



■ Upcoming

May 22 and June 5

Figure Drawing

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 6–8 p.m.

The model, easels and drawing boards are provided and the cost is \$10. Reserve your spot online by the Friday before each session at <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>.

May 25

Reception — Assemblage

Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech Campus • 5–6:30 p.m..

This exhibition features the photographs of Laurie Bond, Linda Correll, Gilda Machin-Scarpaci, and Elizabeth Sandoz.

May 25, June 8, June 22

Paint Parties

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio • 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Join in the fun — \$30 covers all supplies. The upcoming themes are: Spring Garden on May 25, Tulips on June 8, and Lighthouse on June 22. To register, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>

June 2

Reception — P. Buckley Moss

Moss Arts Center Grand Lobby • 6–8 p.m.

The theme of this display of original landscapes is "Sowing Seeds." Moss will talk about her art at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit runs until Aug. 7.

June 4–5

Sidewalk Art Show

Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke

This annual show attracts thousands to the downtown streets of Roanoke near the Taubman, and has featured original fine art since 1958.

June 10

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

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

Join your fellow members over lunch to discuss the latest art happenings and hear this month's featured speaker, Gerri Young, who will talk about the Kanuga workshops.

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BRAA offers adventures in plein air painting

by Lois Stephens

Many artists enjoy the freedom and exhilaration of painting outdoors. Thanks to arrangements by Ruth Lefko, plein air events were recently held at a lovely private home and garden in Blacksburg (May 7) and at a scenic farm in Fairlawn (May 14).

There's nothing like direct observation — hearing the rushing water you're painting, or feeling the breeze that's rolling across the field, or seeing the range of colors that your camera can't quite capture. Granted, that breeze sometimes turns to high winds and your spot in the shade may change to blazing sun on your head. And then there are the insects. But many agree the experience is invaluable.



Kirk Carter and Terry Ellen find a comfortable spot for painting at the recent gathering in Blacksburg.

Preparing to paint outdoors is sort of like assembling gear for a camping trip. If you've never tried, but would like to join in future outings, here's a checklist of things you may want to bring.

- folding, adjustable easel (or pochade box and tripod)
- folding chair or stool (if you don't prefer standing)
- painting or drawing surfaces (canvas/boards/sketch pad)
- palette
- paints/medium
- water in leakproof container (or for oil painters, turpentine or other solvent in leakproof container)
- brushes/palette knives/pencils/pens
- paper towels
- disposable hand wipes
- latex or nitrile gloves (some pigments are toxic!)
- small plastic bag for trash
- hat or visor
- sunscreen
- bug spray
- water/snacks
- camera
- large box lid or other carrier for transporting wet canvas or paper
- a good sense of humor (a must)



Nancy Trump, surrounded by spring beauty.

photos by Ruth Lefko

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■ President's Report

Response to our upcoming shows has been very good!

Our annual member theme show is already full with a couple of just-in-case stand-bys on the list as well. Over 40 artists registered for the "Portraits— Let's Face It" show which will open July 21 in the VTLS space at 1701 Kraft Drive in the Corporate Research Center. From the samples I have seen from a few artists, I think this will be a really fun exhibition!

Coordinator of the show, **Robi Sallee**, needs a couple more people to help with the intake and hanging of the 50 pieces in the show. It is a big job to hang a show of this size, so let's pull together to assist. Contact Robi at robisallee@hotmail.com.

The reception for the show takes place July 21, 5-7 p.m. Anyone willing to contribute munchies for this fun occasion should also contact Robi.

Awards for the show will be determined by popular vote during the reception. Two lucky winners will take home gift cards to our local art supply store, **Mish Mish**, in downtown Blacksburg.

This year we are pleased to announce that member **Pat Bevan** has volunteered to gather photos of the theme show artworks and create a presentation which will then be showcased on www.blacksburgart.org. Pat has put together very specific instructions for submission of the photos by the show participants. Find them in an email that went out May 10 or at this link under theme show web presentation.

Our next show open to all members is the 1 Chair, 22 Artists show set to open on August 5 at the Alexander Black House in Blacksburg. To refresh your memory, this show grew out of our indoor plein air day in an old building in downtown Christiansburg. Photos were taken that day of a lovely old chair sitting in the light of a sunny window. What would happen if a bunch of us painted the same chair in our own way, I asked myself. Next thing I knew, we had a show scheduled and 22 artists signed up to take part. This will be BRAA's second show inside the wonderful Black House.

Registration is closed for both of these shows. Now we just have to enjoy the fruits of our labors. More details on these shows can be found at that same theme show link above.

Your partner in art,




Two of the 8x8 pieces for the Black House show are being guarded by my rather smug cat, which I sculpted many years ago. On the left is my work, the painting on the right is by Lisabeth Weisband.

Gerri Young

■ Upcoming *continued from page 1*

June 11

Reception, The Jax New Works Exhibit Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd • 5-7 p.m.

This 14th annual event celebrates new works from the local and regional community. For more information, visit jacksonvillecenter.org.

July 16

Art at the Market Draper Rd., Blacksburg • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Art, food and other farmers' market treasures will be featured and celebrated. See Exhibit Opportunities for more information.

July 20-22

Creating Special Effects in Watercolor Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Christiansburg • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This workshop by the well-known watercolorist Robin Poteet is sponsored by the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center. The fee for the three-day workshop is \$150. For more information and registration, call 540-382-5644.

July 21

Reception: Portraits — Let's Face It VTLS, 1701 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg • 5-7 p.m.

This reception for BRAA's annual theme show features 50 works from members. Come and vote for your favorite face!

August 5

Reception: One Chair, 22 Artists Alexander Black House, Draper Rd., Blacksburg • 5-7 p.m.

Take a break from Steppin' Out and visit this exhibit where 22 artists display paintings derived from photos of a wooden chair.

August 5-6

Steppin' Out Downtown Blacksburg • 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

This 35th annual street fair fills the historic central district with artists and crafts people; three stages of live music and entertainment; great ethnic and festival foods; and sidewalk sales at participating downtown merchants.

September 8-12

Backyard Stonecarvers Workshop Newport Recreation Center

Bob Lockhart will lead this workshop that begins with a potluck social on Thursday evening followed by three and a half days of instruction. For more information, contact Linda Correll at Lcorrell83@gmail.com.

"Our goal is not to be superior to others, but to be superior to our former selves."

~ Ernest Hemingway

Learn with Lee

Lee Sandstead is often referred to as "the world's most fired-up art historian." Sandstead was host of the Emmy-nominated Travel Channel show, "Art Attack," and author of the number one international best-seller on iTunes, "Cleaning Mona Lisa."



Lee Sandstead

For those of you listening to WVTF NPR this week, a story ran detailing a show in Baltimore, Md., concerning the key artistic personality to Louis XV, Madame du Pompadour. While she — and the art surrounding her — is worth study, I personally have been in love with the museum housing the show, the Walters Art Museum.

Founded in 1934, the collection harkens back to the American Renaissance, where wealthy industrialists were shipping entire cultures back to the United States to display. Today the internationally renowned collection presents an overview of art from pre-dynastic Egypt to 20th-century Europe, and counts among its many treasures Greek sculpture and Roman sarcophagi; medieval ivories and Old Master paintings; Art Nouveau jewelry and 19th-century European and American masterpieces.

The Walters can be considered a second- or even third-tier museum that dots the

Women art leaders sought for fall series

Donna Thompson, a MFA Arts Leadership candidate at Virginia Tech, is working on a project to fulfill her degree requirements and is seeking involvement by area female artists.

The Women Leading the Arts Lecture Series will take place this fall with the goal of linking women artists and art leaders with female students on campus who are studying the arts with plans to join the field upon graduation.

Thompson is exploring both intimate conversations and masterclasses surrounding a theme of "Celebration." She will focus on allowing space for discussion into the history of women in the arts and the obstacles faced, where we are today in the field, and where we are going in the future.

Thompson will spend most of the summer planning for this event and is interested in talking with anyone who would like to be involved.

For more information, contact Thompson at tdonna27@vt.edu.

American landscape. From the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Va., to the Ringling Museum in Florida to the Clark Museum in Massachusetts, these smaller museums house some of the best travel-worthy artistic treasures to be found. ■

Now Showing

April 15 – July 15
(except where indicated otherwise)

Pat Bevan, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, Amy Hunter Dental Office, Christiansburg (thru June) and Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Jeanette Bowker, Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton, West Va. (thru June 13)

Jennifer Carpenter, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Charlotte Chan, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Marie Collier, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Linda Correll, Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech (until Sept. 6)

Judy Crowgey, New River Bank, Christiansburg (thru June)

Jean Galloway, Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton, West Va. (thru June 13)

Susan Hensley, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Teri Hoover, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Sue Hossack, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Danie Janov, Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton, West Va. (thru June 13)

Ruth Lefko, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton, West Va. (thru June 13)

David Pearce, Christiansburg Library (thru June)

Diane Relf, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Lois Stephens, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Nancy Trump, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru June)

Lisabeth Weisband, Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech (thru June)

Tom Wilkinson, Glencoe Museum, Radford (April thru May)

Gerri Young, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru June)



The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Art at the Market 2016

July 16 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Downtown Blacksburg

Located next to the Blacksburg Farmers' Market, this annual event attracts a lively audience. For more information and online registration, visit the events page at downtownblacksburg.com or email events@downtownblacksburg.com.

Virginia Artists 2016

Juried Exhibition

August 20 – October 9 • The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, Hampton

Virginia artists working in any media, styles, techniques and original subject matter are eligible to enter. Cash awards total \$6750 and the entry fee is \$35. Find more information and enter on-line at The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center link at HamptonArts.net. The entry deadline is **June 5**.

Central Virginia Watercolor Guild

September 2–25 • McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville

Entry is open to all Virginia residents over 18 years of age for this 25th annual exhibition. Awards total \$3000 and the entry deadline is **June 4**. For more information, visit www.central-virginia-watercolor-guild.org/shows.

■ Kudos

Four BRAA members are showing art at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton, West Va., through June 13— **Jeanette Bowker, Jean Galloway, Danie Janov** and **Betty Moore**.

The following BRAA artists have been selected to show in the 2016 Virginia Watercolor Society juried show in Gloucester, Va., opening May 22 and on display until June 25 — **Jeanette Bowker, Charlotte Chan, Sally Mook, Midge Ovenshire, Suzanne Ross, Jane Schafer, Michele Walter, and Gerri Young**.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Lotus" (right, watercolor, 16 x 20") by Charlotte Chan. This and more of her work can be viewed at See Mark Optical in Blacksburg until July 15.



photo courtesy of Ruth Lefko

Ruth Lefko and Matt Gentry pause for a break during a recent plein air painting session in Blacksburg.

Plein air continued from page 1

Just like any endeavor, the more you do it the easier it becomes. Most plein air painters have modified their easels with hooks for trash bags and velcro for brush containers and other conveniences. You'll quickly learn what you need, but ideally you'll be able to carry it all from your vehicle in one trip!

Stay tuned to www.blacksburgart.org for upcoming plein air opportunities! ■



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!