



■ Art Calendar

Ongoing thru December 12

Online Gala Auction

The Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley is conducting this art auction to provide 200+ free art kits for the children in Pulaski County and Radford. For more information, visit www.valleyauctionsllc.com.

December 11, January 8

BRAA Monthly Lunch

Online for Dec. 11, Jan. TBD •
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The December meeting will be held online via Zoom. The guest speaker is attorney James Creekmore, who will be discussing copyright compliance. The location and speaker for the January meeting will be announced at a later date.

December 12

Get to Know Your Digital Camera — Online Workshop 2–4 p.m.

Professional photographer David Rehor will be presenting this online class. Topics include the exposure triangle (ISO, aperture, shutter speed), shooting modes, meter modes, focus modes, drive modes, picture styles, white balance, and choices in camera and lenses. The workshop is sponsored by the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley and will be presented via Zoom. The registration fee is \$20. For more information, visit www.facnr.org.

annual report issue

CAST YOUR VOTE!
See page 2!

A productive year of challenges and changes

by Charlotte Chan

2020 has definitely been a trying year for us all. However, at BRAA we have thrived and made progress. I'm happy to report this year's accomplishments!

Our board grew and included several new **board members**: Alisa Colpitts (vice president), Sue Hossack (secretary and webmaster), Marvi Stine (treasurer), Gerri Young (past president), Ava Howard (membership), Lois Stephens (newsletter), Teri Hoover (public relations and marketing), Robi Sallee (member meetings — however, this position is now open), Jesse Burgardt (biennial exhibit), Betty Moore (outreach) and Linda Correll (public art).



BRAA President Charlotte Chan

We started out the year by updating and revising our old bylaws and the **new bylaws** were approved by our membership in April.

Dates were established for our quarterly board meetings. We conducted **four board meetings** this year plus **several executive board meetings** with the elected board members to discuss various issues.

We **developed a budget** for our organization so we could focus on target spending based on our income.

We **created several procedures/documents for monitoring expenses**, such as a form for applying for public art projects, and a spending limit for a single item/project.

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photo by Riley Chan

Participants display paintings created during the October 17–21 BRAA-sponsored watercolor workshop. The class was led by internationally-recognized artist Keiko Tanabe and was held in Christiansburg.

Time to renew!

by Ava White Howard, Membership Chair

Don't forget to renew your BRAA membership for 2021! Renewing and paying your dues is a piece of cake with our new online system. Just follow this link to our website and renew now: <https://www.blacksburgart.org/joinus>

There are several payment options including with a credit card or PayPal, or you may fill out the online membership form and mail in your payment. Of course, you can always print out a membership form and mail everything in together. Wonders never cease!

Coming together as artists to collectively support each other during this challenging period of life is more important than ever, and BRAA continues to provide us with the outlet to do this. This is a time when we as artists can SHINE by using our talents to come up with creative solutions to encourage others and express ourselves. Let's all be art therapists and make this world a better place by supporting the arts, each other, and "painting" a beautiful picture. I believe this!

Give a membership

Most of you likely know another artist who is not yet a member of the BRAA and do not realize the opportunities and friendships our organization affords. Consider giving them a gift membership and encouraging them to get involved by attending meetings, play days, workshops, etc. (if we can't do it close up, we'll do it at a distance). Give a gift that is not a "thing" to put on a shelf, but a year-long benefit of their passion! There are artists who hesitate to join just because of the dues, and you may be in the position to easily eliminate that barrier.

Recruit new members

The more members we have, the more opportunities we have to learn from each other and expand our horizons. I never cease to be amazed at the local talent we have! My only wish is that I could see their artwork, interact with them more, and simply be aware of them. Get them to join us!

Thank you for being a member of the BRAA. We will strive to be an invaluable asset to you in 2021 and beyond. Please, always let us know how better we can serve you. Get involved and help us constantly improve. ■

Create for a Cause



Sue Hossack

This card by Sue Hossack incorporated dried and painted leaves for the Create for a Cause leaf card project by BRAA members. The cards will be distributed to assisted living residents of English Meadows.



a brief
timeline
of our
history

1949 In the fall, a group of artists on the V.P.I. (now Virginia Tech) staff began talks of forming a small art group to critique each other's works.

1950 On Jan. 13, 1950 a community art club was formed for those "interested in increasing the opportunities for enjoyment of the arts in Blacksburg." The first exhibit in February featured the paintings of Horace Day. After formal organization, sculptures by Dean Carter and paintings by John Laurent were exhibited on May 7-8. Works by students of the architecture department were shown May 27-28 (the art department was not yet formed).

1955 The first annual Blacksburg Art Festival was held including an exhibition, a "Dutch art auction," concerts, art movies, a Punch and Judy show, lectures, and demonstrations.

1966 The BRAA became a chapter of the Virginia Museum.

1991 The New River Art Juried Exhibition was formed in cooperation with the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley.

1998 IRS 501c3 status became effective, making the association a tax-exempt, charitable organization.

1999 Temporary shared housing in the Old Town Hall, 141 Jackson Street, was granted by the Blacksburg Town Council, beginning in 2000.

2009 The association began renting space in the Community Arts Information Office on College Avenue.

2019 After the closing of the Community Arts Information Office, the BRAA begins renting space at The Artful Lawyer at the Creekmore Law Offices at 318 N. Main Street.

Vote today!

Electronic voting is taking place this year in place of our annual in-person meeting.

The board has approved the following slate of officers for the 2021 BRAA executive board:

- President: **Charlotte Chan**
- Vice President: **Alisa Colpitts**
- Treasurer: **Marvi Stine**
- Secretary: **Sue Hossack**

To vote, visit www.blacksburgart.org/voting.

Voting closes at midnight on December 12.

Treasurer's Annual Report

BRAA Treasurer Marvi Stine provided the following account of financial activity from January 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.

National Bank of Blacksburg		Capital One Bank Money Market	
Beginning balance:	\$36,649.20	Beginning balance:	\$23,167.15
Income:	\$ 9,591.58	Interest:	\$ 57.99
Expenses:	\$ 8,175.03	Ending balance:	\$23,225.14
Ending balance:	\$38,065.75		

■ Kudos

Member **Shaun C. Whiteside** was awarded "2nd Place" at Riverviews Artspace's 12th Annual Juried Art Show opening reception on November 6 in Lynchburg. The show was juried by Jeffry Cudlin, Washington, DC-based artist, critic, curator and professor of Curatorial Studies and Practice at Maryland Institute College of Art. The exhibition will be on view from November 6 through December 11.

Vera Dickerson's painting, "Talk, Not Text" was selected by Fred Graff for an Award of Excellence in the Virginia Watercolor Society's annual exhibit in Richmond. This year's venue was the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, across the street from the Virginia Museum of Fine Art. The exhibit will be displayed until Dec 31.

Robi Sallee's painting "Old MacDonald's Farm" was accepted by the Rhode Island Watercolor Society's national show, Home for the Holidays. This virtual show and can be viewed on the Rhode Island Watercolor Society's Facebook page.



"Talk, Not Text" by Vera Dickerson

Art helps your brain

It turns out there's a lot happening in our minds and bodies when we make art. Learn more about this fascinating phenomenon in this National Public Radio article at <https://tinyurl.com/y4hdpzap>.



Resources available through the Virginia Museum of Fine Art

BRAA has been affiliated with the Virginia Museum of Fine Art since 1966. Located in our state capital, the museum has provided speakers for our annual meetings, high school programs and special events. While this pandemic has halted these face to face gatherings, the museum offers a wealth of learning opportunities on their website. You can explore the VMFA collections, learn about their latest happenings on their blog, or view resource videos such as mandala sand painting techniques and interviews with artists. For this and more, visit <https://www.vmfa.museum>.

■ Now showing

October 15 – January 15
(unless noted otherwise)

Lisa Accai, First Bank & Trust, Christiansburg

David Angle, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

Pat Bevan, Blacksburg Transit

Judy Crowgey, Montgomery Museum, Christiansburg (thru December)

Delbert Jones, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Ruth Lefko, Zeppolis, Blacksburg

Cheryl Mackian, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Betty Moore, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

David Pearce, Long and Foster Realty, Blacksburg

Diane Relf, Glade Church, Blacksburg

Joy Rosenthal, Shaheen Law Firm, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va. (until April)

Michele Walter, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Norma Woodward, Warm Hearth Village Center, Blacksburg (thru Jan. 15)

■ New Member

A hearty welcome to new BRAA member **Hannah Howard**.

"A society's competitive advantage will come not from how well its schools teach the multiplication and periodic tables, but from how well they stimulate imagination and creativity."

~ Albert Einstein

■ Exhibit and other opportunities

■ *Montgomery Museum Holiday Market*

The Montgomery Museum is offering a Christmas Market and is looking for new items of all kinds, but especially relative to Christmas! If interested in participating, please contact Sue Farrar at 540-382-5644.

■ *Call for Outdoor Sculpture Roanoke Arts Commission*

The Roanoke Arts Commission has announced a call for outdoor sculpture for a two-year, temporary exhibition running May 17, 2021 through April 14, 2023.

The city is accepting submissions now through **January 18, 2021** for freestanding sculpture responding to the theme "A New Life: Reimagining Roanoke."

Artwork may incorporate interactive as well as functional elements, but must include at least 50% repurposed material.

There is no entry fee. Artists chosen to participate will receive a stipend of up to \$4,000 per selected artwork.

This invitation is extended to all artists 18 and older. Innovative approaches are welcomed, including the establishment of partnerships between emerging and established artists or between artists and fabricators. Both proposed work and finished pieces will be considered. Student teams are welcomed under the leadership of a teacher or adult leader.

For more information, visit: <https://roanokeartscommission.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/urfp-21-10-35-final.pdf>.



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Old Schoolhouse in New Zealand" (above, photography, 18x22") by David Angle. This and more of his work is on display at See Mark Optical in Blacksburg until mid-January.

■ productive year

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An **online payment system** was developed for applications of new or renewed memberships as well as workshop registrations.

Unique email addresses were set up for each of the board members so that accounts are tied to roles rather than individual board members.

Membership remained steady during the year. Currently, we have 83 individual members, two student members, 16 family members plus 20 Club 80 members.

In addition to frequent email updates to members, we produced and distributed 10 **newsletters** to our members.

BRAA conducted one free **play date** for the general membership on creating painted deli paper for use in future collage projects. In October we had a **five-day workshop** with an internationally-known watercolorist, Keiko Tanabe, from San Diego. Because of Covid restrictions and the unavailability of Warm Hearth as a venue, the workshop was relocated to the Moose Lodge.

Our **members' artwork was installed** at the Moose Lodge to improve the atmosphere in their building and to beautify the meeting room.

Luncheon meetings were held online as well as in different picnic shelters when the weather permitted. Now, we have decided to hold some monthly luncheons at the Moose Lodge during the winter months in the huge space suitable for social distancing, and with a very affordable lunch menu provided by Moose Lodge.

We provided **member judges** for one of the student exhibits at the Montgomery County Museum and awarded prizes.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our annual theme show and the VFMA student workshop due to the pandemic.

Special thanks to all our **community gallery** committee members and gallery coordinators for their hard work in providing opportunities for our members to display their art throughout the year.

BRAA is a non-profit and all volunteer organization, and without your support, we would not function. Please contribute to this organization you belong to and love.

Thank you all!
Charlotte Chan



Making BRAA Work —

- Charlotte Chan**, president
- Alisa Colpitts**, vice president and workshop chair
- Marvi Stine**, treasurer
- Sue Hossack**, secretary and web administrator
- Gerri Young**, past president
- Ava Howard**, membership chair
- Vacant**, community gallery committee
- Teri Hoover**, marketing chair
- Vacant**, member meeting chair
- Lois Stephens**, newsletter chair
- Linda Correll**, public art chair
- Betty Moore**, education/outreach chair
- Jesse Burgardt**, New River Biennial chair



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



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Email: info@blacksburgart.org

Send news of receptions, exhibits, awards, photos, comments, or newsletter suggestions to (newsletter@blacksburgart.org) by the 15th of each month or July 1 for June/July and Dec. 1 for Nov./Dec. issues.

Lois Stephens, Gerri Young, Teri Hoover, Pat Bevan, newsletter editorial board