

August 26

Montgomery Museum, 300 Pepper St., Christiansburg

Be a part of Heritage Day and plein air



paint! Please contact Sue Farrar at 540-382-5644 if you are interested in being a part of this popular event.

Art Blast

September 2 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Rain date September 3)

Lakewood Park (corner of Brandon Ave. and Brambleton Ave.), Roanoke

This event is sponsored by the Studio School and is limited to the first 60 artists to enroll. Artists ages 18 and older may show original paintings, prints, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art and jewelry. Spaces are 10' wide. Fees are \$35 per artist for Studio School students who have taken classes during 2016–2017 and \$75 per person for other artists. Two artists may share a space; per person fees apply. Entry deadline is Friday, **July 7**. No refunds of registration fees after July 7. For more information, contact the Studio School at 540-344-5404.

Asclepius: Military, Medicine, and Creative Forces

September 12 – December 8

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke

The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine's office of community and culture invites artists to submit artworks for the exhibition *Asclepius: Military, Medicine, and Creative Forces*, a mixed-media group show. The exhibit will pay tribute to America's service members and veterans, while exploring the unique capacity of the arts to document historical military events and personal experiences as well as facilitate healing, reintegration, and well-being. There is no entry fee and artworks in all mediums will be considered. The submission deadline is **July 25**. Contact cfnopf@carilionclinic.org for an entry form.

Third Annual Plein Air Roanoke at South Peak

October 13–15

South Peak, Roanoke

This Paint Out and Art Show will be judged by Andre Lucero and offers cash awards, models, and no commissions for sales. More information coming soon!

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Consequences of the Past" (left, photography, 16 x 20") by Angela Kinzie. This and more of her work can be viewed at Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea in Blacksburg from mid-July until mid-October.



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