

■ Art Calendar

January 22

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

Come explore this visual array of mixed media by Alisa Colpitts, Deborah Reul, Diane Goff, Jen Huffman, Tom Jenssen, Nancy Norton, Jenna Pynn, Robi Sallee, Walter Shroyer, Robert Smith, Donald Sunshine, Joanna Sunshine, and Gerri Young. Works will be displayed until March 25.

January 23

Silk Scarves with Alcohol and Magic
Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Rd. SW,
Blacksburg • 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Join Paula Golden and create a beautiful, wearable piece of art. Silk scarves and “magic” will be provided for an evening of fun and expression. Fee is \$20. To register, visit <https://www.blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

January 25

Old Into New Coiling
Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Rd. SW,
Blacksburg • 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join artist Martha Olson for a workshop on coil creation. Learn how to coil recycled materials to create unique baskets. The workshop fee is \$30. To register, visit <https://www.blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

January 30

Coffee House Talks
Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Rd. SW,
Blacksburg • 5:30–7 p.m.

This event is sponsored by The Blacksburg Partnership Collaborative for the Arts. To attend, RSVP by Jan. 27 to info@blacksburgpartnership.org.

February 7

Art by Night
Downtown Roanoke • 5–9 p.m.

Downtown Roanoke Art Galleries are open late! Art by Night showcases Roanoke’s thriving arts community, featuring diverse galleries, museums and artists’ studios.

February 14 and March 13

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot
Bull and Bones, First and Main, Blacksburg •
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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Ling Jie loves dinosaurs

by Gerri Young

Ever since she was a child, Radford University junior Ling Jie Gu, has loved dinosaurs. Her undiminished interest over the years recently led to a great thrill when a model she built was included in a permanent exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, Va.



Ling Jie poses at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville with the skeleton that inspired her model.

Ling Jie, a member of BRAA, studies graphic design and works in acrylic on canvas, but her most successful project for 2019 turned out to be building a very lifelike model of an allosaurus dinosaur, a genus of carnivorous theropod dinosaur that lived 155 to 145 million years ago during the late Jurassic period. The name “Allosaurus” means “different lizard” alluding to its unique concave vertebrae — thanks to Wikipedia for this information!

When talking to her about her interest in these extinct giants, it appears she has “dinosaurs” on speed dial on her cell phone.

Ling Jie and her mother had been to the museum earlier and seen the Allosaurus skeleton which served as inspiration for the project.

Her research experience provided the first step in the design of her Allosaurus and she then moved on to using Super Sculpey, a polymer clay, for the three-dimensional building of the creature.

“I did not originally intend for my dinosaur to be museum quality,” recalls Ling Jie, “but it turned out so well, I contacted the museum in Martinsville to see if they might like to see it. My mom and I took it there to assistant curator Adam Pritchard and he really liked it. I was so pleased when he wanted to keep it and place it next to the life-size skeleton of the same dinosaur for visitors to see!”

In an article online with the Radford University, Pritchard stated how impressed he was with the sculpture. “It was clear that a lot of attention had gone into the shape of the Allosaurus ... it is very, very accurate based on how a real skeleton of Allosaurus is put together.”

Ling Jie’s sculpture is one of the first things people see when they walk into the room featuring the life-size dinosaur skeleton,



Ling Jie’s model of an Allosaurus is now on display at the museum in Martinsville.

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

Join your fellow members for lunch, hear the featured speaker's Art Spot, and share news about the latest art happenings.

February 14 and 15

h'ARTS on Main

Great Road on Main, 100 West Main St., Christiansburg • 1–6 p.m. on Feb. 14; 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Feb. 15

Mark your calendars to attend (or participate in!) the third annual h'ARTS on Main event. Artists will be offering a wide variety of works, both large and small. For more information, contact Ruth Lefko at rlefk2@gmail.com.



Ling Jie shows one of her dinosaur drawings and two of her dinosaur collection pieces (not of her making).

dinosaurs *continued from page 1*

according to Pritchard. During her delivery visit to the museum she was taken to see the museum's original specimens of fossilized bones, an unexpected surprise.

In the future, Ling Jie wants to use her skills and knowledge to design museum exhibits. "I would be thrilled to work at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC," she said.

In the meantime, she will work with the Mill Mountain Zoo in Roanoke over the next few months to paint animal murals.

She is a first degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do and is set to try for her second degree in February. She has competed in regular and national competitions on behalf of Virginia Tech.

She sometimes works with the Radford Museum of Earth Sciences on their displays.

What is next for her in the dinosaur realm? Not one to waste time, Ling Jie is already working on an even bigger dinosaur project — before her first has even had a chance to get dusty. ■

Resolve to jumpstart your creative process

If the dawn of a new year is a good time to reflect on your goals and dreams and on the steps you're taking to achieve them, then surely the dawn of a new decade is even better. It's time to shake off bad creative habits, discouraging thoughts, and lethargy. Whether art is your hobby or your career, here are 10 achievable resolutions you can make to add life and light to your creative process.

1. **Say yes.** If someone wants you to put a piece in their show, say yes. If someone asks you to go to a gallery opening with them, say yes. If you're asking yourself if you really have the energy to get into the studio today, say yes. Even if an opportunity or event seems intimidating to you, the very act of saying yes to it will make you stronger.
2. **Turn off the self-doubt.** Nothing kills creativity like discouragement. Don't let criticism bring you down, whether it comes from within you or from the world at large. Don't second-guess your creative choices; you can always make changes later. And don't let rejection deter you. Some of the finest, most successful authors and artists in history have some of the largest collections of rejection letters.
3. **Carry a sketchbook, and make sure you use it.** Doodle, sketch, jot down ideas, dreams, random conversations of strangers. You never know where these little gems of inspiration will lead you.
4. **Schedule creative time.** Maybe you work full time and art is a hobby; maybe you're a full-time artist. Either way, it's important to work creativity into your schedule. Whether it be several hours each afternoon, a few minutes before you go to bed, or a couple hours on the weekend, try to set aside time just to create. You'll find that once you start working regularly even your off hours become creative, as you continue to contemplate your work even while you're walking to work or washing the dishes.
5. **Schedule a screen-free time.** Sure, computers are useful and we've come to rely on them for almost every aspect of our life, but they can create a noisy, distracting world in your head. Set aside some time to put down the phone and shut off the computer. Let yourself be bored, let yourself listen to the quiet. Allow yourself to notice what's in the real world all around you.
6. **Look at art.** Look at art you love, look at art you hate, look at work by artists you've never heard of before. Look at your own art, to remember all that you have achieved. If you can't get to a museum, go to a library or bookstore and browse through the art books. Follow museums and artists on Instagram and Facebook. Your feed will be full of beauty and inspiration to balance all the bad news and pettiness that somehow seeps in.
7. **Submit.** Maybe you're not sure your work is ready. Maybe you've had some rejection. Sometimes it's hard to share your work with the world; sometimes it's hard to face the criticism and neglect. But it's also one of the best feelings in the world to share your work with others, to feel that glimmer of hope every time you send something out. Submit to

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Join our monthly luncheons!



During January's BRAA luncheon, Rafael Bedia (upper left) shared information and insights about a watercolor workshop he attended. Gatherings are held on second Fridays at 11:30 a.m. at Bull and Bones in Blacksburg.

Teri Hoover Photography

BRAA supports Wonder Universe

As part of our outreach effort and support of art programs for children, BRAA recently contributed to *Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum* in Christiansburg. Executive Director Sarah Nucci sent a note of thanks and stated, "Thank you for your generous donation of \$1000 for art supplies in our maker space. Your generosity will spark hundreds of children's imaginations and creativity. We hope you will come visit and see the artwork we make in the space. We could not do it without donors like you."

■ New Members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members **James Garrison, William Sydor, Tereza Tomastikova, and Paula Wilder.**



Classes offered Saturday for ages 7 and older —

10:30–11:30 a.m.	Paul Klee Exercise in Line and Color (Michele Walter)
12–1 p.m.	Charcoal Drawing (Jessee Burgardt)
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Create a Collage (Jordan Perfater)
3–4 p.m.	Freeform Weaving on a Frame Loom (Jennifer Newcomb)

Saturday events also include a silent auction, wine garden, musicians, and food for purchase. And come support your fellow BRAA vendors!

■ Kudos

Paula Golden is one of eight members of Textile Artists of Virginia (TAVA) who will be participating in the juried 2020 Taiwan International Quilt Exhibition. The theme is global deforestation and TAVA will display nine art quilts from their "TRANS+" series. Organized by the Taiwan Art Quilt Society, this is an invitation-only exhibit of international fiber artists. The exhibition dates are Aug. 13 to Sept. 6 at the National Living Art Center in Tainan City, Taiwan.

Sally Mook's painting, *The End*, was juried into the National Watercolor Society 2019 International Open Exhibition in San Pedro, Ca., this past fall.



The End by Sally Mook

jumpstart your creative process *continued from page 2*

local galleries or online magazines and blogs. Apply for residencies and grants. Set aside a little time in your schedule to keep up-to-date with opportunities for artists.

8. Exhibit. If juried shows haven't worked out for you, find other ways to show your work. Ask if you can hang your work at the local library, chamber of commerce, cafes, doctors' waiting rooms, and realtors' offices. Create a website for your art, and post links to it everywhere. Start your own blog, Instagram profile, or Facebook page for your art to link to your website. Have openings in your home — display your work and the work of your friends and serve wine and cheese. Print cards of your work to leave in coffee shops and lobbies.

9. Try something new. Buy a new kind of paint or clay or marker. Try a new technique. Use a new lens for your camera. Experiment with a new color palette, a new perspective, or a new font. Step outside of your comfort zone and see what new worlds you discover.

10. Spend time with other artists. One of the best ways to foster creativity is to talk about creativity. It helps to share your joys and disappointments with others who are striving for the same thing that you are. Discussing your creative process can help you unlock inspiration and imagination, overcome stumbling blocks, and solve creative conundrums. If you stay in touch with your artistic community you can learn about opportunities to make, view, and share art.

The above article was written by Claire Adas and reprinted with permission from the website company, Artspan (<https://www.artspan.com>).

■ Now Showing

January 15 – April 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Lisa Accai, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

Alisa Colpitts, Glade Church, Blacksburg

Linda Correll, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Paula Golden, Blacksburg Transit

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

Maxine Lyons, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

David Pearce, The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

Joy Rosenthal, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

Karen Sewell, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Lois Stephens, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Linda Weatherly, Zeppolis, Blacksburg

Norma Woodward, Long and Foster, Blacksburg

“Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

~ Martin Luther King

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

■ **Artist-in-Residence Program**
May 4–25, 2020; July 6–27, 2020; August 16–
September 6, 2020; September 8–28, 2020;
October 5–26, 2020 • Shenandoah
National Park, Luray, Va.

This program offers professional artists an opportunity to live and work in this exceptional environment for three weeks. The works completed during the program will serve, through the creativity of the selected artists, to deepen the understanding and appreciation of Shenandoah National Park. Professional artists including writers, composers, craftsmen, painters, photographers, storytellers, and videographers are encouraged to apply. Entry fee is \$10 and the application deadline is **January 31**. For more information, contact jessica_kusky@nps.gov.

■ **h'ARTS on Main**
February 14 (1–6 p.m.) and February 15
(10 a.m. – 6 p.m.) • Great Road on Main,
Christiansburg

Artists and artisans are invited to participate as vendors or volunteers to assist in the third annual h'ARTS on Main event. The booth fees are \$55. If interested in participating as a vendor or volunteer, please contact Ruth Lefko at rlfko2@gmail.com.

■ **The Artful Lawyer**
318 N. Main St., Blacksburg

Be a part of the 2020 Whet Your Palette exhibits!

Post-It Note Art (a year-long installation)
April 1 – May 27: Fine Art Photography
 Application Deadline: February 28
 Acceptance Notification: March 6
 Reception: April 1, 5:30 p.m.

June 1 – August 12: Season of Women
 Application Deadline: April 17
 Acceptance Notification: April 24
 Reception: June 1, 5:30 p.m.

More exhibits, information and applications are available at <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Goddess Anahatha" (right, acrylic with epoxy finish, 20 x 16") by Alisa Colpitts. This and more of her work can be viewed at Glade Church in Blacksburg through mid-April.

■ **Place — An Invitational Exhibit for the Blacksburg Regional Art Association**

June 5 – August 1 • Perspective Gallery,
Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech

This show features a focus on "place" and artists may interpret this theme through their mediums of choice. BRAA members may submit up to two entries. Art will be selected by an independent juror and artists will be notified by email on or before May 20. Entry deadline will be mid-May (exact date to be determined). Check next month's newsletter for more information!

■ **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.



BRAA Officers

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Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
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Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens (loisstephens56@gmail.com) by the 15th of each month or July 1 for June/July and Dec. 1 for Nov./Dec. issues.