

■ Art Calendar

September 21

Meet the Artist Opening

*Wine Lab, 400 Turner St. NW, Suite 101
Blacksburg • Noon – 5 p.m.*

Lexington assemblage artist Susan Harb will be the first featured artist in Blacksburg's Wine Lab guest artist series. Her found metal object works will be displayed in the bar and tasting area through October. For more information visit www.blacksburgwinelab.com.

September 22 and October 6

Figure Drawing

*The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St.,
Blacksburg • 6:30–8:30 p.m.*

Come sketch live models! Tickets close on the Friday before each session and the cost is \$10. Boards and easels provided; artists need to bring their own drawing supplies. For more information and registration, visit <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

September 25

Meet the Artist Talk and Reception

*Hahn Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech
Campus • 12-2 p.m.*

Diane Relf will be discussing her exhibit, "Art from Earth, Sun, Minerals, Plants." Her talk will be followed by a reception. Works will be on display until Nov. 1.

September 27–29

Yupo Workshop

Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg

Popular water media artist Jesi Pace-Berkeley will lead this workshop on how to create exciting effects on Yupo paper. To register, contact charlotteychan@gmail.com to check space availability.

October 3–6

*2019 Tri-State Sculpture Conference
SELU Conservancy, Radford*

"Inspired by Nature" is the theme of this 41st annual conference that features demonstrations, presentations, opportunities for networking, exhibitions, tours and more. For fees and more information, visit tristatesculptors.org.

October 5

Plein Air Painting

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Farewell and Hello

by Patricia Bevan

After 49 years of service to the Blacksburg community, the well-loved art supply store Mish Mish closed its doors this past summer. BRAA members will especially miss what Steve and Debbie Miller gave to our organization and to artists in the surrounding areas, including their wonderful store inventory and framing services, their in-store art gallery, life drawing opportunities, printing of BRAA publications, prizes for art exhibitions, and sponsorship of Art at the Market. In so many ways Mish Mish supported the arts! BRAA wants to thank Steve, Debbie and all of the Mish Mish employees for their support of our arts community and our town.

Yet as we say farewell to Mish Mish we can say hello to two local businesses that will be helping to ensure Steve and Debbie's legacy remains as they make it possible to continue to purchase art and architectural supplies in Blacksburg.

The New River Fiber Company soon to be owned by Jessica Jones, and Blacksburg True Value Hardware owned by Charles Woerner will be coordinating their efforts to provide supplies to student and professional artists and Virginia Tech architectural students.



Patricia Bevan

Charles Woerner, owner of Blacksburg True Value Hardware, poses with some of the architectural student supplies his store now offers.



Patricia Bevan

Jessica Jones will be expanding The New River Fiber Company's inventory to include student and professional grade artist supplies.

Both Jess and Charles have long connections with art. Jess has a B.A. in studio art from Virginia Tech and was an employee of Mish Mish for a number of years. Charles is a long-time Blacksburg resident and the son-in-law of beloved and inspirational BRAA member Nadine Allen, one of the organization's founding members.

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**Annual meeting and presentation set for Nov. 3 —
see more information on page 2**

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

Sinkland Farms, Riner • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Plein air painters are invited to take part in the Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival. BRAA member Phil Ramsey will be painting from 2–5 p.m. Artists are invited to set up for their painting pleasure, but expect to be part of the festival atmosphere. See page 4 for more opportunities at Sinkland Farms.

October 9 and November 6

Art Parties

The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St., Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.

Come paint Frida Kahlo style on Oct. 9! Salvador Dali will be the style theme on Nov. 6. Cost is \$30 including supplies. Register at <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

October 11 and November 8

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. In October, Gerri Young will be sharing experiences from her art-themed trip to Cuba.

October 12

Meet the Artists' Reception

Floyd Center for the Arts, 220 Parkway Lane South, Floyd • 5–7 p.m.

This annual exhibit of new works by area artists features a variety of media and subjects. The exhibit will be displayed until November 30.

October 16

Reception, Fiber Exhibit

The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St., Blacksburg • 5:30 p.m.

Come check out the latest Whet Your Palette exhibit where artists creatively express themselves through their fiber work. The exhibit will be displayed until December 18.

October 25–27

Blue Ridge Potters Guild Show and Sale

Patrick Henry High School, Roanoke • Friday, 6:30–9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday, 12 noon – 4 p.m.

This 20th annual show and sale is the largest all-pottery show in Virginia and features a wide range of work. More than 70 guild members will display and sell their works. For more information, visit <https://www.blueridgepotters.com/>.

October 26–27

Botetourt Open Studios

Botetourt County • Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Visit scenic Botetourt County in this self-

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Nov. 3 annual meeting to feature portraiture talk

BRAA's annual meeting is slated for 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Hahn Garden pavilion at Virginia Tech. Margaret Hancock from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will be the featured speaker. Her talk will be followed by a short business meeting including election of next year's BRAA officers.

Hancock will be presenting "Face Value: Portraiture in American Art." This subject ranges from folk to classical and from realism to impressionism. Hancock will delve into these stylistic variances with a visual exploration of painted portraits of Americans by Americans. Works in significant portrait collections across America will be explored, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Art, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Margaret Hancock is an art and design educator for the Virginia Museum of Fine Art in Richmond. She is a professional writer in the art and philanthropy world. She holds an M.Ed from the University of Virginia and a B.A. in Art History from Duke University.



Margaret Hancock will be the featured speaker at BRAA's annual meeting on Nov. 3.

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As Charles and Jess developed their new business plans Steve offered invaluable assistance to them, providing information about supplies, suppliers and sales data, as well as first dibs on display fixtures.

Charles has architecture student supplies in stock now (including knives, glues, tapes, boards, pens, leads, measuring implements and sketch pads) and will be adding more and new items as needs arise. Jess will be expanding The New River Fiber Company space in the next couple of months to include the building area on the corner of Main and Roanoke Streets. This new part of the shop, which will have its own entrance, will offer painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture supplies, with both student and professional grade options in each supply category. Some office supplies also will be offered. In addition, both stores will be coordinating specific supplies with the needs of students in Virginia Tech art and architecture courses.

Blacksburg is so very lucky to have been home to Mish Mish for 49 years and to now have two local businesses that will be carrying on the vision that Steve and Debbie began so many years ago. ■

The following excerpt was written by Gerri Young and read during a tribute to Steve and Debbie Miller on Sept. 5 —

Mishmish is the Arabic word for apricot

It is also the name of the well-loved art supply store which served Blacksburg for 49 years. Using the fuzzy round fruit's name as a kicking off point, let me give you this:

A - is for always open. Steve and Debbie did not set hours to suit themselves, they set hours to suit the students they were there to serve and the rest of us benefitted from it.

P - is for patient. Steve always had that smile on his face, a pleasant demeanor and a plethora of plentiful, perfect stuff to meet every artistic need.

R - is for returning. Customers always returned, especially in the midst of crisis when halfway through a project. Mish Mish was full of personal service to help customers get exactly what they needed without waiting for Amazon to deliver.

I - is for independent. It is tough to be independent in the world of bigger and bigger art supply chain stores.

C - is for caring. They cared about the artists, young and not so; professional and striving; 2D and 3D, metal and paper and photographic and pencil and everything in between.

O - is for outstanding. That says it all.

T - is for thank you from all the artists who ever walked in your door. Your spirits will long remain in Blacksburg and beyond in the DNA of every piece of art nourished by the place called Mish Mish. You will be missed!



Gerri Young

Farewell Mish Mish

The painting at left by Gerri Young was presented to Steve and Debbie Miller at a farewell event held at The Artful Lawyer on September 5.

Following is a message from Steve and Debbie.

To all our friends in BRAA,

We would like to thank all our friends in BRAA for the wonderful retirement party and

gifts. It was so unexpected to receive so many gifts and best wishes. The lovely book of the New River Valley is a great way to see all the artworks of so many friends and customers, and we will treasure it always. A special thanks to Gerri and her painting of the store front. We will miss our customers, but now we hope to have the time to go to art events and see our friends.

Thank you all, and we will see you soon at an Art Walk or opening.

Sincerely, Steve and Debbie

Attention Exhibiting Artists

The deadline for submitting requests for exhibiting space in BRAA Community Galleries in 2020 is Friday, October 4. The submission form can be found at Blacksburgart.org. Use the Gallery tab where you will find the tab for 2020 Gallery Exhibition Registration form. Print and complete the form and mail to P. O. Box 525, Blacksburg, VA 24063. We have 14 Community Galleries so there are many opportunities to show your work. Contact Jeanette at bowkerlj@comcast.net if you have questions.

Workshops by members

In addition to the BRAA-sponsored Yupo workshop on Sept. 27–28, member **Jesi Pace-Berkeley** will be teaching intermediate alla prima watercolor for Virginia Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute beginning Oct. 4. For more information, visit www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning.

Betty Moore will be teaching Expressive Landscapes in Watercolor on October 1 and October 2, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Recreation Center. She will also be leading the Art Lover's Club at the center on Tuesday mornings from October 8 – December 17. For fees and registration, visit www.blacksburg.gov/recreation, or call 540-443-1100, or visit the center on Patrick Henry Drive. For questions, email Betty at kmoore48@verizon.net.

New Members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members **Rita Mayer** and **Tom Reisinger!**

Kudos

Joanna Sunshine had two pieces, "Entanglement" and "The Branch" accepted in the National Juried Fiber Art Exhibit at the Bower Center for the Arts.

Pat Bevan's pastel, "Blue Lightning," was accepted in the Pastel Society of North Carolina's Online International Exhibit.

"Mother of Pearl" by **Ruth Lefko** won an Award of Excellence at the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild exhibition at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville.



Ruth Lefko with awarded "Mother of Pearl."

Now Showing

July 15 – October 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Dave Angle, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Patricia Bevan, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Charlotte Chan, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Riley Chan, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Paula Golden, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg, Montgomer Museum, Christiansburg (thru Oct.)

Teri Hoover, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Ava Howard, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, American National Bank (formerly HomeTown Bank), Christiansburg

Susan Lockwood, Holtzman Alumni Center Gallery, Virginia Tech (thru Jan. 31)

Larry Mitchell, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg

Sally Mook, The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

Nancy Norton, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

David Pearce, Blacksburg Transit

Diane Relf, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Karen Sewell, Glade Church, Blacksburg

Joanna Sunshine, Alexander Black House, Blacksburg (thru October 12)

"I have already settled it for myself so flattery and criticism go down the same drain and I am quite free."

~ Georgia O'Keeffe

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

Montgomery Museum

November and December • Montgomery Museum, 300 S. Pepper St., Christiansburg

Artists who are members of the Montgomery Museum are invited to participate in their annual member exhibit during November and December. Not a member? It's not too late to join! Two works may be submitted and label information and artists' statements are due to Sue Farrar by **October 1**. For more information, contact Sue at 540-382-5644 or email director@montgomerymuseum.org.

'Round the Mountain

Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace, One Heartwood Circle, Abingdon

'Round the Mountain will be holding their next jury session in October. Active members whose work pass the jury process will be eligible to sell items at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace. Artists interested in applying for the process must email mmullins@friendsofswva.org or call Melissa Mullins at 276-492-2410 by **October 1**. There is a non-refundable \$10 application fee. Members must submit five individual pieces within each media and/or technique. The fee must be delivered along with submitted works between October 14-25 between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. along with a drop-off form signed by a cultural center employee. There is a limit of 15 applications on a first come, first served basis. All work submitted for the jury process must be available for sale and there is a 40 percent commission on sales. Applicants will be notified via email or mail of their results following the jury process.

Art Blast

November 9 • The Studio School, Towers Mall, Roanoke

Artists are invited to participate in this show and sale of portfolio art and small works. The



fee is \$45 for studio school artists (since Oct. 2017) and \$75 for non-studio school artists. Participants receive a 6' sq. space for one 3' flat portfolio holder, a chair, and a card table, as desired. The deadline to enter is **October 10**. For more information, contact Vera Dickerson at vera.dickerson@gmail.com.

Sinkland Farms Pumpkin Festival September 28 – November 3 • Riner

Artists are invited to sell quality arts and crafts on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and/or on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Consignment items may also be submitted for sale in the Cottage Shoppe. For application or more information, contact Susan Sink at sinklandfarms@gmail.com.

Blacksburg Library

200 Miller St. SW, Blacksburg

The Blacksburg Library is looking for artists to display in their glass case, such as pottery, jewelry, and small 3D items. Space available any time in 2020. For more information, contact Kerri at kcopus@mfrl.org.

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guided driving tour of 14 artists who will be offering their work and sharing their creativity in 11 unique artists' studios. For more information, visit <https://openstudiosbotetourt.com/>.

November 8-10

**YMCA Crafts Fair
Blacksburg Community Center**

The annual YMCA crafts fair attracts exhibitors from neighboring states and the New River Valley with its quality, handmade arts and crafts. Over 80 booths of juried artisans have handmade items for all ages and interest levels.

November 9

**Art Blast
The Studio School, Towers Mall, Roanoke •
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Come check out this sale of portfolio art and small works. See Exhibit Opportunities above to find out how to become a part of this event. For more information, email vera.dickerson@gmail.com.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Ortigia Dory" (left, photography canvas wrap, 11 x 13") by Patricia Bolton. This and more of her work can be viewed at Brown Insurance in Blacksburg through mid-October.



BRAA Officers

Gerri Young, past president
Charlotte Chan, co-vice president
Vacant, co-vice president
Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
Pat Bevan, secretary
Rafael Bedia, membership
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