

## ■ Art Calendar

### July 12

#### *Meet the Artists Reception*

Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St., Christiansburg • 5-7 p.m.

This exhibit celebrates art created by BRAA members during workshops and features a variety of media and subject matter. Works will be displayed through August.

### July 13 and August 10

#### *BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot*

Bull and Bones, First and Main, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join your fellow members for lunch, hear the featured speaker's Art Spot, and share news about the latest art happenings. July's luncheon speaker will be Joe Scarpaci, who will talk about a BRAA trip to Cuba in 2019.

### July 25 and August 15

#### *Paint Parties*

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

Participants will paint Jackson Pollock style on July 25, using all manner of paint and objects for a messy good time. The August 15 party will feature the style of Wassily Kandinsky. The cost is \$30 per person per session and includes all supplies (wine extra). Register at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events> or call 540-443-9350, ext. 707.

### July 12–14

#### *Vera Dickerson Workshop*

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 W. Main Street

This "Create Your Own Icon" workshop will be taught by this ever-popular instructor and owner of The Studio School in Roanoke. The cost is \$175 and workshop hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The class is sponsored by Montgomery Museum. To register, email [director@montgomerymuseum.org](mailto:director@montgomerymuseum.org) or call 540-382-5644.

### July 21

#### *Art at the Market*

Downtown Blacksburg • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This juried show is held in conjunction with the annual breakfast at the market. Art, food, and music make this a must-attend event!

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## The Big One: the woman suffrage movement monument

by Larry Bechtel

Babe Ruth could hit big homers. He also struck out a lot, which isn't often remembered. Sometimes, though I'm a sculptor, I feel a little like Babe Ruth: I step up to the plate, watch the pitch of a good commission coming in, and take a cut. Now and then I connect, and knock it out of the park. Most often, I whiff. These whiffs I file away under the heading, "that's life," a file which by now has gotten pretty hefty.

Still, a commission opportunity, whether hit or missed, entails a process, invested with time and aspirations, and for that reason if no other, even the strike outs deserve a mention or two. A few are unforgettable. The most recent one I chose to talk about at the BRAA luncheon on March 9: namely, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Woman Suffrage Movement Monument for Central Park in New York City.

Any commission (or almost any) is to be coveted. Some have enough scope, and money attached, to be really attractive; a very few are truly historic, and this commission was one of those. As stated in the project description, "the creation of this monument representing real women will mark the first time in the 164-year history of Central Park that women's contributions to this city, state, and nation will be commemorated in statue form. . .", for the benefit of an estimated 42 million annual visitors to Central Park. Wow.

However, at the time I became aware of this opportunity through an email from Darcy Meeker (thank you, Darcy!), the deadline for submissions was only about a month away, and many artists and artist teams had no doubt been working on their submissions since the previous fall, when the Woman Suffrage Movement Monument



*Larry Bechtel uses a variety of tools for the model making stage of his creations.*

commission was first made public. Not incidentally, I was also in the midst of two other major projects (though not sculpture related).

I hemmed and hawed for a couple of days over what to do and finally decided the opportunity was just too good to pass up, so I set aside those other projects, enlisted the help of my spouse, painter and BRAA member, Ann Shawhan, and set to work. The process involved three steps: research, model-building, and completing the required packet of documents — with an overlapping activity among these steps, and all taking place at an accelerated pace. Which is intoxicating, really, and justification for neglecting other things (like weeding the garden or folding laundry). The first step, research, happily justified my browsing through lots of actual books, in addition to pursuing the usual far-flung Google searches. Nuggets of information I read aloud to Ann, and we discussed implications.

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■ **Calendar** *continued from page 1*

**August 5**

*Opening Reception, Simply Elemental*  
**Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech •**  
 2–4 p.m.

Stroll around the garden and be among the first to admire this year's art installation. Works will be displayed through September.

**August 25**

*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 5-9**

*The Best of Yupo Workshop*  
 with **Sandy Maudlin**  
**Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg**

If you love texture and gorgeous color, this workshop is for you. See more information below and find registration information at <http://www.blacksburgart.org>.

**Sandy Maudlin YUPO™/**  
**tape batik workshop**

by Gerri Young

The Sandy Maudlin Best of YUPO™ workshop takes place Sept. 5-9, 2018, at Warm Hearth Village Center in Blacksburg.

The cost will be \$430 for BRAA members and \$460 for non-members and covers the workshop, daily continental breakfast, lunch and some supplies. A minimum of 16 and maximum of 21 students will be accepted. Registration closes on **August 18** or as soon as the class fills.

Students of all levels may sign up for this exciting workshop. We will explore many diverse methods to achieve great results on this slippery, synthetic 'paper,' and you will see why Maudlin says 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.

Maudlin's own "Tape Batik" technique using both fluid acrylics (not heavy body) and watercolor on YUPO™ will begin the workshop. Subject matter can be whatever you want to paint — there's no limit to what can be created on YUPO™. If you've 'battled' YUPO™ before, give it another try. You'll be very glad you did. Whether you're a beginner or master, this YUPO™ experience will be a fascinating,

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**The Big One** *continued from page 1*

Though temperamentally very different, Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) and Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) were together a juggernaut, impervious to mockery or insult. They fought for a righteous cause and knew it. "I forged the thunderbolts," wrote Stanton of her lifelong friend and comrade-in-arms, "and she [Anthony] fired them." That is to say, Stanton fought with her pen, and Anthony from the podium. In fact, they both forged and fired, from the fortress of a friendship which sustained them through 40-plus years of struggle. The great sadness is that neither one lived to see passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, which guaranteed women the right to vote. They did not pursue their objective alone, but with the help of a long list of other courageous women, like Sojourner Truth and Carrie Chapman Catt — all of whom were likewise to be honored by the Woman Suffrage Movement Monument.

The task, then, for Step #2, model-building, was to translate all that research into a concept which was both original, and compatible with neighboring monuments, notably of Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns, and the Bard, William Shakespeare. In short order my workbenches in the basement and studio out in Ann's garden were appropriately cluttered with various model assemblies some of them only partly made, constructed ad lib from wax, clay, paper, cardboard, and plywood, and then made to appear lifesize in an improvised photography booth set up to look like the Central Park site, sort of. Ann was a huge help here, too, helping me to evaluate and refine the best of these models and suggesting new versions.

Deadlines are stressful but also useful: they enable the artist who has perfectionist tendencies, such as myself, to be able to say at last, with finality, "Time's up, send it off!" And send it off I did, with our mingled well-wishes and adequate postage by Urgent Mail, to arrive at its destination on Broadway in NYC fully one day ahead of the deadline. Beautiful!

The waiting for a response was a pleasant interval, a basking in the possibility that perhaps our submission would make it through the first round of evaluations and secure a place in the final selection process, which would of course initiate a far more feverish period of research, model-building, and the inevitable and generally useless exercise of trying to "second-guess" the submission judges. No need to rush into all that, even if a stipend was included.

That pleasant interval ended with a crash on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 1:56 pm, when I received an email note from Kat Monaghan, administrator for the project: "Thank you for

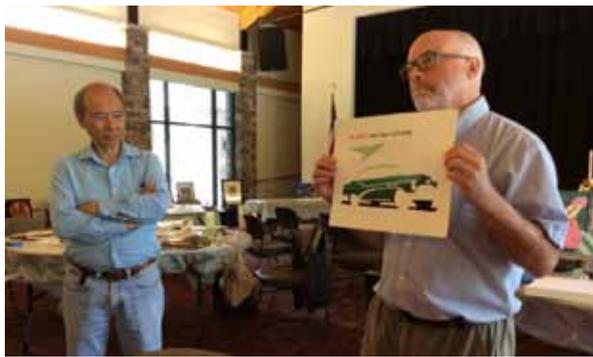
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*Detailed calculations were just one step in the many stages of Bechtel's entry for the Central Park sculpture.*

## Highlights from a series workshop

The May 25-27 BRAA-sponsored "Working in a Series" workshop led artists through the thoughtful process and benefits of exploring themes. The workshop was led by Danie Janov, who offered ideas and expertise on this avenue for artistic growth.



photos by Gerr Young

## YUPO™ workshop *continued from page 2*

creative challenge to enrich your artistic journey. Materials list is provided at [www.blacksburgart.org](http://www.blacksburgart.org) under the calendar of events. Some prep before class is required. Please read the materials/info sheet carefully.

Maudlin, a resident of Ohio, 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 classes 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 bachelor's degree in art education from Indiana University and loves to teach as much as she loves to paint!

See more about Sandy Maudlin at [Sandymaudlin.blogspot.com](http://Sandymaudlin.blogspot.com).

For full workshop information and registration visit <http://www.blacksburgart.org/>.

See information on YUPO™ at [yupousa.com](http://yupousa.com).



An example of the tape batik method of painting on YUPO™.

## ■ Now Showing

**July 15 – October 15**

(except where indicated otherwise)

**Alison and Mike Armstrong**, Virginia Tech Women's Center

**Jeanette Bowker**, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

**Charlotte Chan**, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

**Riley Chan**, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

**Marie Collier**, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

**Carol Davis**, Glade Church, Blacksburg

**Matt Gentry**, Alexander Black House, Blacksburg (thru Aug.)

**Ruth Lefko**, Hahn Horticulture Pavilion, Virginia Tech campus (thru Aug.)

**Cheryl Mackian**, First Bank and Trust, Christiansburg

**Rita Montrosse**, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

**Sally Mook**, Zeppoli's dining room, Blacksburg

**Betty Moore**, Blacksburg Transit

**Diane Relf**, Warm Hearth, Blacksburg (July – August)

**Robi Sallee**, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

**Karen Sewell**, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

**Norma Woodward**, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

*“Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye.”*

~ Dorothy Parker

## featured member

Get to know  
**Ruth Lefko** at

<https://www.facebook.com/ruthlefkort/>

## ■ Exhibit and other opportunities

### Teaching Artist Sought for Artist-in-Residence Program at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center

The Dr. Robert L.A. Keeley Healing Arts Program at Carilion Clinic, an initiative of Carilion Foundation, is looking for a teaching artist who is skilled in sharing creativity with others to provide bedside experiences for patients, demonstrations in public spaces, and occasional workshops for staff. The primary purpose of the Artist-in-Residence role is to promote holistic healing by inspiring creativity, uplifting spirits, and facilitating human connection. Visual, performing, and literary artists are encouraged to apply. A stipend of \$7,500 will be provided as well as orientation and supplies. Time commitment is eight hours weekly over a nine month period. Hours must be worked between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A background check is required. For an application or more information email [healingarts@carilionclinic.org](mailto:healingarts@carilionclinic.org) or call 540-224-4548. Applications received by **July 14, 2018** will be considered for a current opportunity at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

### The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc. 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg

Applications are now being accepted for participation in the remaining 2018 shows.

- Social Commentary, August 1 – Oct. 10  
Application deadline: **July 11**
- Black and White, Oct. 17 – Dec. 19  
Application deadline: **Sept. 26**

For more information or application form, visit [artfullawyergallery.org/gallery-shows](http://artfullawyergallery.org/gallery-shows) or contact Diana Francis at [Diana@creekmorelaw.com](mailto:Diana@creekmorelaw.com), or call 540-443-9350, ext. 707.



### 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Bath County Art Show

The Bath County Art Show is a great opportunity to bring artists and art lovers together each year. The event is the Bath County Art Association's major fundraiser with all donations and proceeds from artwork sales supporting community programs, award scholarships to students, sponsorship of visual and performing arts programs and art education in the Bath County Public Schools.

Artists may submit up to three works of art on **Saturday, July 14, or Sunday, July 15**, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Categories include: acrylic, drawing, mixed media, oil, print-making, pastel, photography, sculpture, and watercolor. The entry fee is \$10 for each work (up to three entries). A 30% sales commission will be deducted to support the work of the art association.

The show will be open to the public from 1:00-5:00 p.m., July 21-28, and 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on July 29.

For more information and entry form, visit <http://bathcountyarts.org/2018-art-show/>.

### The Big One *continued from page 2*

your submittal for the Woman Suffrage Movement Monument. I am sorry to inform you that your proposal was not selected to advance to Stage 2." She added, more informally, that over 90 proposals had been submitted. Quite a few strikeouts. Remarkably, all of them, presumably including ours, were to be permanently archived as part of the history of the Woman Suffrage Movement Monument, an inclusion which might qualify as a base hit, at least.

A capstone for this project was my visit to the gravesite of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in Greenwood Cemetery in the Bronx. Only with help could I find it, then pondered her achievements. "Mother, Author, Orator, Woman Suffrage Leader" — she really homered. ■

*The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Yoo Hoo!" (left, acrylic, 22 x 30") by Sally Mook. This and more of her work can be viewed at Zeppoli's through mid-October.*



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