

## ■ Art Calendar

### December 4

#### Art Talk

*Hahn Pavilion, Virginia Tech campus • Noon*

Lois Stephens will be discussing her exhibit, *Outside Inspirations*, at the Hahn Garden Pavilion. Works will be on display through December.

### December 4

#### Art Parties

*The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St., Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.*

Andy Warhol will be this month's style theme. Cost is \$30 including supplies. Register at <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

### December 6

#### Winter Lights Festival

*Downtown Blacksburg • 5–8 p.m.*

Art, music, food and fun is the order of the evening. Don't miss the tuba concert, tree lighting and other festivities at this annual event. And remember to stop by the BRAA space at the Artful Lawyer at 318 N. Main!

### December 7–8

#### Holiday Open House

*408 8th St., Radford • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

Internationally acclaimed artist Z.L. Feng along with his wife, Mei Shu, headline this annual holiday open house. The event is hosted by Radford photographer Susan V. Lockwood. Featured works by Lockwood include framed and unframed images and signed note cards. For more information, contact Lockwood at 540-230-5986.

### December 13 and January 10

#### BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

*Bull and Bones, First and Main, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

Join your fellow members for lunch, hear the featured speaker's Art Spot, and share news about the latest art happenings. At the December luncheon, artists are encouraged to share their latest works and projects. In January, Rafael Bedia will be discussing a recent workshop he attended.

### December 13

#### Museum Market on Main

*100 W. Main St., Christiansburg • 4–8 p.m.*

*continued on page 2*

## Annual meeting — looking back and moving forward

BRAA members, spouses, and curious visitors were on hand for the November 3 annual meeting. The Sunday afternoon gathering was held at Virginia Tech's Hahn Garden Pavilion and was a time for reflecting on the past year, learning about the history of portraiture in America, and forging ahead despite a leadership vacancy.

This year's featured speaker was art and design educator **Margaret Hancock**, who presented *Face Value: Portraiture in American Art*. Hancock showed an array of slides of works found in significant portrait collections across America, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Art, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Art. Styles from folk to classical and from realism to impressionism were viewed. Throughout, Hancock encouraged the audience to study elements employed by the artists, such as color and other symbolism, as a way to discover more about the subjects.

The speaker's program was organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and was supported in part by the Paul Mellon Endowment and the Jean Stafford Camp Memorial Fund. The BRAA has access to VMFA art educators through our long-standing affiliated partnership with the museum.

*continued on page 2*



*Margaret Hancock was the guest speaker at the Nov. 3 annual meeting.*

Rafael Bedia

## Mural depicts a growing "Family of Pets"

by Sue Hassock

In October 2018, local artist Stephanie Akers began painting a mural in Christiansburg on the corner of First St. and Roanoke St. as a fundraiser for the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP). For a \$100 donation, beloved pets would be painted on the wall on the courthouse parking lot side of Roanoke Street.

I first heard about the pet mural in November 2018. Of course I was interested! I made a donation for my cat Dora, and waited to see her on the wall.

Unfortunately, in the spring of 2019, Stephanie began pursuing a new career agenda and had to step away from the project. At that time, only 30 pets out of more than 70 had

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*Phase one of the pet mural was completed this November. New portrait orders will be accepted in the spring.*

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

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History invites everyone to the grand opening of this new gift shop. Stop by and enjoy refreshments while shopping for unique gifts!

**December 15**

*Figure Drawing*

*The Artful Lawyer, 318 N. Main St., Blacksburg • 6:30–8:30 p.m.*

Come sketch live models! Tickets close on the Friday before each session and the cost is \$10. Boards and easels provided; artists need to bring their own drawing supplies. For more information and registration, visit <https://artfullawyergallery.org/events/>.

**annual meeting** *continued from page 1*

Following the portrait discussion, outgoing president **Gerri Young** was recognized for her dedicated leadership and outstanding years of service to the organization and presented with a book of members' art and notes of appreciation along with a gift card to Miller Off Main. After a refreshment break, Young gave a brief annual report and recognized board members and other volunteers. The report was followed by election of officers, with no candidate for presidency.

Thanks to all who contributed to the event; notably, **Linda Correll** for organizing the meeting space and speaker arrangements and **Robi Sallee** for coordinating the refreshments and compiling the art book gift. ■



Rafael Bedia

*Robi Sallee (right) presents a book of members' art to outgoing president Gerri Young in honor of her six years of leadership.*



*The mural progressed throughout the summer and fall resulting in 87 animal portraits.*

**family of pets** *continued from page 1*

been painted. MCEAP board members Matt Nottingham and Brenda Springer put out a call for artists to assist in completing the mural. Now I could be even more involved, so I volunteered. Altogether nine artists agreed to help, several of them from BRAA.

In May, Brenda met with me and several other artists to discuss how we could continue the project. While investigating the wall and what had been painted, we came to the unavoidable conclusion that what had been done so far had already started to peel. We would have to remove everything that had been painted and completely clean the wall before sealing it correctly and applying a base coat of background color. I took the lead on the project and began the work of photographing and tracing all the pets already completed so they would be fairly easy to reproduce later.

Greg Branscome of New Look Exterior agreed to power wash the wall at no charge if we added his three dogs to the mural (Abby, Levi, and Roxy). Matt Nottingham and Brenda Springer of the MCEAP board and other volunteers scraped the remaining paint off, applied sealer and primed the wall in green. We made the decision to do this in stages so we could begin painting animals on one section while further work was underway for prepping on another section.

I had never painted a mural before, and have only been painting for the last six years, but I brought my engineering skills to the project: I researched as much as I could about prepping a wall, and I'm experienced in designing and implementing a project from big picture to small detail: painting a wall with pets isn't much different from designing software, only the resources are different!

In June I designed a new mural, and began the task of laying it out. I started repainting the original animals and adding the others, including Dora, my own cat. During the hot summer and into the fall I painted 71 animals, the rainbow steps, and a tree. The task was made even more difficult because in some instances we no longer had the original photos of the pets, and had only the original paintings to work from.

Eventually some of the other artists in the group were able to find time to paint with me. With the help of Lee Walker, Mary Ratliff, Joanna Reinhold and Nikki Pynn, we completed 67 dogs, 14 cats, three horses, one duck, one rabbit and one goat, plus several bees, butterflies, and dragonflies, (a total of 87 animals!) One of the dogs, Lyle, is a therapy dog, who goes to Falling Branch Elementary, so I added a frog which is the mascot for their school. Lyle and his owner came by the wall one day and they both loved his portrait!

Lee did a wonderful job of adding bark to the rudimentary tree that I had outlined as well



Teri Hoover Photography

Many of the 24 exhibitors in Montgomery Museum of Art and History's biannual show are BRAA members. Above are glimpses of the November 7 member artists' exhibit reception. Works will be displayed through December.

## Volunteers needed for anniversary celebration

What would a 70<sup>th</sup> BRAA anniversary celebration look like? A party? An historical exhibit? A publicity campaign to raise awareness?

You can help with those decisions! BRAA has been championing art since its birth in 1950. Volunteers are needed to lead or serve on a committee to honor this milestone.

If you're still reading this, please recognize that our BRAA is at a crossroads. We currently do not have a president and the need for volunteers is critical. If you can contribute some time to planning this anniversary celebration, please email [braaarts@gmail.com](mailto:braaarts@gmail.com).

### Dues time!

Membership fees for 2020 are due by Dec. 31. To download a membership form, select the join/forms tab at <https://www.blacksburgart.org/>. Those who have joined after Oct. 1 do not have to pay another fee for the following year. If you are over the age of 80, you do not have to pay for membership, but need to submit a form to indicate your desire to stay involved and receive BRAA communications. For more information, contact Rafael Bedia at [bediar1@cox.net](mailto:bediar1@cox.net).

## Kudos

**Shaun Whiteside's** painting, *Autoportrait*, was awarded third place at the Riverviews Artspace's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Juried Art Show opening reception on November 1 in Lynchburg. The juror, Joseph Krakora, is the former executive officer for external and international affairs at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. The exhibition will be on view through December 13. Congratulations, Shaun!

## New Members

A hearty welcome to new BRAA members **Eric Cooper, Christine Mahaley, Elizabeth Mears, and Jerri Nemiro.**

## Now Showing

**October 15 – January 15**

(except where indicated otherwise)

**Jeanette Bowker, Larry Mitchell, Tom Jenssen, and Rejane Pratelli,** The Artful Lawyer BRAA Gallery, Blacksburg

**Marie Collier,** Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

**Judy Crowgey,** Warm Hearth, Blacksburg (Nov. – Jan. 15)

**Diana Law Dougherty,** First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

**Danie Janov,** Long and Foster, Blacksburg

**Delbert Jones,** Virginia Tech Women's Center

**Ruth Lefko,** Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

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

**Maxine Lyons,** Glade Church, Blacksburg

**Betty Moore,** Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

**Joy Rosenthal,** Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

**Robi Sallee,** See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

**Karen Sewell,** Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

**Walter Shroyer,** Blacksburg Transit

**Lois Stephens,** Hahn Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech campus (Nov. thru Dec.)

**Gerri Young,** Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

*“The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live.”*

~ Auguste Rodin

## ■ Exhibit and other opportunities

### Taubman Museum of Art Juried Triennial

May 1 – September 20, 2020 • Taubman  
Museum of Art, Roanoke

Homeward Bound is the second juried Virginia triennial and will feature work in all media by artists presently living in the Commonwealth. All artwork must be original and completed within the last three years (2017–2019). Artists may submit up to three entries. Installation and video proposals are encouraged. Submission deadline is **December 13**. Entry fee is \$40 or \$30 for museum members. The opening awards reception will be May 1. For more information and online entry, visit [TaubmanMuseum.org/HomewardBound](http://TaubmanMuseum.org/HomewardBound).

### Harts 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 Harts on Main event. The booth fees are \$45 until **January 15**, and \$55 after that date. If interested in participating as a vendor or volunteer, please contact Ruth Lefko at [rlefk2@gmail.com](mailto:rlefk2@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)

#### January 22 – March 25: Mixed Media

Application Deadline: December 20  
Acceptance Notification: December 27  
Reception: January 22, 5:30 p.m.

#### 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.

#### August 19 – October 27: Partner Up!

Application Deadline: July 17  
Acceptance Notification: July 24  
Reception: August 19, 5:30 p.m.

#### November 6 – December 16: Holiday Market

Application Deadline: September 18  
Acceptance Notification: September 25  
Opening Market Day: November 6

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

## family of pets *continued from page 2*

as painting seven dogs. Nikki created two of the three horses (Crowbar and Breeze), while Mary completed Flo the duck and the trio of poodles, Alex, Abby, and Jasper. Joanna painted Holy Knight and Liberty Marie. Lee and I were watching the forecast and realized that Monday November 11 might be the last day we would be able to paint for awhile, so we hustled to finish. I got on a (tall) ladder to paint the title while Lee completed the last dog, Kiley, and finished off the name tags.

The mural is complete for now, but MCEAP will begin taking applications for new pets in the spring. There is plenty of room on the wall for them. It has been a lot of fun painting out in the open with such large subjects and talking with people walking to and from the courthouse. I learned a lot about painting dogs, and improved as the weeks went by. I even painted a horse, which I was dreading, but she turned out okay. I am looking forward to more painting next year! ■



### BRAA Officers

**Gerri Young**, past president  
**Charlotte Chan**, co-vice president  
**Vacant**, co-vice president  
**Jeanette Bowker**, treasurer  
**Pat Bevan**, secretary  
**Rafael Bedia**, membership  
**Robi Sallee**, past president

### Newsletter Editorial Board

**Lois Stephens**, [loisstephens56@gmail.com](mailto:loisstephens56@gmail.com)  
**Gerri Young**, [younggerri@googlemail.com](mailto:younggerri@googlemail.com)  
**Pat Bevan**, [patriciabevan@mac.com](mailto:patriciabevan@mac.com)  
**Teri Hoover**, [crystalirisphotos@gmail.com](mailto:crystalirisphotos@gmail.com)



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at [crystalirisphotos@gmail.com](mailto:crystalirisphotos@gmail.com)

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The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Daybreak Aloft" (left, oil, 24 x 36") by Karen Sewell. This and more of her work can be viewed at Blue Ridge Cancer Care through mid-January.

Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to Lois Stephens ([loisstephens56@gmail.com](mailto:loisstephens56@gmail.com)) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month or July 1 for June/July and Dec. 1 for Nov./Dec. issues.