

■ Upcoming

**January 31, February 28,
March 13, March 27**

Live Model Drawing

The Artful Place, A Fine Art Studio • 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>.

February 5

Nancy Norton Reception

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

Join the opening reception for Nancy Norton's show, "Weeds and Wilds: A Celebration of Wild Flowers in Alcohol Ink." The exhibition runs through Feb. 13.

February 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.

February 19–22

Jesi Pace-Berkeley Watercolor Workshop

Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech Campus

Pace-Berkeley is known for her large and dramatic portraits and will help participants discover a more dynamic way to paint. For full information and registration, visit www.blacksburgart.org.

March 11

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.

March 20 – June 12

American Chronicles:

The Art of Norman Rockwell

Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke

This exhibit is organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum in Massachusetts and features original works drawn from its permanent collection.

Jesi Pace-Berkeley workshop set for Feb. 19–22

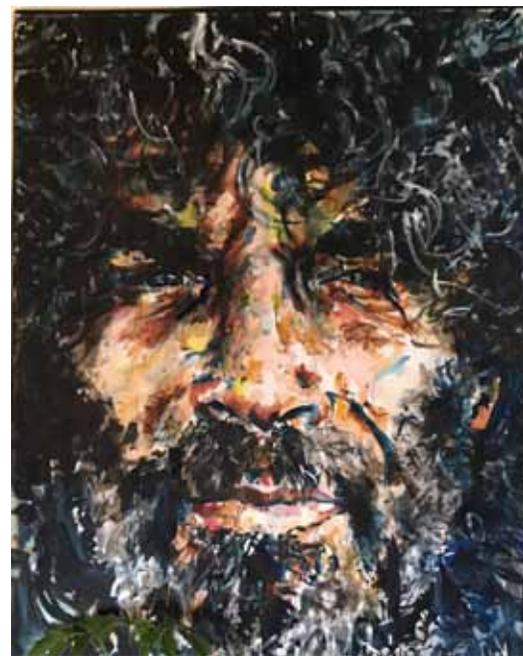
Registration is open through Jan. 31 for an exciting workshop by local artist Jesi Pace-Berkeley. Artists working in both watercolor and acrylic are welcome.

Blacksburg resident and member of BRAA, Pace-Berkeley taught art for many years at Blacksburg High School. She has exhibited in countless locations, earning a long list of awards with her unusually large and dramatic portrait work.

This workshop, held at the Hahn Horticulture Garden pavilion on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, will highlight the techniques she uses for portraits and students may apply those techniques to the subject of their choice. She will review the use of basic design and composition. She will demonstrate "painting backwards," mapping enrichment shapes, determining the entire value range in local and non-local color, "leaving the whites," and mature color mixing. She will teach how to be both evocative and conceptual while finding one's artistic voice. Last, but not least, Pace-Berkeley will tell you why you must always finish a work.

Open to all interested artists, the workshop cost is \$300 for members and \$330 for non-members (includes 2016 membership).

For full information and the registration form, go to www.blacksburgart.org, and look for the purple banner button at the top of the home page.



Jesi Pace-Berkeley

"Trent" was an award winner for Pace-Berkeley in the 2015 Faber Birren color competition.



Lois Stephens

Members paint the town (and other stuff)

A dozen or so BRAA members gathered for a painting session in the space above Mockingbird Cafe on January 12. The warm, open area offered great views of downtown Christiansburg, tables for still life arrangements, and wonderful historic vibes. Thanks to Jean Galloway, Ruth Leftko, and Judy Crowgey for arranging this productive and fun event!

Lisabeth Weisband (left) captures a downtown scene.

Learn with Lee

We're happy to start the new year with a series of comments from member Lee Sandstead, often referred to as "the world's most fired-up art historian." Sandstead was host of the Emmy-nominated Travel

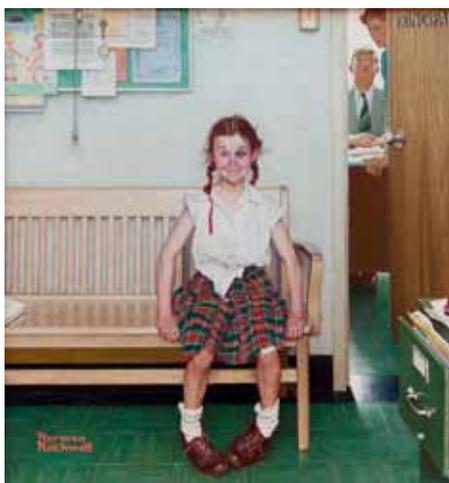


Lee Sandstead

Channel show, "Art Attack," and author of the number one international best-seller on iTunes, "Cleaning Mona Lisa." He is currently teaching an art history series at the Blacksburg Community Center (one class per week for several weeks).

Illustrator Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) will have more than 50 works featured at the Taubman Museum of Art March 20 through June 12, 2016. The exhibition will explore the legendary artist as an icon-maker and storyteller. "The Young Lady with a Shiner" (1954) in the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, will not be in the exhibition, but it is the first artwork that I had ever seen in person by Rockwell. At that moment, I realized he was not only a painter, but a great painter.

— Lee Sandstead



"The Young Lady with a Shiner" (1954) by Norman Rockwell, Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art (detail left)



President's Report

Here we are at the beginning of another great BRAA year! Time seems to pass so quickly these days (just like my mother predicted — "Just wait," she said. "when you get older time will just fly by.")

I hope you all had excellent holidays and got to do at least one artsy thing. My one thing was a long-awaited visit to the Frank Lloyd Wright house, Fallingwater. It was absolutely incredible and worth the trip to Pennsylvania. I highly recommend it.

Actually, I did two art things. Using sidewalk chalk, I drew a Star Wars character on the blackboard painted pantry door of the home I was visiting. Trust me, I know nothing about Star Wars so the poster handed to me as reference was a must!

Getting more serious now, I am enrolled at The Studio School in Roanoke with **Vera Dickerson**, along with several other BRAA members, and loving every minute of it. You don't have to drive to Roanoke for every class (though I recommend it).

We are offering an excellent watercolor/acrylic workshop right in Blacksburg in February. For those of you who attended the January luncheon, you met the instructor, **Jesi Pace-Berkeley**, and saw her dynamic teaching style first-hand. Check out www.blacksburgart.org for full information on the Feb. 19-22 workshop and get the registration form. A max of 16 will be accepted. You can see her work at www.jesipace-berkeley.com.

We've planned some new exciting things for 2016 and will continue with the tried and true events we always have — luncheons with speakers, plein air events, play dates and workshops. Our BRAA gallery schedule is now online and some of our new members are included in the show schedule.

It is our goal to be the mechanism that helps you connect the dots in your art endeavors. We enjoy the networking that already goes on among our members and I especially love how welcoming you are when a new person walks through the door of our luncheons for the first time, uncertain about how they will be received. I am proud that we are an organization that is warm, welcoming and encouraging to all people who want to be a part of us. We celebrate our successes individually and as a whole and this makes BRAA special.

I am especially grateful to the members who volunteer to help create, coordinate, and assist in a myriad of ways to make our organization work. It would not be possible without you.

Three cheers to you all as you strike out on your creative journey for 2016.

Your partner in art,

Thanks to volunteers, we exist!

As an all-volunteer association, we appreciate all who devote time to ensure our viability. Special thanks to the following members who have contributed to our success in recent months.

Holiday market — **Robi Sallee, Nancy Trump, and Michele Walter** for hosting opening night. Artists **Ava Howard, Gerri Young, Nancy Norton, Carole Davis, Larry Mitchell, Susan Lockwood, Jane Aronson, Mary Ratliff, Betty Moore, Darcy Meeker, David Pearce, Judy Niehaus, Lois Stephens, Sue Hossack** and **Teri Hoover**.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) cartoon workshop at Blacksburg and Christiansburg High Schools — **Betty Moore** for the full planning and execution of these events. **Alice Sturler** for classroom assistance.

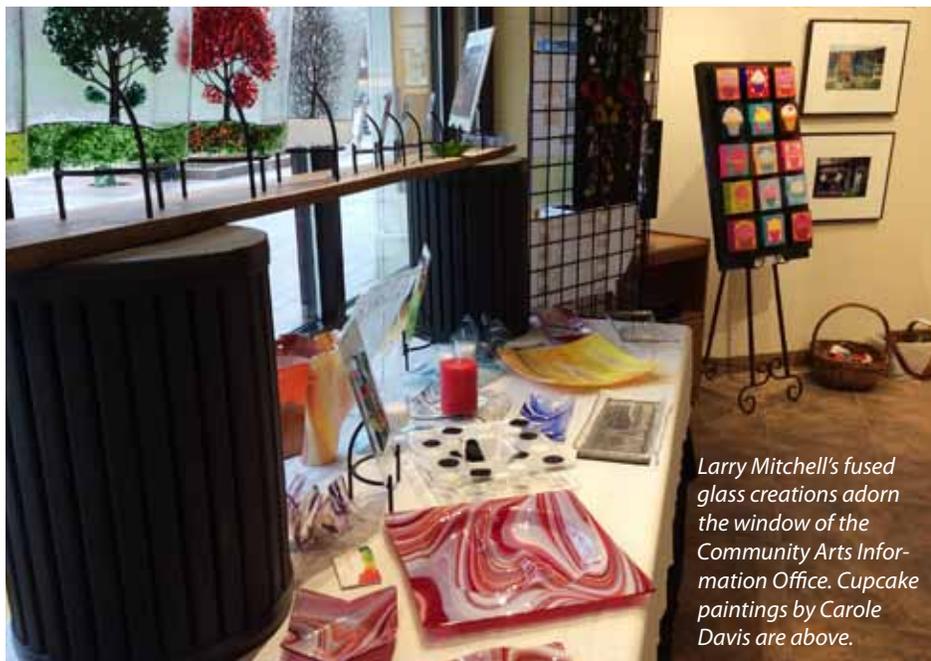
Scheduling and coordinating plein air and indoor painting sessions — **Ruth Lefko** and **Judy Crowgey. Jean Galloway** for assisting in the January event in Christiansburg.

Luncheons — **Robi Sallee** for her liaison with the restaurant and arranging for Art Spot speakers. **Mary Jane and Jack Burn** for almost always being first in the room and lending a hand with set-up.

Holiday market festive and successful

From the www.blacksburgart.org blog —

This year's BRAA Holiday Market at the Community Arts Information Office (CAIO) may well have been the best ever. Twenty artists registered to participate and 17 made the final show. It was such fun to set up and even more fun to be there for opening night on December 4 as part of the downtown Winter Lights Festival. It was standing room only most of the evening and lots of sales were made! **Nancy Norton** and **Carole Davis** helped with the setup and included their own wonderful works in the mix. **Larry Mitchell's** beautiful glass work graced the window space and acted as a great draw to passers by. A huge thank you goes to **Susan Mattingly**, executive director of the Lyric, for her always wonderful support of BRAA exhibitions and requirements inside the CAIO. The market's last day was December 30, closing with over \$2600 in sales ... our best ever!



Larry Mitchell's fused glass creations adorn the window of the Community Arts Information Office. Cupcake paintings by Carole Davis are above.

Gerri Young

VMFA and BRAA deliver workshops to area high schools

In partnership with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, BRAA sponsored an all-day workshop at both Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools. The "Mini Comics" workshop was presented by the dynamic and inspiring Laura Lee Gulledge, a Virginia-based author, artist and educator. Twenty-one students attended the Christiansburg High School workshop on Nov. 10, and 20 attended the Blacksburg High School event on Nov. 11. The two art teachers from each school participated as well as Betty Moore and Alice de Sturler as BRAA representatives. At the end of each class, each student enthusiastically presented his or her mini-comic to the group.



Laura Lee Gulledge demonstrates the steps for creating a story for a mini comic book.



Gulledge discusses students' work individually as she goes around the CHS classroom.

Betty Moore

Now Showing

January 15 – April 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Patricia Bolton, New River Bank, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Charlotte Chan, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Carole Davis, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Gwen Douglas, Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion, Virginia Tech (thru Feb.)

Elizabeth Foster, Amy Hunter Dental Office, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Paula Golden, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Maxine Lyons, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Larry Mitchell, Community Arts Information Office (CAIO), Blacksburg (Feb.)

Nancy Norton, Alexander Black House, Blacksburg (thru Feb. 13)

David Pearce, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Mary Ratliff, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Joy Rosenthal, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea

Karen Sewell, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Jane Thorp, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Nancy Trump, Christiansburg Library (thru Mar.)

Norma Woodward, Community Arts Information Office (CAIO), Blacksburg (Feb.)

Tom Wilkinson, National Bank, Blacksburg (thru Jan.) and See Mark Optical, Blacksburg

"Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working."

~ Pablo Picasso

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Artful Lawyer Gallery

Four shows are planned for 2016 for the popular gallery at the Creekmore Law Firm at 318 N. Main St. in Blacksburg. The following themes will be featured in shows starting January, April, July and October—

- cartoon or animation
- fin, fur or fowl
- duex-by-duex, redux
- a picture's worth a thousand words

For further information on how to be considered for the shows, visit www.artfullawyer.org or contact Diana Francis at the law firm.

Simply Elemental 2016

Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech

Artists, groups of artists, art teachers and students working in any media are invited to submit proposals with conceptual designs. Entry deadline is **February 1**. A jury will select 35 pieces for this outdoor art exhibit that displays from August through September. For more information, email artinthegarden@vt.edu.

Boxes for Hope and Healing

The Carilion Clinic Foundation invites artists to paint or embellish small boxes to be displayed and auctioned at the Arts for Healing May 24 event at the Hotel Roanoke. Artists receive 50% of sales. For more information and entry form, email healingarts@carilionclinic.org. Entry deadline is **March 31**.

Unitarian Universalist Church

BRAA artists are invited to exhibit for three-month periods at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Gladewood Road in Blacksburg. The walls and hanging system will accommodate 12-15 medium to large paintings or a larger number of smaller paintings. Past exhibitors from BRAA include Diane Relf, Lois Stephens, Donald and Joann Sunshine, Anne Hammond-Tooke, and Tom Wilkinson. If you'd like to show your work next year (as early as January) please email Nancy Norton (nancyprnorton@comcast.net).

Blacksburg Public Library

The Blacksburg Public Library has a small four-shelf glass display case and would like art to display in it. You can identify yourself as the artist and list contact information, but no sale price can be listed. If you are interested, contact Cathy Prati at the library at cprati@mfrl.org.

■ Kudos

Congratulations to **Shawn Whiteside** for a first-place award for his ink on paper work, *Dark Flow*, at the 7th Annual Juried Art Show at the Craddock Terry Gallery in the River-views Artspace in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Renew today to receive next month's newsletter!

If you haven't already done so, there's still time to renew your membership to BRAA! Individual and other categories of membership are outlined on the application form located under the join/forms tab at www.blacksburgart.org.

We hope you sign up for another year and even consider volunteering to serve as a board officer. Several positions will be available at the end of 2016, including that of the president. Our association is enjoying a growth spurt ... it's a great time to become more involved!



The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Morning Tranquility" (above, oils, 16 x 20") by Karen Sewell. This and more of her work can be viewed at Brown Insurance until April 15.



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/>



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!