

October 2013

*meet the artist*

## Lisabeth Weisband's art reflects her life and travels

By Gerri Young

Almost everyone finds wine and chateaux in France. Lisabeth Weisband found art.

"Quite along in years," said Weisband, "I found myself in France when my husband, Edward, was on a sabbatical leave from Binghamton University in 1980. In France, he was busy but I was not, so I started drawing all the things around me.

"I really hadn't done any art before, but thought I didn't do badly and I found I enjoyed it. Everything in the landscapes around me was subject to being drawn.

"When we returned to Binghamton (New York), I quickly enrolled in the university for the first of many evening art courses," Weisband said. "Since that time, it has been a continuous journey in painting, with me taking every course I could."

In 1990, her husband's career brought them from New York to Blacksburg where he continues his professorship in political science from the Edward S. Diggs Endowed Chair at Virginia Tech. His summer teaching often took them to Alexandria, Va., where

Lisabeth was able to exhibit in the well-known Torpedo Factory, an enclave of artists studios.

Soon after arriving in Blacksburg, Weisband joined the Blacksburg Regional Art Association and, all these years later, continues to take courses. She has studied with skilled artists both at home and abroad. Most recently, she studied watercolor with Joe Miller, owner of Cheap Joe's Art Supply in Boone, N.C., in a class sponsored by The Studio School in Roanoke where she often studies.

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Photo: Riley Chan

An entire room in her home is devoted to Lisabeth Weisband's artistic efforts. The studio walls are nearly covered with her extensive inventory of paintings.

### ■ Upcoming

#### October 16

*Whet Your Palette Reception:*

*A World of Color*

*The Artful Lawyer Gallery, Blacksburg*

*5:30–8:30 p.m.*

Featuring artists Kanta Bosniak, Denisse Bento, Franchell Mack Brown, Ruth Cline, The Bead Baker, Teri Hoover, Becca Imbur, Lisa Plummer, Starroot, and Wendy Wrenn.

#### October 18

*Artist Talk: Jennifer Steinkamp*

*"From Computer Code to Virtual Realities"*

*Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech, 4 p.m.*

Artist Jennifer Steinkamp, creator of *Madame Curie*, 2011, will speak about the evolution, process, and breadth of her work. An exhibit of the artist's work opens on Mon., Oct. 28, in the Ruth C. Horton Gallery. For more information and a complete list of events and performances at the Center for the Arts, visit <https://www.artscenter.vt.edu>.

#### October 18

*New River Art Reception*

*Perspective Gallery, Squires Student*

*Center, Virginia Tech Campus, 5–9 p.m.*

Enjoy the winning entries and awards ceremony for this biennial juried show.

#### October 18–27

*Mark Twain's Diaries of Adam and Eve*

*Friday and Saturday Nights at 7 p.m. and*

*Sundays at 3 p.m., Pearisburg Community Center*

The Giles Little Theater and Giles Arts Council present a one-act comedy, *Mark Twain's Diaries of Adam and Eve*. Tickets are \$4. For more information, call 540-358-0458 or visit [www.gileslittletheater.com](http://www.gileslittletheater.com).

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for an important  
message from our president

**Weisband** *continued from page 1*

A visit to the Weisband home in Blacksburg is synonymous with a visit to the “Lisabeth Weisband Gallery.” The walls of nearly every room are adorned with her artwork ranging from large abstracts or imaginary places to small renderings of buildings and people.



Photo: Riley Chan

*Lisabeth and Edward Weisband in her art-filled studio. The canvas scroll featuring numerous art transfers is called Zarzuela (mix), is six feet long and was exhibited in the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, Va.*

Her subjects are often women. “The role women have played in the arts has fascinated me for years,” commented Weisband. “Telling their stories through different painting media is where I like to begin the process. I have been influenced by neo-impressionist and expressionist painters.”

Weisband’s study brought out her natural talent and imagination and resulted in exhibitions in Virginia, Washington, D.C., France, Denmark and Switzerland. Awards were received along the way.

In 1993, she was one of 40 American artists invited to participate in an exhibition entitled “USA on Paper” at the Copenhagen City Gallery in Denmark. Out of this group, one of her pieces went on to be shown in the offices of the Fulbright Commission in Copenhagen.

Beginning her painting career with oil paint, Weisband developed adverse reactions to the

chemicals in that medium and had to switch to acrylics and watercolor. “Oil is still my preferred medium,” said Weisband.

Much of Weisband’s work, regardless of the medium, is a blend of realism and abstract. A good example of that hangs above the couch in her studio. Originally painted as an abstract acrylic, she wasn’t satisfied with the untitled piece until she turned it upside down and added two women. To this day, her original signature appears in the top left, still upside down.

Calling her husband to lend a hand, she directs him to a box beneath a desk in her studio. From the treasures stored there, come a half dozen canvas scrolls about eight feet long. It is her “Six Enemies of Egypt” series originally inspired by marble statues she saw in the Cairo, Egypt, museum and a teacher of Egyptian history at Binghamton University. Her scrolls were exhibited in a show called “Artomatic,” a month-long art festival in Washington, D.C., featuring 1,000 artists. Weisband’s series deserves another viewing in a space more complementary to its size than the floor of her studio.

Well travelled, Weisband and her husband spend several months a year in Europe where they own a home in France. She accompanies him on his travels connected with the university as well. Those travels often influence what she does with her paintings.

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**Exhibit Opportunities**

**Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Fall Art Show**  
**November – December**

Roanoke

The goal for the Creativity in Health-care Education Program is to surround students, faculty, and staff with the arts to expand their social, cultural, and humanistic awareness. Deadline for entry is Oct. 21. For more information, email [jbpape@carilionclinic.org](mailto:jbpape@carilionclinic.org).

**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 [charlotteychan@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteychan@gmail.com) by Nov. 1.

**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, 2014 and will remain until early September. For more information on entry specifications, email Paula Golden at [paulacgolden@comcast.net](mailto:paulacgolden@comcast.net).

**Other Opportunities**

**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowships**

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond is now accepting applications for its 2014-15 Visual Arts Fellowships: \$8000, professional artists; \$6000 graduate students; and \$4000 undergraduates. The application deadline is Nov. 8. Application and eligibility guidelines at <http://www.vmfamuseum/fellowships>.

**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/>.



## Former Poet Laureate of Virginia to speak in Blacksburg

By Gerri Young

On Sunday, Nov. 17, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, 2006-2008 Poet Laureate of Virginia, will speak at the Blacksburg Library beginning at 2:30.

Foronda's visit is sponsored by the BRAA and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. The public is invited to attend free of charge. Following Foronda's presentation, the annual membership meeting with election of 2014 officers will take place. Non-members are free to leave at that time, but are welcome to stay if they wish to do so.

Foronda will have copies of several of her (six published) books for sale after the presentation, including her most recent, "The Embrace: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo." Her presentation will center around this book featuring poems by these two renowned Mexican artists. It will explore the question "what occurs when the poet enters the mind of an artist or an engaging figure in a painting and speaks in his or her voice?" This art-inspired poetry, known as ekphrastic, relies on visual imagery to vividly depict a work of art.

Foronda's presentation will include photographs of Rivera and Kahlo's paintings, homes and studios in order to bring to life the terrain in which these increasingly popular artists lived and created.

In addition to being a poet in her own right, Foronda is also an accomplished artist. "As an artist," Foronda explains, "I delight in experimentation. Currently, I am working as an abstract colorist painter ... greatly influenced by the non-representational art of Jackson Pollack."

See more information about Foronda at [www.carolyforonda.com](http://www.carolyforonda.com).



Kreiter-Foronda

Photo: Janis Harless

## 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, Johanna Jones, Tribute to Mary Montgomery,** VTLS

**Charlotte Chan**, Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation (through Oct.)

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

**Susan Hensley**, StellarOne, Christiansburg

**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

**Nancy Norton**, Community Arts Information Office (through Oct.)

**David Pearce**, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

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

## Kudos

Congratulations to the following BRAA members whose works were accepted in the New River Art biennial juried show: **Jeanette Bowker, Jennifer Carpenter, Jennifer Lovejoy, Darcy Meeker, Larry Mitchell,** and **Leslie Roberts-Gregg.**

## Message from President Robi Sallee

The BRAA is in the process of planning our annual member meeting and general election and we are in need of a few volunteers. Have you ever wanted to make a change, add an activity, plan an exciting show or just be in charge? Have you always wanted to be called Madame (or Mister) President? Maybe you just want to understand how our organization works. This is your chance!

Your association has made some wonderful advances and fun additions over the last two years. Soon Virginia Tech's new Center for the Arts will provide a great opportunity to expand and evolve even more. But we need some members to contribute a little more of their time and energy. We need candidates for President, Vice President and Secretary. Those currently serving in these positions have been officers for quite some time and will be stepping down at the end of this year. **Without new volunteers, the BRAA is in danger of extinction!** Ack!

Please consider volunteering. None of us wants to see our organization disappear after all the time and effort so many artists have contributed to make the BRAA a respected and vital part of the regional art community.

To find out ways that you can help us stay afloat, contact Robi Sallee ([robisallee@hotmail.com](mailto:robisallee@hotmail.com)), Nancy Norton ([nancypnorton@comcast.net](mailto:nancypnorton@comcast.net)), Danie Janov ([drdrjanov@gmail.com](mailto:drdrjanov@gmail.com)), or Gerri Young ([younggerri@gmail.com](mailto:younggerri@gmail.com)).

Read our BRAA bylaws at  
[http://media.wix.com/ugd//48a43d\\_4fb71d6f38c7d09a7727717412fa5494.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd//48a43d_4fb71d6f38c7d09a7727717412fa5494.pdf)

*"creativity  
takes courage."*

~ Henri Matisse



Photo: Lois Stephens

Artist Nancy Trump captures the beauty of the Make-A-Diff Ranch in Newport at a plein air session on September 15. Plein air events are announced through the BRAA Facebook page, on the webpage and through direct email to members. Those interested in notification of plein air painting or drawing should email [braaarts@gmail.com](mailto:braaarts@gmail.com).



## 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 @BlackburgArt1

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

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

## Figure Drawing Schedule

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio located at 106 Faculty Street announces the following drawing opportunities. All sessions are held on Sundays from 6–8 p.m.—**Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 8,** and **Dec. 22.** Cost is \$10 per session. Reserve your spot by emailing [diana@creekmorelaw.com](mailto:diana@creekmorelaw.com) by the Thursday before each session.

## Weisband continued from page 2

“Many sights and objects inspire me,” said Weisband. “Aged craggy lines etched into pigeon towers, internal spaces of volcanic ash pressed into mountains of limestone, the reddish brown clay formations in the foothills of the Alleghenies, the greenish blue hues of the Blue Ridge of Virginia, all serve as vehicles for my painting.”

Weisband’s explorations are nowhere near over. Obviously devoted to his talented wife, her husband has gathered information about a local photographer whom he hopes will give some lessons regarding how best to photograph her work. “I really need to know more about photographing my work and processing the files to get a really good photo to use when entering art shows.”

Always learning something new, it is easy to believe she will conquer her photography needs and be ready to show off her incredible work on her new iPad very soon. ■

## ■ Upcoming continued from page 1

### November 1

**Tuesday Night Painters’ Reception**  
 VTLS, 1701 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg,  
 5–6:30 p.m.

BRAA’s Tuesday night painters are dedicating this show to the memory of their painting partner and friend, Mary Montgomery.

### November 7

**Fred Jones Art Reception**  
 Glencoe Museum, Radford  
 6–8 p.m.

Come visit the Glencoe and celebrate a solo show of works by Fred Jones.

### November 8

**BRAA Monthly Lunch, Art Spot and Board Meeting**  
 Famous Anthony’s, Blacksburg, 11:30 a.m.  
 Join your fellow members for food and fun art talks.

### November 17

**BRAA Annual Meeting Featuring Carolyn Foronda**  
 Blacksburg Library, 2:30 p.m.

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

**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 “Nature’s Palette” (above, watercolor and wax resist, 15 x 15”) by Betty Moore. This and more of her work can be viewed in the Breezeway Gallery at the Jacksonville Center for the Arts through the beginning of December.