

November/December 2013

## Learning to see with Carolyn Anderson

By Fred Jones



Carolyn Anderson's "Girl with Braids," 10 x 8", oil

Many art workshops are pleasant affairs wherein participants learn new techniques or how to handle new mediums. They could be considered summer camps for adults. The four-day oil painting workshop I enrolled in with Carolyn Anderson was in a different category. While I expected to move out of my comfort zone, I did not know just how far that move would be. It is Anderson's contention that we are saddled with the coloring book approach to art during our childhoods. Artists from New York City to Florida arrived in Easton, Md., to try to change that mindset. This would be more akin to a boot camp for addicts.

Anderson does not teach you to paint like she does. She will point you toward Bob Ross if you want to learn cookie cutter painting. Instead, the object of

her workshops is to demonstrate the principles that form the basis for a good painting so students can apply them to their own style.

"These ideas are not something someone made up. They really exist," Anderson states as she begins a slide show. Paintings by artists such as John Singer Sargent and Anders Zorn demonstrate hard, soft and disappearing edges. But she takes it a step further by pointing out the same phenomena in photographs of ordinary objects. "You must learn to see these things. They are all there."

She continues by showing one of her own paintings of a pair of workhorses. The painting has so much movement that the horses appear to be walking across the canvas. "You will notice that I did not paint eight legs. When you look at a team of horses at work do you really see eight legs? You must learn to see and then to paint the truth rather than what your brain tells you it should be."

Anderson performed two demos, one from a live model and the other from a photograph. These reinforced the concepts of color temperature, value, design and the importance of seeing shapes rather than falling back on preconceived notions of what something should look like. "I refuse to insult my students by denying the complexity of what makes a good painting," she said. She considers painting the process of putting down the important information and eliminating unnecessary information.

By the end of the workshop my head was spinning. Anderson constantly urged us not to use our brains—"Just paint what you see." That is easier said than done, however. Once the dust settles and I fully absorb the lessons I learned I believe they will make me a better artist, but that change will take time and effort. Looking back on those four days I am reminded of that line from "Amazing Grace," "I once was blind, but now I see."

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### ■ Upcoming

#### November 15

*Jennifer Carpenter Opening Reception  
Green Heron, Radford, 5-7 p.m.*

This exhibit features 14 of Carpenter's originals as well as 22 prints.

#### November 17

*BRAA Annual Meeting Featuring  
Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda  
Blacksburg Library, 3-5 p.m.*

All members are encouraged to attend this important annual meeting including election of officers. The program presenter is Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, the 2006-08 Poet Laureate of Virginia.



*Kreiter-Foronda*

### Poetry Inspired by the Artwork of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo

Kreiter-Foronda, Virginia Poet Laureate Emerita, will share poems written in the voices of renowned Mexican artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, as featured in her newly released collection titled *The Embrace*. Research trips to Mexico City, Coyoacán, and other significant locales to view the artists' paintings, homes, and studios will be highlighted in images that bring to life the terrain of these intriguing artists. Other featured artists will include van Gogh, da Vinci, and O'Keeffe.

## Many hands and leaves make fields of fall mural

During two Sunday afternoon workshops in October, more than 50 participants “painted” a mural using fallen leaves as their medium.

Organized by Kubo Studio, the Blacksburg Children’s Museum and the Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology (ICAT), the Fields of Fall mural was assembled at Blacksburg’s new Children’s Museum at First and Main.

Den Bento (*shown at right with husband, Herb Schneider*) designed the mural. Schneider and Bill Pulley created the stands for the mural, and Jackie Pontious designed the pumpkins and documented the event. Materials were donated by the Children’s Museum and ICAT.



## Still time to think squarely

Art in 16 Squares is a project conceived to showcase the variety of local artistic talent and was inspired by the Blacksburg 16 Squares town logo. The finished piece will feature sixteen 12” square pieces mounted “on point” with black borders around each square and the entire piece. A conceptual idea of the piece appears below.

Each piece of art need not have solid edges but must “touch” the 12” x 12” outline enough to give the impression of the square’s boundaries. A legend displayed with the finished project will list titles, artists, media, and contact information for each artist.

BRAA exhibiting artists are invited to submit finished piece(s) to a juror who will select the final 16 smaller pieces that will become part of the large piece.

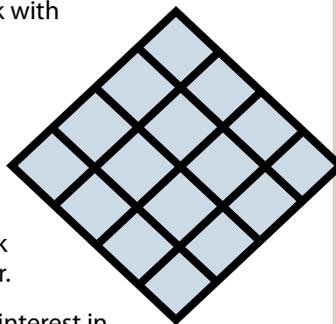
Jurying will be done by an artist who is also a professor in Virginia’s Tech College of Architecture and Urban Studies. To enhance unity in the overall work, each piece must contain metallic copper (paint, metal, ink, etc.) and a color as close as possible to Pantone 2955 (blue). All 2-D media are welcome. Each selected artist is responsible for deciding how her or his piece should be attached to the coated board background. No part of any piece can protrude more than 2” from the foam core board.

Each entry (not photo of entry) must be labeled on the back with

- medium(a),
  - title, and
  - an indication of which corner is the top of the piece and delivered to the CAIO (ask someone there to place it in the back left office/storage space) by March 1.
- Juried results will be announced by April 1.

The project will debut at the opening of the Alexander Black House on May 1, 2014 and will remain until early September.

Email Paula Golden ([paulacgolden@comcast.net](mailto:paulacgolden@comcast.net)) to express interest in this high profile community project. There is no entry fee.



## Anderson continued from page 1

If an artist is looking for praise and a pat on the back from Anderson they should find another instructor. Her classes are not for the faint of heart. As workshops go this one was expensive at \$725, but she was in constant motion for the entire four days. I felt it was a good value. Someone looking to grow as an artist and gain a fuller appreciation for fine paintings will not go wrong in her classes. To see more of her work and learn details of upcoming workshops visit her website at [carolynanderson.com](http://carolynanderson.com). ■

## ■ Exhibit Opportunities

### BRAA Community Galleries

The gallery coordinating committee is now accepting requests for 2014 exhibits. Preference will be given to artists who work in some volunteer capacity for BRAA. More exhibiting artists are needed and further information can be found on the BRAA website under Galleries. Email your date and venue preference to Charlotte Chan at [charlottechan@gmail.com](mailto:charlottechan@gmail.com).

### The Jax’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual New Works Exhibit – Hayloft Gallery January 31 – March 29, 2014

Entries in all media are welcome. Work previously exhibited at the center or work already exhibited in another venue is not eligible. Application fee is \$25/members or \$30/nonmembers and the deadline is **January 6**. For more information, email [info@jacksonvillecenter.org](mailto:info@jacksonvillecenter.org).

### Art in 16 Squares May – September 2014

This group project will feature 16 12” square pieces mounted “on point.” BRAA exhibiting artists are invited to submit finished pieces for jurying. Entry deadline is March 1, 2014. The project will debut at the opening of the Alexander Black House on May 1 and will remain until early September. See more information at left, or email Paula Golden at [paulacgolden@comcast.net](mailto:paulacgolden@comcast.net).

## ■ Other Opportunities

### Steppin’ Out Design Contest

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. is sponsoring a design competition for the Steppin’ Out 2014 T-Shirt. For more information, visit <http://www.downtownblacksburg.com/>.

### Figure Drawing Schedule

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio at 106 Faculty Street offers the following live model drawing opportunities. All sessions are held on Sundays from 6–8 p.m.—**Nov. 24, Dec. 8, and Dec. 22**. Cost is \$10 per session and easels and drawing boards are provided. Reserve your spot by emailing [diana@creekmorelaw.com](mailto:diana@creekmorelaw.com) by the Thursday before each session.

# Biennial exhibition a big hit

By Gerri Young

The long-awaited New River Art Biennial 2013 officially opened on Oct. 18 with a large crowd of attendees on hand in Perspective Gallery, anxiously awaiting the results of jurors for the final winners.

The highest prize of the exhibition, the Nadine Allen Memorial Award, went to **Nick Vitelli** of Christiansburg, with his large and spectacular colored pencil portrait of "Cuba." The \$500 award was presented by committee chair, Leslye Bloom, along with Mary Woerner and Margaret Feay, daughters of Nadine Allen. Allen was honored throughout the evening with award checks presented inside of Allen notecards and her original painting, "Blacksburg Churches," was on display throughout the evening.

Other winners were: Award of Excellence: **Sean Hatter**, Check, "Portrait of Philip;" First Award of Distinction: **Dave Wertz**, Roanoke, "Well, Kiss my Sweet Ass;" Second Award of Distinction: **Lily Erb**, Afton, "Appalachia;" Award of Merit: **W. Dale Norton**, Blacksburg, "Wanderings;" Most Innovative: **Gina Louthian-Stanley**, Roanoke, "Caged Window;" Honorable Mention: **Julie Hawk**, Christiansburg, "Presence of the Circle II;" Honorable Mention: **Jennifer Carpenter**, Christiansburg, "A Flare to Remember."

Dale Norton and Jennifer Carpenter are both members of BRAA. Other BRAA members included as finalists in the show are **Jeanette Bowker**, **Jennifer Lovejoy**, **Darcy Meeker**, and **Larry Mitchell**.

Thirty six of the 211 pieces submitted were selected by the jurors for the final exhibition, with one piece being withdrawn by the artist. Twenty five artists of over 70 who applied were represented in the gallery.

Refreshments for the reception were provided by Perspective Gallery; music by "Smartmouth."

## **BRAA and New River Art would like to thank the following for making the \$2100 prize fund possible:**

- Nadine Allen Memorial Fund (daughters Mary Woerner and Margaret Feay)
- Steve Miller, Mish Mish Art Supply, Blacksburg
- Ruth Waalkes and the personnel of Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
- John Eustis, New River Land Trust, Blacksburg
- Robert Miller, Miller off Main St. Galleries, Blacksburg
- Leslye Bloom, Blacksburg
- Vera Dickerson, The Studio School, Roanoke
- Diana Francis and James Creekmore, The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg

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Winning artists are (L\_R) Jennifer Carpenter, Lily Erb, Gina Louthian-Stanley, David Wertz, Sean Hatter, and Nick Vitelli. Not present in the photo are Julie Hawk and Dale Norton. (photo: Riley Chan)

## ■ Now Showing

**October 15 – January 15**  
(except where indicated otherwise)

**Tom Barnhart, Jeanette Bowker, Jennifer Carpenter, Charlotte Chan, Marie Collier, Karen Hines, Teri Hoover, Fred Jones, Larry Mitchell, Rita Montrosse, Betty Moore, Nancy Norton, Martha Olson, David Pearce, Lois Stephens, Lisabeth Weisband,** and **Gerri Young**, Breezeway Gallery, Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd (until Dec.)

**Tom Barnhart, Joanne Boles, Charlotte Chan, Delbert Jones,** and **Johanna Jones**, *Tribute to Mary Montgomery*, VTLS

**Jennifer Carpenter**, Green Heron in Radford (through Nov.) and Waldron Family YMCA/Meadowbrook in Shawsville (Holiday Market booth through Dec.)

**Marie Collier** and **Gerri Young**, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea

**Susan Hensley**, StellarOne, Christiansburg

**Fred Jones**, Glencoe Museum, Radford (until beginning of Jan.)

**Susan Lockwood**, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (until mid-May)

**Darcy Meeker**, Zeppoli's

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

**Betty Moore**, Real Life Dental Care

**David Pearce**, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

**Lois Stephens**, Holtzman Alumni Center Gallery, Virginia Tech Campus (until Jan.)

**Gerri Young**, Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation, Old Town Hall, Blacksburg (through Nov.)

*"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work."*

~ Emile Zola

## BRAA does first interest survey in Google Forms

On Nov. 4, the Programs Committee of BRAA sent out the first ever membership interest survey using Google Forms.

Committee chair, Charlotte Chan, reported that she met with her committee partner, Teri Hoover, and volunteer, Gerri Young, to brainstorm ideas for workshops and events in 2014-16. This list, which resulted from that session, was entered into a new Google Form to give all BRAA members a chance to express their interest in the proposed offerings.

As members fill and submit the form, an automatic database is created by Google and is easily available to the committee for use in making choices regarding what to offer beginning in 2014.

"The survey gives members a chance to add their own ideas and to comment on the use of the survey," said Chan. "We even offer a suggestion of a workshop on how to use Google Forms!"

Young reported that learning to use Google Forms was free and easy. "We've been struggling to find a way of getting fillable forms to our membership for quite some time. It has been challenging and often not efficient," said Young. "I had several BRAA members or friends outside the organization test the Google survey filling and submission for me and I think it is working very easily for everyone.

"We wanted our members to be able to fill in and submit easily, but we also wanted to have the recording of that information be easy and not take much time. Once a member submits the Google Forms survey, that information is instantly tabulated in a spreadsheet."

The survey link was sent to members by email, was posted on the BRAA Facebook page and webpage and included below:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1j51pvWT-R81KeNFCb\\_suFOgyLu8PP9chM9H5k8\\_f5os/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1j51pvWT-R81KeNFCb_suFOgyLu8PP9chM9H5k8_f5os/viewform)

Input received prior to Nov. 13 will be studied this month. Input received after that date will be added to the initial responses and referred to at future times as a reminder of how the BRAA members voted.

"In the past, we did not have a lot of information about what our members wanted," stated Chan. "Now we will be making more informed decisions. We know, for instance, that members like having a national level instructor come to Blacksburg to teach us. We just wanted to let our members know it is highly unlikely we will be able to obtain one for 2014 because we just started the planning process. We have researched several already and it is obvious they are scheduled very far in advance. With this in mind, we are hoping to schedule someone for 2015 at the earliest." ■

## Biennial continued from page 3

### Organizations supporting and/or administering the 2013 biennial are:

- Blacksburg Regional Art Association, coordinator/administrator/donor  
Robi Sallee, President; Leslye Bloom, Committee Chair; Gerri Young, committee member; Diana Francis, committee member
- Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd, donor, John McEnhill, director
- Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley, Pulaski, donor, Judy Ison, director
- Perspective Gallery, VT, Robin Boucher, director
- New River Land Trust, John Eustis, director

A selection of exhibit photographs by Riley Chan are available on the New River Art Facebook page. The exhibition closed Nov. 9.

The 2015 biennial will be headed by Judy Ison, Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley in Pulaski.



## BRAA Officers

- Robi Sallee**, president
- Nancy Norton**, co-vice president
- Danie Janov**, co-vice president
- Tom Barnhart**, membership
- Jeanette Bowker**, treasurer



[www.facebook.com/BlacksburgArt](http://www.facebook.com/BlacksburgArt)

Send Facebook news postings to:

**Gerri Young** at

[younggerri@googlemail.com](mailto:younggerri@googlemail.com)

or **Nancy Norton**

at [nancypnorton@comcast.net](mailto:nancypnorton@comcast.net)

Twitter @BlacksburgArt1

<http://www.blacksburgart.org/>

Send news, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens ([stephens1@pemt.net](mailto:stephens1@pemt.net))

**Thanks to Mish Mish** for providing printed versions of this newsletter. Please support our local art supply store!



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Water Lily" (above, hand-tooled flamed copper and paint, 3x2') by Darcy Meeker. This and more of her work can be viewed at Zeppoli's through the middle of January.