

■ Upcoming

June 22

Plein Air Painting

10 a.m. • 1565 Whitman Lane, Christiansburg

Come paint at this lovely private country home with views, restroom, easy parking. Email braaarts@gmail.com to sign up.

June 28

Artists' Play Date

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Newport Recreation Center

Learn how to turn ordinary deli wrap paper into beautiful collage paper of your own design. Cost is \$5. Email braaarts@gmail.com to sign up and access the supply list under the events tab.

July 12

Plein Air Painting

10 a.m. • 1509 Catawba Road, Blacksburg

Another opportunity to paint a lovely private country home with views. Email braaarts@gmail.com to sign up.

July 17

BRAA Annual Theme Exhibition Reception

5–7 p.m. • VTLS, Inc., 1701 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg

Come to the opening reception and see how fellow artists have interpreted this year's theme of "Family."

August 9–10

Stephen Doherty Plein Air Workshop

The Studio School, Inc., Roanoke

Steve Doherty, artist and editor-in-chief of *Plein Air* magazine, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Roanoke. The workshop is \$200 and includes lecture and demonstrations. For more information, visit www.thestudioschool.biz.

August 23

Heritage Day

Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg

Plein air painters are invited to set up to record the day and be part of the fun. Lots of people, old cars, animals, quilts, the garden, musicians and many other things to paint! Contact Sue Farrar for more information at 540-382-5644.

New exhibiting artist approval guidelines on the way

The BRAA board of directors has been working for a couple of months to revise the previous exhibiting artist approval guidelines. The June 2014 version will be released this month.

"We have taken away the fee to go through this process," stated Gerri Young, BRAA president. "We also took a close look at the old process and decided it was time to bring it into the digital age by refining the requirements and allowing electronic submissions to include links to existing online offerings of artist works."

"We encourage those applying for exhibiting artist status to include links to existing webpages, blogs or albums on Flickr, Pinterest or Picasa," she stated. "This allows the jury to look not only at the selected pieces you submit with your application, but also allows them to look at a larger body of your work."

In view of the many new members now in BRAA, those members are encouraged to take part in the exhibiting artist program.

Eleven local businesses allow BRAA artists to exhibit in their facilities. Ten of those facilities pay BRAA for scheduling and hanging of artwork on a (mostly) quarterly basis.

"This is a professional business arrangement between BRAA and the companies such as Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Real Life Dental and the new Blue Ridge Cancer Care," stated Young. "We strive to present interesting and professionally presented exhibitions in all our community galleries, so we have specific guidelines for our approved artists to follow."

The eleventh gallery is the Community Arts Information Office (CAIO) on College Avenue. BRAA pays this venue for the use of its space and receives eight months of gallery time in return, along with use of storage space, conference room space, and placement of all BRAA marketing materials. This includes the continuous run video monitor in the front window and a marketing slide on the screen of The Lyric Theater just before the start of movies.

BRAA's website, www.blacksburgart.org, features a gallery tab where all information regarding the community gallery program can be found. ■



Teri Hoover

Martha Dillard talks about her work and experiences as an artist during the art spot at the May BRAA luncheon. The next luncheon will be held at Famous Anthony's on July 11.

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Artists' Walk

June 21 • Newport Recreation Center

Artists are invited to set up on the covered breezeway during the Newport Treasures Flea Market from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Space is \$15 and if you have prints or cards that sell for less than \$50, they are hot items! All proceeds from the flea markets are going to make improvements to the building and particularly the artists' studios. Contact Ava Howard at newporttreasures@gmail.com.

BRAA Annual Theme Exhibit

July 17 – October 13 • VTLS, Inc.

The focus of this year's show is "family." Artists are invited to create works based on their own interpretations of this theme in any 2 or 3D medium. Entry deadline is **July 1**. For more information, visit the events tab at www.blacksburgart.org.

Art at the Market

July 19 • 9 am – 2 pm • Blacksburg

Come celebrate Blacksburg's vibrant arts community by participating in downtown Blacksburg's Art at the Market (Farmer's Market, that is). The booth application fee is \$35 and the deadline is **July 1**. For more information, visit the events tab (see art and more) at www.downtownblacksburg.com/. See page 4 for BRAA involvement.

■ Other Opportunities

Figure Drawing

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio at 106 Faculty Street, offers live model drawing opportunities. Upcoming Sunday sessions are **June 22** and **July 20**, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per session and easels and drawing boards are provided.

Reserve your spot by emailing diana@creekmorelaw.com by the Thursday before each session. Space is limited to seven participants.

BRAA T-Shirt Orders Due June 30

Go to www.blacksburgart.org for full information on how to have your own BRAA T-shirt. The shirt shown is a typical men's style in large. Other styles available.



Lynchburg art trip loads of fun

By Gerri Young

The June 7 trip to Lynchburg was small, but such fun!

Nancy Norton, Mina Hejazi, Charlotte Chan and I were joined by Jane Schafer from Smith Mountain Lake, as we toured the Academy of Fine Arts on Main Street to see the **35th Juried Exhibition of the Virginia Watercolor Society**. Jane is one of the nice folks Nancy and I met on our art trip to France in May.

This show included works by familiar local artists like Vera Dickerson, Robin Poteet, Sidra Kaluzka, David Eakin, and many more. It was an outstanding selection of work and we took our time examining nearly every piece, talking and sharing our thoughts on how they were done.

All that chatter attracted the attention of two other visitors to the academy. Just about the time I thought we were making too much noise for the other people in the room, they walked up to us and said they couldn't help but hear our comments and that they were very good ones. "I feel like I should know who some of you are," said the lady who turned out to be the well-known artist and teacher Carol Barnes. At her elbow was another well-known artist, Jim Pittman. These two talented people share their time between Colorado and Virginia, creating wonderful abstracts along the way. They are both currently featured artists in the Signature 9 Gallery in Roanoke through June 28.

A great conversation ensued with them and ended in the sharing of brochures regarding Barnes' teaching and the business card for BRAA.

After getting our fill of art, the gallery volunteer for the day pointed us to the Riverviews Art Space and the Art Box art supply store as other places we should see before leaving town.

After a walk down the very nice Main Street for a fun lunch at The Market, we headed to Riverviews for another exhibition in this renovated, very old brick building. It was located very close to the river and the railroad tracks in an area undergoing a total revitalization of the former industrial location. Across the cobblestone street was a place called Amazement Square, a fun place for families with children. All in all, we really enjoyed downtown Lynchburg with its variety of interesting shops and restaurants housed in very old, but well kept buildings.



Jane Schafer

Our last stop was the Art Box where I quickly went from being the one person not buying anything to the one that spent the most when I discovered an assortment of stencils to be used in the upcoming Play Date I am leading!

But that's another story.

One of Lynchburg's art attractions is a collection of decorated pianos located around the downtown area. The open keyboards invite musical pedestrians to sit and play. Various artists and craftsmen decorated the pianos, which sit in protected areas. Taking a moment to enjoy this colorful instrument are (standing) Nancy Norton, and (l-r seated) Charlotte Chan, Mina Hejazi and Gerri Young.

Workshops set for this fall

BRAA workshop coordinator, Charlotte Chan, has set two excellent workshops for this fall, taught by talented BRAA members Danie Janov and Jennifer Carpenter. Both workshops will be held in the Newport Recreation Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Both workshops will need a minimum of 10 students.

Full details and registration will be out soon.

September 12–14 — BRAA member Danie Janov will lead the workshop, "From Realism to Abstract." Describing the workshop, Janov said, "The transition from realism to abstraction is one which intrigues and befuddles viewers and artists alike. This workshop explores concepts rather than techniques. There will be a series of specific problems leading the artist from his/her realistic artwork to a variety of approaches for discovering the inherent abstract imagery within their work. Each artist will be encouraged to work in his/her personal style. Plan to use materials with which you typically work."



Gerri Young

Janov has many years of teaching experience at the college/university level. She presents well-organized approaches to design development, which creates opportunity for successful solutions as each artist takes risks in the adventurous pursuit of abstraction.



Teri Hoover

October 17–19 — BRAA member Jennifer Carpenter is back by popular demand, teaching Colored Pencil Part II. Anyone may sign up for this class, which will be of particular benefit to those who took her first class earlier this year.

Describing this autumn class, Carpenter said, "I plan to focus on a small autumn-themed project, start to finish, step by step, utilizing the archival frameless mounting process as the grand finale, which I think may be applicable to watercolor and other mediums on paper. That means we'd need to finish

the piece by mid-afternoon on the second day to begin the sealing, mounting, and varnishing. We'd all draw the same image and students would follow me step by step from the mirror.

"Students will be able to begin an independent piece of their choosing while everyone goes willy-nilly with the varied stages of hurry-up-and-wait that goes with the mounting and finishing process, part of which needs to sit overnight at the end of day 2. Anyone who owns an Icarus board may bring it and their Neo-colors to use at their own pace, if they wish."

Carpenter is an award-winning artist and teacher gifted in both venues. Her classes are fun, busy and well planned.

Mark your calendar for these exciting workshops and watch for further information.

Easy BRAA Fundraisers

Kroger Cares Cards — These cards are available for \$5 from Gerri Young. BRAA already has over \$3000 to our credit from the folks who have purchased cards so far. Once that total reaches \$5000, Kroger will send a check for 5% of that amount to BRAA. This easy-to-use card costs you nothing (you get your \$5 back the first time you use it) but the potential to help BRAA is great.

AmazonSmile — BRAA is registered under the AmazonSmile program in which .5% of the cost of your order is returned to BRAA. Go to <http://www.amazon.com> and select our organization first, then go to this site each time you buy from Amazon. All you avid readers, this is so easy!

Now Showing

April 15 – July 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Jordi Calvera and Darcy Meeker, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Jennifer Carpenter, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Riley Chan, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Carole Davis, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Susan Hensley, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke

Teri Hoover, Community Arts Information Office (CAIO), Blacksburg (July)

Ruth Lefko, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (beginning May 1 through June)

Maxine Lyons, Real Life Dental Care, Blacksburg

Darcy Meeker, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Dale and Nancy Norton, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (mid-May to mid-Nov.)

Lois Stephens, Virginia Tech Women's Center, Blacksburg

Lisabeth Weisband, ICTAS, Virginia Tech Campus (mid-May to mid-Nov.)

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

~ Scott Adams

■ President's Report

It is hard to believe we are at the halfway point of 2014 already! As usual, the New River Valley is full of exciting events forcing us to pick and choose even though we would like to do them all.

BRAA continues to thrive with its renewed energy and has a variety of its own events on the calendar. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter or at www.blacksburgart.org.

Plein air — An enormous thank you to **Ruth Lefko** and **Judy Crowgey** for taking over the planning of the plein air events for this year. We will be going to Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg, a country house in Christiansburg, a beautiful garden in Blacksburg, and Heritage Day at the Montgomery Museum in Christiansburg.

Play dates — New for this year are fun and informal Play Dates. These inexpensive events (\$5-10) will all be held at the Newport Recreation Center and be open to members and friends. We are looking for volunteers to lead play dates in any subject. First up will be yours truly doing a lesson in turning ordinary deli wrap paper into beautiful papers you can use in collage projects on **June 28**.

Theme show — The annual BRAA theme show at VTLS is right around the corner. **July 1** is the entry deadline, \$5 each for up to two pieces. The theme is FAMILY and we consider that a wide-open subject! More than one duck, horse, cat, person, boat, flower — whatever you consider a family can qualify for the show. This is such an easy event to participate in! You don't even have to submit a photo of your work. See details on our website and get your entry form in soon so the coordinator, **Jeanette Bowker**, can stop worrying about how to fill the walls of this lovely gallery space.

Art at the Market — BRAA has already paid for a space at this fun, annual event in Blacksburg, **July 19**. We are looking for two artists willing to fill the tent with their work. Other BRAA volunteers will build and break down the tent and help man it for the day while marketing our organization. BRAA Tshirts should be ready before then so we will have great visibility here for the first time in several years. Interested artists should contact me at younggerri@gmail.com.

Workshops — Further down the calendar are workshops taught by our members **Danie Janov** and **Jennifer Carpenter** in September and October, respectively. See full information on page 3.

I can report that the trip to Lynchburg was such fun! The group was small, but enthusiastic and included an artist from Smith Mountain Lake. The Virginia Watercolor Society 35th Juried Exhibition was absolutely wonderful. See full story on page 2.

Here's to a fun and productive summer for us all.

Your partner in art,



BRAA Officers

- Gerri Young**, president
- Charlotte Chan**, co-vice president
- Teri Hoover**, co-vice president
- Jeanette Bowker**, treasurer
- Fred Jones**, 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!

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "October Rain" (left, mixed watermedia, 20 x 13") by Betty Moore. This and more of her work can be viewed at Brown Insurance in Blacksburg through July 15.