

■ Upcoming

April 19

Photographers' Forum

Horton Gallery, Moss Center for the Arts • 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Join the fun and learn from the experts! Photography enthusiasts of all levels are welcome to attend this free event.

April 21

The Life and Art of P. Buckley Moss

Horton Gallery, Moss Center for the Arts • 11 a.m.

Renowned artist P. Buckley Moss will share insights about her art and life experiences.

April 21

Reception — Precision and Reach

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, 2 Riverside Drive, Roanoke • 5:30–7:30 p.m.

The exhibit includes works by BRAA members Paula Golden and Susan Hensley.

April 26 and May 10

Live Model Drawing

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio • 6–8 p.m.

The model, easels and drawing boards are provided and the cost is \$10. Reserve your spot by emailing diana@creekmorelaw.com.

May 2

Newport Community Celebration

Newport Rec Center • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This fun day will include food, music, art, and dedication of the new Pamela S. Kurstedt room of the library. See page 4.

May 7

Martha Olson Reception

Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech • 5 p.m.

This opening reception is for Martha Olson's art that will be displayed until mid-September.

May 8

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

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

Come join fellow members for lunch,

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Capturing culture and character in the commonplace

By Melissa Philen • Photographs by Teri Hoover

The Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center is hosting a reception for photographer Susan Lockwood on Tuesday, May 5, from 5-7 p.m. Lockwood's show, "The Character of Cuba," will hang in the gallery through the months of May and June. I met with Lockwood in her Radford home that she shares with her husband, Bob. We discussed her journey into the art world, her photography, and forthcoming show.

Having a background in public relations, Lockwood worked for most of her professional career in a corporate setting for Carilion hospitals and medical centers in Virginia. Lockwood describes her early experiences as a photographer, "I did my own photography for an in-house newsletter in the 1970's."

Her personal photography career jump-started when she traveled to Lucca, Italy, where she shot memorable photos. On a whim, she entered them in the Abington Photography Show and won awards. That is when she realized, "Hmmm, people like my eye."

While completing a master's degree in corporate and professional communication at Radford University, Lockwood described, "I just decided to extend my photography by doing a couple of outdoor shows. My work sold really well. It just evolved from there." She explains, "I took one formal class at New River Community College over 30 years ago. Outside of that training, I am self-taught."

Lockwood did not become a photographer due to a lifetime desire to make photographs. Lockwood discovered that she had a gift for photography and explains,

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Susan Lockwood shows an image from "The Character of Cuba" series that includes people, street scenes and antique cars.

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information sharing and art spot featuring a special guest speaker.

May 15

Virginia Watercolor Society Opening Reception

*James Madison University, Harrisonburg •
5 – 7:30 p.m.*

This welcoming reception for the annual juried exhibition will be held in the Duke Hall Gallery.

May 16

Sutherland Art and Wine Show Danville Museum • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Enjoy a day on the beautiful grounds of the Sutherland Mansion with live jazz music, art, and wine tastings. While you're there, check out the Festival in the Park happening just down the street.

May 21–23

Palette Knife Oil Painting Workshop Unitarian Universalist Meeting House • Blacksburg

Contemporary impressionist painter Sally Shisler uses knives to create lively, engaging, color-rich paintings. If you desire more excitement in your work, don't miss this workshop! Visit the events tab at www.blacksburgart.org for more information.

May 30–31

Taubman Museum of Art's Annual Sidewalk Art Show

Downtown Roanoke • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Join thousands of visitors who attend this juried show in the downtown streets near the Taubman Museum.

June 5

Donald and Joanna Sunshine Reception Perspective Gallery, Squires, Virginia Tech • 5–7 p.m.

This exhibit of watercolors and fiber pieces is entitled "Impressions" and will be on display through August 8.

August 7–9

Z. L. Feng Watercolor Workshop Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg

Intermediate level and above watercolorists won't want to miss this workshop by this internationally acclaimed artist! Portrait and landscapes will be covered. Visit www.blacksburgart.org for more information and addition to the wait list (class is currently full).

Capturing culture and character continued from page 1

"My strength is composition and selection of subject matter. I have a real passion for it. My adrenaline gets going when I photograph."

Aspiring photographers and painters attend Lockwood's composition workshops. She reveals, "You can teach the principles of composition, but you can't change a

person's eye. One's eye is based on their experiences, their life, what they bring to their art." Furthermore, Lockwood imagines that everybody sees differently.

Her statement steered me to ask, "What turns your eye on to recognize a great composition?" Lockwood responds, "I am known for my European subject matter and street scenes. I don't seek out a particular thing. It is an instinct."

Additionally, Lockwood states, "It's not the camera. It is the person behind the camera and what they see. I've stuck with a Canon. I learned on an AE1. I don't have Photoshop. I don't alter my photographs in any way."

A street scene, which Lockwood photographed in France, provides an example of how she does not alter her work. In this piece, the morning light casts shadows along the textured cobblestone road.

"Wires and antennae still exist in this piece." Lockwood illustrates, "Everyone sees the true colors, what my camera saw, and what I saw." Lockwood's photography not only demonstrates a keen eye for line and simplicity, but it also explores her deep appreciation for culture.

She goes on to describe her influences, "I love all art work. I love so many photographers." Her admiration of art is clear to see as you view the pieces hanging throughout her home. Alongside her photographs hangs art in various media that she has collected: an original photograph by Ansel Adams; a piece by Paul Frets, former chair of the Radford University art department; a watercolor by Radford painter Mei Shu; and a remarkable nude painting she and her husband purchased from a local artist in Cuba.

Lockwood explains, "There is a great emphasis on arts in Cuba." I asked about the influences that drew her to travel to and photograph Cuba. Lockwood reminisced how she became close friends with physicians in Radford who immigrated to our country when Castro took reign in Cuba. She remembers, "I learned to eat Cuban cuisine through these friends and learned to appreciate Cuba. I always thought it would be cool to photograph old cars there."

Last year, Lockwood visited Cuba and spent two weeks in Havana, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos. While visiting, she captured people participating in daily life. "I try to discover the aesthetics of the day to day, the ordinary." Lockwood states. "The Character of Cuba," showing at the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, will immerse viewers into Cuban streetscapes in over 40 of Lockwood's photographs.

"My goal as a photographer is to capture the richness and vast beauty in the world around us. And then translate and share it. The aesthetics and beauty transcend all cultural barriers." Lockwood adds, "I photograph local places, but I am known for things that don't move. I don't typically photograph people, but in my Cuba show, you will see people, street scenes, and antique cars from the 1940s and 50s."

Lockwood's work can be found locally in permanent collections at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley. Lockwood looks forward to future travels, creating photographs, and participating in a few outdoor juried shows. ■



Teri Hoover Photography

■ President's Report

I can't help but be cheerful now that spring has finally decided to stay around. The sunshine and flowers a sign of hope, an inspiration and the best energizer I know! I am sure many of you feel the same way because seeing and hearing the energy of the BRAA members these days gives me great satisfaction regarding the success of our organization.

Even in the face of a nasty storm on Friday, we had 27 people at our luncheon and it was just wonderful to see everyone chatting away with old friends and welcoming new ones. Three new people signed up for membership at the luncheon including **P. Buckley Moss** and her daughter, **Rebecca Ghezzi**. It was great to have them both join us for the day and I look forward to April 21 when Pat will be our featured speaker at the Center for the Arts as part of our BRAA Event Week.

A big thanks goes to **Judy Crowgey**, **Pat Bevan** and **Nancy Trump** for taking care of the Montgomery Museum annual high school exhibition judging in recent weeks. Auburn, Christiansburg and Blacksburg High School students participated and BRAA awarded gift certificates for first, second and third place winners. If you get a chance, visit the current high school show at the museum and be amazed at the talent of our local young artists.

One thing that is extremely important to the success of small, volunteer organizations such as ours is the willingness of its members to volunteer for projects. I have seen this eagerness to help increase in the last year. I think the input from a variety of people in the organization makes everything stronger, like a quilt, which can't keep you warm when it is all bits and pieces. Stitched together and supported by batting and backing, it all comes together to keep us warm and protected and makes us smile every time we look at its beautiful patterns and colors.

The BRAA quilt is becoming whole and its parts, while maybe not always perfect, are forming perhaps our best artwork yet.

Your partner in art,



New members on board

A hearty welcome to the following new BRAA members —

- **Donna Arndt**
- **Rebecca Ghezzi/Pat Moss**
- **Felta Hall**
- **Allyssa Holland Short**
- **Judy Niehaus**
- **Suzanne David Ross**
- **Barbara Stout**
- **Michele Walter**

We look forward to sharing creative adventures — thank you for joining!

Membership roster now available online

Our BRAA website now includes a membership list at www.braaarts.org under *Join > Membership Details*.

If any of your information is incorrect or not up to date, please email changes to nancyprnorton@comcast.net.



BRAA galleries have been equipped with biography frames for quite some time. Now they are easier for the artists to use! A sticker banner has been placed on the bottom of the acrylic frame with all the BRAA info necessary. Artists no longer have to use the BRAA logo on their paper biography sheet. Just remember to leave extra space on the bottom of your page so your words do not go behind the sticker.

■ Now Showing

April 15 – July 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Jennifer Carpenter, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Pam Congrove, Virginia Tech Women's Center, Blacksburg

Vera Dickerson, The Century Gallery, Williamsburg (May 4 – June 5)

Paul Golden, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke (until early July)

Susan Hensley, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke (until early July)

Teri Hoover, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Carole McNamee, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (until mid-May)

Larry Mitchell, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (until mid-May)

Nancy Norton, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg, and Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion, Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech (through May)

Melissa Philen, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Karen Sewell, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Tom Wilkinson, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Blacksburg

Gerri Young, Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech Campus (Jan. 17 – May 5)

Interested in writing feature stories for this newsletter?

Spend time interviewing your fascinating fellow artists and gain publication experience! Contact Gerri at younggerri@gmail.com or Lois at stephens1@pemt.net for more information.

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Newport Community Celebration Juried Art Show

May 2 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Newport Recreation Center

Sign up now and become eligible for a first place award of \$200, second of \$100, and People's Choice award of \$100! You may enter 1-5 pieces of art for just \$5 per piece. To register your work, go to link on the home page at www.blacksburgart.org. It's quick and easy and you may pay when you drop off your artwork.

Want to help with this event?

Volunteers are needed to help on-site for this festive event. If you are interested, contact Ava Howard at ahoward@vt.edu or 540-641-3642.

Black Dog Arts Festival

July 11 • 12 noon – 6 p.m.
Chateau Morrisette • Floyd

This day is filled with wine tastings, artwork, and music, and attracts art and wine lovers from across Virginia and North Carolina. For more information and the application form, email struslow@thedogs.com.

Artists-In-Residence Program Quarterly

Chateau Morrisette • Floyd

Chateau Morrisette winery has announced a new program for 2015 to support local and regional fine artists. The walls of the winery's restaurant will be available for three month periods. A welcoming reception will be provided as well as opportunities for demos and participation in weekend events at the winery. For more information, contact jolisart@yahoo.com.

An Occasion for the Arts

October 3-4 • Colonial Williamsburg

This outdoor show at this popular venue is celebrating its 46th year and includes 140+ artists. The prospectus and application are available at www.zapplication.org and the deadline is **May 22**. Application fee is \$30.



May 21-23



Still Time to Register!

Visit www.blacksburgart.org for more information and registration.

■ Other Opportunities

Artists Wanted

The Montgomery County Quilt Trail is seeking artists to create quilt blocks for display on the sides of barns, businesses and homes. The quilt block must be weatherproof and conform to the guidelines developed by the quilt trail committee under the auspices of the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Art Center. Artists will be compensated. For more information contact Sue Farrar at director@montgomerymuseum.org or Paula Golden at paulacgolden@comcast.net.

Plein Air Painting at First Sunday Jazz Series

Plein air artists are invited to come to Chateau Morrisette the first Sunday afternoon of each month to paint around the winery complex. There is no fee to show up and paint among the visitors, sights, and sounds.



BRAA Officers

Gerri Young, president
Charlotte Chan, co-vice president
Teri Hoover, co-vice president
Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
Pat Bevan, 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!

“Will and energy sometimes prove greater than either genius or talent or temperament.” ~ Isadora Duncan

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Rain or Shine, No. 1" (left, colored pencil, 16 x 20") by Jennifer Carpenter. This and more of her work can be viewed at Blue Ridge Cancer Care in Blacksburg until mid-July.