

## ■ Art Calendar

*NOTE: Some of the following events may be postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic.*

### July 10

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

*Heritage Park Meadowbrook Shelter • 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

Bring your lunch and join fellow members (at a social distance) under the large shelter at Heritage Park at Meadowbrook. Member Matt Gentry will be sharing his experiences with plein air painting. Feel free to bring your art supplies for painting afterwards!

### August 15–16

#### *62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sidewalk Art Show*

*Downtown Roanoke • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

Come check out this perennial favorite in the heart of Roanoke's historic area where you'll find original paintings, prints, watercolors, etchings, mixed media, photography, fine craft, jewelry, and sculpture. This event has been rescheduled from June.

### August 29

#### *BRAA Playdate*

*Moose Lodge, 115 Farmview Rd. NW, Christiansburg • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

Join in the fun and make collage papers from deli paper, paint, stamps, and stencils. Bring your own lunch and paints. Free to members.

### October 17–21

#### *Keiko Tanabe Workshop*

*Moose Lodge, 115 Farmview Rd. NW, Christiansburg*

This BRAA-sponsored workshop will be taught by internationally-known watercolor artist, Keiko Tanabe. Visit [ktanabefineart.com](http://ktanabefineart.com) to view her work. Cost is \$475 for members and \$525 for non-members. Application and registration will be online soon. For immediate information, email Alisa Colpitts at [alisaski@gmail.com](mailto:alisaski@gmail.com).

## A portrait of Jesse Burghardt

by Gerri Young

In 1940, Thomas Wolfe wrote a novel entitled "You can never go home again." Maybe Wolfe could not pull that off, but local artist Jesse Burghardt seems to be making it work.

When Jesse was 11 years old, her family bought a house and seven acres tucked between Nolley Road and gently rolling Elliott Creek in Riner. She left home at the age of 23 and, in 2017, brought her new husband, Robb Burghardt, back to the same town, road and house to start anew in that childhood home. Four dogs were added to the mix.

Jesse had a happy childhood in this place just a few feet from the creek which she says has never flooded the house. Both her mom and dad were from the local area. Jesse was the first of five children and the first of three to be home birthed. Mostly home schooled, (as was her husband as well), she has always had a thirst for learning and taking on a challenge.

She discovered her love of art early and, at the age of 14, did her first commissioned portrait painting. "Doing portraits gives me a natural high," states Jesse. "I do most of them in soft pastels. I have no formal art training. I learned by drawing as much as I could, wherever I could and just kept going. When I was in Montessori or public schools, my teachers always celebrated my works of art."

Living by the stream offered incredible peace and challenging adventure for Jesse and her siblings. Tubing in the waters and exploring the mountainside around them was special. "I am my best self in nature," said Jesse. She took the love of nature with her years later when she moved to Washington State near Mt. Rainier for a year and then nine years in Colorado where her first husband worked for a guide company. The nature in this location was great, the marriage, not so much. When it was time to move on, Jesse looked for her next challenge in Colorado where she studied pre-med and met her current husband, Robb, also a pre-med student.



Jesse Burghardt's dogs are ready models for drawing.

Terri Hoover Photography

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Visit the virtual art show

**Simply Elemental 2020** at

<https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/simplyelemental2020/>

featuring many creative works by NRV artists and gardeners!

## Make something people will see

by Kirk Carter

We're familiar with constraints in making art. Canvases are a particular size and shape; only certain materials are available. Sometimes we impose constraints, like the decision to use a limited palette or a particular collage element, usually to good effect.

A new kind of constraint now limits how we show our work. Galleries and indoor display spaces are closed, or have very limited attendance. The viewers have diminished to a trickle.

Digital artists and photographers can show their latest images online, displayed on a screen just like the one used to create it. For everyone else, the work piles up unseen.

Of course people show all kinds of art online. But you know as well as I do that a piece with a big impact in person usually does not impress people on a phone screen. Why would you expect it to? The medium is the message.

But, as humans, we adapt. That's our superpower. As artists, we react to the world, to the human condition. As contemporary artists, we reject old ways and try something new. We understand the value of constraints. It is time to create projects that do not rely on galleries or traditional art display spaces.



Kirk Carter's pandemic postcard project offers art accompanied by a short story.

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### ■ portrait of Jesse *continued from page 1*

No matter what she was doing or where she was living, her home by the creek never left her heart.

In time, Jesse and Robb left Colorado and pre-med studies to head east to Nolley Road. Her dad had died in a small plane crash, her mom moved out of the big house and one of her sisters, who now owns it, wanted to sell the place. Jesse and her memories just couldn't let that happen so she and her husband are buying it, keeping many things the same but bringing her love and art skills into the mix.

Having taught art in both Montessori and public schools, she dreamed of starting her own art school and running an Air B&B. She designed two webpages: *nolleyarthouse.com* about the classes she would offer; and one to showcase her own artwork: *artejesse.com*. She gave some private lessons to young students and hosted a few guests. She was enjoying getting settled in her family home, making connections, creating a team of pet dogs and exciting her art students.

Becoming active in the local art scene, Jesse actively volunteers for the Montgomery Museum in Christiansburg and is a member of their board. As such, she helps to market museum events by creating their marketing flyers and using social media to spread the word. She is co-chair of the museum's annual H'arts on Main art and music event at the Great Hall on Christiansburg's Main Street.

At the 2019 H'Arts on Main event, Jesse inspired 18 young, budding artists in a workshop sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. "I really enjoy teaching children the fundamentals of art to get them started," said Jesse. Exhibiting her large pastel portraits at that same event, and later at Blacksburg's Artful Lawyer, her work quickly gained attention.

Joining BRAA, she recently accepted board membership as chairman of the 2025 New River Art Biennial.

Then along came COVID19, the pandemic virus causing so many people to completely revise their way of living.

"At the moment, pursuing art classes with lots of children and welcoming Air B&B guests are both on hold for the foreseeable future," said Jesse. "I have had to rethink everything. I am learning how to do video classes and am excited about that. I hope to be a free style artist at the well-known outdoor Floyd Fest when it is able to start back up. I would roam around the grounds and draw the entertainers and more.

"I am also starting a blog on the Nolley Art House website to study and learn about other artists and share that information with others," said Jesse.

In the meantime, she and her husband, Robb, native of Littleton, Colo., have had to be creative about generating an income. Robb, with his scientific mind, works at Lewis Gale Hospital as a registrar, putting him back in the medical field.



Teri H Hoover Photography

Recently, Jesse began working a full week at the nearby Shell station on the main road through Riner. "It has really been fun. I see lots of people and do a variety of different things," said Jesse.

No matter what she is doing at the gas station, in the back of her mind, Jesse is always thinking about how to do more portraits, teach more children, read more books, perfect her video classes and figure out how to build a bridge that won't wash out across Elliott Creek.

Coming back home again will never be dull for Jesse.

Find out more at [artejesse.com](http://artejesse.com) and [nolleyhouseart.com](http://nolleyhouseart.com). ■

## ■ make something *continued from page 2*

My own reaction is a Pandemic Postcard project: I mail 2-color lino prints with very short stories on the back, to family and friends. Some like the image more and some like the story better. Either way, the postcard provides a gift of color and draws them out of their own worried state of mind for a minute or two. The unexpected result is that my “gallery” is now a geographically diverse selection of refrigerators!

Here are a few more ideas for art that will get seen, right away. Some depend on walk-by traffic, so if you live in the country, maybe you know someone who lives in town. You may be able to repurpose something you have or can scrounge for free.

- Think of the little library found in some people’s front yards. Could you make a little gallery?
- Painted rocks have turned up in my neighborhood, placed along the community trail or off in the grass near the sidewalk. An artist with some acrylic or oil paint and a rock could make that medium sing. I have also found pictures on little canvas panels left out on bushes next to our community trail. Somebody is finding a way to show their work!
- If you have an art fair tent, you can have a front-yard art show. You might schedule it so that fellow BRAA members and your fans know when to stop by for a distance chat.
- Mural your garage door. Or if that’s too radical, hang a few of your big paintings on it.
- Check out Andy Goldsworthy. He makes sculptures out of leaves, rocks, sticks and whatever else he finds out in nature. The construction is temporary, but the photos of it are not. Look him up online.
- Artists with access to the equipment could make digital art specifically for projecting onto buildings, or a white garage door.
- Try an outdoor-friendly medium like welded sculpture, stone carving or flag design. How about a Japanese rock garden?
- Artists who know a local business owner might get permission to paint something awesome and temporary on their plate glass windows. (Promise to clean it off later.)
- Is it possible sidewalk chalk was always your medium and you never knew it? This is a good day to find out.
- Repurpose that “Everything Will Be OK” yard sign as a support for artwork. You may have to figure out which media will survive some rain, but that’s where the adapting comes in.
- For the rule-breakers, haven’t you always wanted to stencil something onto a building late at night? From what I’ve heard, it’s better to spray-stencil or block print onto thin paper and quickly stick them up with wheat paste. A pseudonym could prove useful. And a lookout.
- Some libraries accept checkout orders and place them outside on a table for pickup. Could you arrange with a library or business with curbside pickup to enhance that table with your work? You may need to adapt to the particular configuration of each one: a small easel, a backdrop, pictures hanging from the front of the table, or something else.
- Paint more old windows (or doors, or posts) and install them outdoors wherever you can get permission.
- Teddy bears have appeared in windows around the world. Make something that would look good in a window from the street. Or draped down from the windowsill!
- If you live in the country, think big. Chainsaw sculpture. Woven stick pieces. Paint the barn in 6-foot pastel flowers. You don’t have to be Christo to make something cool.

Document your installations with photos and share those with the group. You could end up inspiring the next artistic adaptation to our unprecedented circumstances.

The unstated message of all these projects is that you have not succumbed. Artwork found out in the open is evidence that one person is rising above it, and provides encouragement for each random viewer to rise above it too.

Keep spreading the positivity! ■

*Kirk Carter, a former BRAA member, mixes color, media, metaphors and the occasional adult beverage in Dover, NH. Find his work at [KirkCarter.com](http://KirkCarter.com) or on Instagram @kirkcarter.*

## ■ Now showing

July 15 – October 15

**Patricia Bolton**, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

**Charlotte Chan**, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (July 9 thru Aug.)

**Paula Golden**, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

**Maxine Lyons**, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

**Betty Moore**, Zeppolis, Blacksburg

**Nancy Norton**, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

**Diane Relf**, Blacksburg Transit

**Diane Gillis-Robinson**, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

**Karen Sewell**, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

**Walter Shroyer**, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

**Samarth Swarup**, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg



*“Water Lily in Adelaide,” 16x20” by Charlotte Chan. This watercolor is part of an exhibit of her works showing through August at the Montgomery Museum of Art and History in Christiansburg. The museum is now open Tuesdays–Fridays from 10:30-4:40, and Saturdays from 1-4.*

## ■ New Members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members **Samantha Riggin, Joe Scarpaci** and **Suzanne Paddock**.



## ■ Exhibit and other opportunities

### ■ Call for Art — Pandemic Perspectives

July 20 – October 11, 2020 • Central Depot Courtyard, 307 W. Main St., Radford

MountainTrotter Arts is teaming up with Happy Sprouts Gardens to present an outdoor exhibit in Radford.

What is your artful response to Life During the Time of Covid-19? What has your journey been like? Has it been one of hope? Of upheaval? Boredom? Something else? What have you learned about yourself, or the people you have quarantined with? Do you feel “we are all in this together,” or something entirely different? Are you different now than you were before the pandemic? How has life changed for you?

You are invited to put these feelings into artwork (2D or 3D) that can be displayed outdoors for up to four months, in an Art Garden Space where Anything Grows, where the public will be invited to view, touch, and interact with art while being safely distanced.

Open to all New River Valley residents of all ages. Group projects are allowed. Work must be suitable for all outdoor elements. There is no entry fee. Entry deadline is **6 p.m., July 6, 2020.**

For more information, visit <https://www.mountaintrotterarts.com/pandemicperspectives>

### ■ Call for Entries — More Leaves of the Tree

September 23 – November 7, 2020 • Radford University Art Museum, 214 Tyler Avenue, Radford

This competition is open to any artist who wishes to submit works made of leaves, depicting leaves, referring to leaves, or metaphorically about leaves. There is no entry fee.

There will be monetary awards, including a top prize of \$500 for Best in Show. Entry deadline is **July 20, 2020.**

For more information, visit <https://ruarboreal.com/tree-news/>.



### ■ C.O.D. — Curator Off Duty January 2022 • Olin Hall Galleries, Roanoke College, Salem

This exhibition is open to all Virginia artists. The only curatorial criteria is that each submission must fit within one cubic foot. The exhibition aims to unite the Virginia visual arts community through diversity and inclusion. Olin Hall Galleries will host material studies and process oriented workshops until the opening of the exhibition in January 2022. At the closing of the exhibition, participating artists will have the option to sell their work to support a local cause. Artwork is now being accepted and may be dropped off any time during regular gallery hours. Each artist is invited to submit three individual works of art. Any medium is allowed and must arrive ready to hang or install. For further information, visit [www.roanoke.edu/curatoroffduty](http://www.roanoke.edu/curatoroffduty).

### ■ We Are Art Roanoke Arts Commission

The Roanoke Arts Commission invites artists and performers to share images of their creations and they will help promote the work by sharing with others via Facebook and Instagram. If interested, email [douglas.jackson@roanokeva.gov](mailto:douglas.jackson@roanokeva.gov) with high resolution images of your work. Include your name, a sentence or two describing the work or your process, and your medium. Like them on Facebook and Instagram (@artinroanoke #artinroanoke #weareart) to see what others are doing.

### ■ Out There Willis, Floyd County

More than 30 of Charlie Brouwer’s delightful wooden sculptures can be found throughout his 9-acre property on a 1-1/2 mile trail walk. To make an appointment to visit, call 540-250-2966, email [cbrouwer@swva.net](mailto:cbrouwer@swva.net) or visit [charliebrouwer.com/outthere.html](http://charliebrouwer.com/outthere.html).

**“The most creative people are willing to work in the shadow of uncertainty.”**

~ Ed Catmull

The art featured in this month’s nameplate is “Prayers for the Earth” (left, 23x27”) by Diane Relf. The prayer flag and plants on hand-made paper are backed by eco-dyed fabric mounted on rust printed cotton. This and more of her work is on display at Blacksburg Transit until mid-October.



### Making BRAA Work —

**Charlotte Chan**, president  
**Alisa Colpitts**, vice president  
**Jeanette Bowker**, treasurer  
**Sue Hossack**, secretary  
**Vacant**, membership  
**Gerri Young**, past president  
**Jeanette Bowker** and **(vacant)**, gallery committee  
**Teri Hoover** marketing chair  
**Gerri Young**, plein air chair  
**Charlotte Chan**, workshop chair  
**Robi Sallee**, luncheon/hospitality chair, theme show chair  
**Lois Stephens**, newsletter chair  
**Gerri Young, Teri Hoover, Pat Bevan**, newsletter editorial board  
**Sue Hossack**, web administrator  
**Linda Correll**, bylaws review chair  
**Betty Moore**, high school workshops chair



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