

■ Upcoming

July 6, July 20, and August 3

Paint Parties

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio, 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Join in the fun — \$30 covers all supplies. Classes are taught by Michele Walter and the upcoming themes are: Sunflowers on July 6, Eiffel Tower on July 20, and Flip Flops on August 3. To register, visit <http://artfullawyergallery.org/events>

July 8

*Christine Kosiba Talk and Demonstration
Blacksburg Library, Draper Road • 2 p.m.*

Come meet the artist and view her work. Her hand-sculpted clay frogs have been cast in bronze for installation as part of 16 Frogs, an initiative to generate interest in Blacksburg's history and to spread consciousness of Stroubles Creek, the local water source that flows underneath the town of Blacksburg.

July 8 and August 12

*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 the featured speaker of the month. On July 8, Donald and Joanna Sunshine will be talking about their adventures in art.

July 9–10

*Christine Kosiba Sculpting Workshop
Virginia Tech campus and YMCA Pottery Studio, 1000 N. Main Street, Blacksburg*

Wildlife will be the focus of this workshop that kicks off with a slide show of Kosiba's work on Saturday evening. Hands-on work in clay will be on Sunday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, visit the events page at www.blacksburgart.org.

July 13

*Reception —Whet Your Palette
The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio, 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 5:30–8:30 p.m.*

The theme for this exhibit is Deux-by-Deux, Redux. This show features artists' works from either direct partnerships or shared connections (including several BRAA members).

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A man of many talents

By Gerri Young

Many artworks, at first glance, seem simple and straight forward until you study them closely and start to see many colors, shapes and nuances you did not first recognize. That same thing can sometimes be said of people.

BRAA member Kirk Carter is one of those folks.

Among the art association membership, Carter is mostly known as a photographer. He has held solo exhibitions in the local area, published three photo books, won a respectable number of awards and often teaches photography workshops for all skill levels.

He was one of the presenters in the 2015 photography forum organized by BRAA at the Moss Arts Center in Blacksburg.

The plein air artists in our group know him as a regular attendee under the skies with his watercolors.

Those who spend time with Carter soon come to know behind his warm and somewhat quiet demeanor is a man of humor and seemingly endless talents.

Carter was born in Presque Isle, Maine, where he stayed until he went to New York University at the age of 17 to get his bachelor of fine arts in film production. That was the first of many moves, which paved the way to Blacksburg in 1999.

One of his New York productions was a documentary about Rafael (Ray) Suarez, currently host of the international news and analysis public radio program, America Abroad. From New York he moved to New Hampshire to a local cable station and did documentaries, magazine shows and commercials.

Orlando, Fla., was his next stop at another cable station producing shows on subjects such as blue grass and golf. He received the Award for Cable

Excellence, National Academy of Cable Programming, 1991, for his television production of "Orlando Theatre Project: Rapunzel."

While in Orlando,

*continued on
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Kirk Carter with his three photography books — *Curious Surfaces*, *Underfoot Abstracts*, and *Signs of Dysfunction*.

■ **Upcoming** *continued from page 1*

July 14

Artist's Talk featuring Teri Hoover

Blacksburg Library, Draper Road • 6:30 p.m.

Photographer and fiber artist Teri Hoover will be talking about her work. Her fabric bowls are on display at the library through August.

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. Come have breakfast and join the fun!

July 17 and July 31

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>.

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!

July 25

Art as a Business—Where to Begin

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio, 318 N. Main Street, Blacksburg • 12–1 p.m.

If your answer to the question "What do you do for a living?" is "I'm an artist," then are you set up as a business, or are you simply an individual who creates under his or her own name? Have you considered why the former might be better than the latter? This discussion will help you begin the process of examining how to build your art into a business. Bring a bagged lunch; coffee and desserts will be provided. Seating is limited—reserve your spot by emailing diana@creekmorelaw.com.

August 5

Reception: One Chair, 22 Artists

Alexander Black House, Draper Rd., Blacksburg • 5–7 p.m.

■ **President's Report**

As usual in Blacksburg, the summer event frenzy is kicking up and the calendar is crowded with fun things to do. BRAA is very much a part of that frenzy.

July 9–10 offers Christine Kosiba's Sculpting Wildlife workshop, which filled to capacity very quickly.

July 18 is the delivery date for our annual theme show and from what I see so far, it will be fun and fascinating. Over 50 pieces will grace the walls and some of those pieces will be featured on our web before and after the show, which opens Thursday, **July 21**, from 5-7 p.m. at the VTLS building at 1701 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg. Just to get you thinking about it, try to figure out who modeled for this self-portrait on the right. **Robi Sallee** and other members will have their work cut out for them in the hanging of this show.



August 2 is the delivery date for the 1 Chair, 22 Artists show at The Alexander Black House in Blacksburg. I am excited to see what the registered artists come up with to create our second show in this lovely venue. More info will be going out to those artists in a couple of weeks to prepare them for the event.

Plein air events are on the calendar again. A half dozen painters had a great time at **Ruth Lefko's** house recently. Her country location provided us with so many choices it was hard to decide where to sit to paint. A highlight of the visit was to see the wonderful new studio Ruth now has at her home and, more importantly, how well she is getting along following hip replacement surgery. Ruth has scheduled **August 14** in the Hahn Garden as part of Simply Elemental, the outdoor installation show.

Meanwhile, **Matt Gentry** and his wife will be property-sitting the Woods Hole Hostel in Giles County **July 5–11** and have invited fellow artists to come paint. The log-cabin hostel is a half mile from the Appalachian Trail and features lovely mountain scenes, a rolling stream, and farm animals (www.woodsholehostel.com). If interested, email him at Matt.Gentry@roanoke.com or call 540-320-5915.

More details for all these events are, or will soon be, on our calendar of events page at www.blacksburgart.org.

Many of our members will be participating in The Artful Lawyer Deux-by-Deux, Redux exhibition at the Creekmore Law Firm on **July 13**, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Look for works by **Jeanette** and **Larsen Bowker**, **Riley** and **Charlotte Chan**, **Nancy** and **Dale Norton**, **Donald** and **Joanna Sunshine**, **Michele Walter** and her mother **Suzanne Ross**, **Leslie Roberts Gregg** and niece **Lauren Gregg**, and **Robi Sallee** and her daughters, **Grace** and **Anna**.

So many things to do, never enough time to do them all!

Your partner in art,

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 Stonemasons 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.

Many talents *continued from page 1*

Carter decided engineers made more money than local cable TV producers and headed to the University of Central Florida (UCF), for a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and became a certified engineer. "While at the university," said Carter, "I was on the Electric Knight team and built a dashboard system for our electric car conversion. We won: Best Overall and Best Endurance, Clean Air Grand Prix, Clean Air Vehicle Assn., 1994.



Teri Hoover Photography

Cartoon assemblages are just one area of Carter's expansive art adventures.

Additionally, at UCF he designed and built a circuit to stabilize an industrial laser.

From there Carter entered the cellular world as a radio frequency engineer with AT&T during the transition from analog to digital. He invented a new way to create base stations for AT&T and they took out a patent on it. Another project in Florida started him down the path to Blacksburg. "It was my new formula," commented Carter, "for radio wave propagation from leaky coax that prompted the paper for the Virginia Tech Mobile and Portable Radio Research Group's Symposium on Wireless and Personal Communications in 1998. I presented the paper to wireless researchers from everywhere."

That event was crucial in his path to Blacksburg. Next thing he knew he was offered a job with a Blacksburg company in 1999, took it and was asked to build the company a website.

Incredibly, Carter had not yet acquired that skill, so he taught himself. "Since 2000, I have been self employed as a web designer working out of my home," he said with a sort of "why not?" look on his face. Always open to learning new things, Carter is currently learning watercolor and inventing tabletop games.

He lives in Christiansburg with three cats and his wife, Terry Ellen, who is the office manager at the Habitat for Humanity Restore not far from their home. That home is a perfect reflection of his many skills.

Photography from his book and exhibition entitled "Underfoot Abstracts" graces several of the walls. A glass case holds three dimensional cartoon assemblages complete with the familiar word balloons. Cartoons? Yes. In 2011, Carter attended a workshop in Vermont at the Center for Cartoon Studies.

One room is reserved for creating art; another, filled with large computer monitors, is for all his web design.

Carter is a regular at BRAA luncheons and plein air events where he paints in watercolor. "When I found out about BRAA, I decided to give it a try," said Carter. "I went to my first monthly luncheon, listened to everyone tell about their art endeavors and immediately knew I had found MY people!"

Find out more about Carter, where to buy his books, see his photography and comics, or learn something about photography at kirkcarter.com. ■

■ Now Showing

July 15 – October 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Lisa Acciai, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Patricia Bolton, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru September)

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

Judy Crowgey, Christiansburg Library (thru September)

Susan Hensley, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Route 8 Donuts, Christiansburg (thru September)

Rita Montross, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Betty Moore, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Nancy Norton, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

David Pearce, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg; and New River Bank, Christiansburg (thru September)

Ann Reese, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Blacksburg (thru July)

Diane Relf, Community Arts Information Office (CAIO), Blacksburg (thru July)

Robi Sallee, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Karen Sewell, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Jane Thorp, New River Bank, Christiansburg (thru September)

Michele Walter, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Norma Woodward, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Gerri Young, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

"And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

~ Anaïs Nin

■ Exhibit Opportunities

YMCA Crafts Fair

November 11-13 • Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech

This annual event features more than 80 booths of juried artists and crafts people from across eight states. Application deadline is **July 11**. For more information, visit <http://vtymca.org/craftfair/> or contact Jess Kiefer at 540-961-9622 or events@vtymca.org with any questions.

Art at the Mill

Oct. 1-16 • Berryville, Va.

The Clarke County Historical Association invites artists working in a variety of media to submit applications for their juried Fall 2016 show. This exhibition offers emerging and established artists the opportunity to showcase their talents and latest works in this beautiful, historic mill. Entry deadline is **July 20**. Visit <https://artatthemill.artcall.org/> for more information.

BRAA Community Galleries

2017 • Various Locations

BRAA members who have been approved as exhibiting artists are invited to apply to display their works in community galleries throughout 2017. Application deadline is **August 20**. For more information and the request form, visit the Galleries page at www.blacksburgart.org.

XYZ Gallery

Downtown Blacksburg

Artists working in any medium who are interested in showing their work may contact Victoria Javier at vicdj93@vt.edu or 304-320-9982.

Tent for sale, anyone?

A local jeweler would like to purchase a used, professional tent in good condition.

If you are downsizing and have a tent to offer, contact Charity Hall at charityhall@yahoo.com.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Out of This World" (right, digital photography, 8.5 x 11") by Susan Hensley. This and more of her work can be viewed at Pointe West Management in Blacksburg from July 15 – October 15.

Members needed for editorial board

Do you like to write about art and artists? Could you spare a couple hours a month?

BRAA is looking for members to serve on a newly-formed newsletter editorial board. The commitment would involve four meetings a year for newsletter planning and writing a few feature stories or other articles each year.

If you are interested in being a part of this team, contact Lois Stephens at stephens1@pemt.net.

Donations requested for October 1 fundraising event

The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation is sponsoring the fourth annual Alexander Black Tie Gala, "Relives the Roaring 20s" on October 1, 2016. The event will be held at the historic Alexander Black House and features a champagne reception, live and silent auctions, an elegant dinner and live music — all in an authentic 1920s surroundings.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to complete Phase II of the restoration of the Alexander Black House, which will make the entire facility accessible to our community.

If you are interested in providing art for the silent auction (or other donation), contact Rhonda Morgan at rmorgan@blacksburghistory.org.



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/>



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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)

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