



Blackstone Valley Art Association

JANET ALEID

As an animal lover and an artist it only made sense for Janet Aleid from Grafton, MA to do pet portraits. She prefers to meet the pet and take photos herself whenever possible, but not a necessity.

Painting mostly in acrylics, she likes to use a technique called “scrumbling” to get that silky look to the fur for a finishing touch.

Meeting the pet helps her understand and paint the pet’s personality into the portrait.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-janet-aleid/>



JOE ALTRUDA

Introduced to 35mm photography when my children were born by shooting them almost daily, I soon learned the science of photography and later the art of it. Continuing to learn and develop my hobby, I feel that the technology of our DSLR's allows us far more creative range than ever.

Born and educated in Providence, earned an MBA at Providence College, and climbed the corporate ladder with medium sized manufacturing companies in RI, I relocated a few miles north on Route 146 in Northbridge and chose a self employment opportunity in real estate brokerage which I currently maintain.

Realizing that the Blackstone Valley provides a wonderful palette for landscape photographers, I gradually developed a portfolio of scenic photographs of which I am proud and continually augment. By composing images with specific points of interest, I realized quickly that the Blackstone Valley is a treasure trove of opportunity for landscape photographers

Verdant fields, rolling hills, living lakes and ponds populate the region. A ride, walk, or bicycle tour through any town will captivate you with images of breathtaking landscapes, stunning and picturesque New England vistas, and rock formations from glacial melts that occurred many thousands of years ago. Living harmoniously is an abundance of wildlife that enjoys the richness that their environs offer.

My presentation of images is an attempt to capture the beauty of this area. Taking a moment to view them may introduce you to different spaces within our world – vast and unending.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-joe-altruda/>



MICHAEL BACKUNAS

Michael is a scenic and travel photographer who is based in New England. An environmental geologist by education and training, Michael is often drawn to photograph landforms and their surroundings. He is a contributing photographer for conservation organizations and has held photographic workshops.



Michael's photographic interests range from capturing landscape vistas to subjects found in urban and industrial settings. Michael's images have been featured in exhibitions, local galleries, included in Canon Europe literature and is displayed on various websites. Some of Michael's work is represented by Alamy.

<http://michaelbackunas.zenfolio.com>

CHRISTINE BEAUCHAINE

My name is Christine Beauchaine. I grew up and still reside in the Blackstone Valley. My great-grandmother, my grandmother and my uncle were all painters. I had always focused more on writing than art but a few years ago, I picked up a paintbrush. I wanted to see if I could do it. I loved it. It was fun and relaxing. I like painting with acrylics. I paint whatever I find visually interesting, especially animals and landscapes.



Painting has made me look at the world through different eyes. I try to be more mindful and present. There is beauty everywhere and anything could become art!

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-christine-beauchaine/>

JUDY BELBEN

My name is Judy Belben, and the medium I create in is photography. I have enjoyed taking pictures most of my life. My style of art is realism.

I continually develop my skills and knowledge through local artists and instructors alike. Nature and our historic resources inspire me.

Each day offers another opportunity in photography, and our changing seasons in New England are unmatched anywhere that I have been. I hope to inspire all artists at all levels to enjoy the experience of creativity.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-judy-belben/>



MARIE CAFFERTY

Painting with pastels became a joyous pursuit for me during my retirement years. I was long considered creative, but I considered myself a craft person in spite of family and friends encouraging me to further delve into art.

When I retired from teaching in 1999, I began taking art classes at the Worcester Art Museum. Oriental Brush painting with Ming-Chien Liang opened my eyes to a whole new world. Ming encouraged me to take drawing classes. When Alexander Farquharson saw my work in charcoal, he said I had found my medium! I said "What about color?" He said try pastels!



I started taking classes with Ella Delyanis, and have been indulging in pastel painting ever since. Pastels allow my thoughts about my subjects to flow directly through my fingers to the paper. I recall the moment I snapped the picture of a pet, a garden, or a scene and the emotions that caused me to take a photo in the first instance. Thanks to the many teachers at WAM I have learned to see with more of an artist eye, to eliminate the extraneous, experiment with the hundreds of color choices pastels offer, and so relive the enjoyment of the original moment.

I joined the BVAA and am now inspired by my fellow artists to continue improving my technique in pastels and also to experiment with other mediums. I was pleasantly surprised to receive two honorable mentions in juried shows!

The journey from wondering if I could really learn to express my love of nature in a painting has been a long one. I owe the current successful fulfillment of the journey to family, friends and the teachers of WAM.

I hope you enjoy my efforts and are perhaps inspired to embark on an artistic journey of your own!

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-marie-cafferty/>

LAURA CENEDELLA

Laura O. Cenedella is a New England Artist. She was born on August 15, 1968 in Western Massachusetts. Her family moved to Cape Cod where she spent her early years. Inspired by her mother and the Artists before her, she entered and won her first Art Competition, Regional, State, and National in the 3rd grade. During her teens she spent her school years in Western Massachusetts and the summers on Long Island Sound. Laura majored in Art while attending High School where she graduated with honors.



Laura has worked with many non-profit businesses that have awarded her community grants and acknowledgements. She was chosen from a long list of Artists by The City of Pawtucket, RI for a public art display. Her Painted Canoe won her a two page spread in a Tabletop Art Book. Her work and paintings has given her a place in Artist, State and Local Tourism Magazines. She has won an award from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for an Art Installation. Laura was hired by a regional printing company to do paintings that depicted local towns for phonebook covers. Her paintings have won Artist ribbons, First, Second, and Third place. Her community efforts have been recognized and awarded by local Chamber of Commerce's, Tourism and Education Programs. She was also given the honor of participating as an Artist Residency for Public School Systems in Massachusetts.

Laura prefers to paint with oils on birch panels, but her artwork varies. She believes that since she teaches many mediums, she should use them. Always humble. Laura believes in continuing to learn and grow as it is important as one who has not yet arrived and still reaching for success.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-laura-cenedella/>

CAROL DANDRADE

I was late to photography, beginning after retirement, and am primarily self-taught. Viewing life through a lens has allowed me to see light, people, places and things with fresh eyes. Though I haven't found a particular niche yet, I am drawn to waterscapes and any foggy day will find me traipsing about our beautiful New England. Creating images that evoke emotion is what moves me to try new techniques.



My photos have been displayed and awarded in local art shows and galleries. I am proud to have had my work published in the New England Wildflower Magazine, five Blackstone Heritage Corridor calendars, the Metrowest Daily News, several local papers and on WCVB-TV. I am also a member of the Stony Brook Camera Club in Wrentham where I enjoy learning from friends and professionals as well as sharing my work.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-carol-dandrade/>

LINDA DEFEUDIS



I have to say that I like painting, in both Acrylic and Watercolors the best. However, Acrylic is more forgiving as you can re-paint over mistakes once it has dried. It dries fairly quickly, so you can go on to paint another section and then go back to redo it. I asked my professor about oil painting and she seemed to like it a lot. It does not dry and harden as acrylic but has a somewhat smoother consistency when dry. You can paint over mistakes in oil too, but it takes a much longer time to dry. I have never worked in oil so I cannot comment from personal experience.

Watercolor is the hardest to paint because you have to be more careful with the brush in terms of the pressure you use, with the mixing of paints and also with paint consistency. Once it is down, it is down! There are no do-overs in watercolor!

Overall, I find painting to be a very relaxing and contemplative activity; especially on rainy days. Why, I don't know, except that a rainy day is also relaxing and quieting for me. Therefore, I always have my paintbrush ready on rainy days especially: a nice way to spend the day or part of the day! Soft music, while painting, is also enhancing to this mood while painting.

I cannot take credit, however, for this pairing, as it was introduced by an Art Professor at Worcester State University where I have taken courses.

So, next rainy day, give it a try!

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-linda-defeudis/>

BOB EVANS

A latecomer to art photography, Bob spent his early career working in engineering designing life-sciences equipment and then latterly moving into general management. During this time he and his family have lived in England, Florida, New York, and currently Massachusetts. Bob travels frequently on business and always takes a camera with him as one never knows what that perfect image will appear.



During this time he had an active interest in photography, probably coming from his father who is also an accomplished photographer. Over the years as he honed his expertise he found that what could best be loosely described as 'landscape' was his métier. Particularly in the abstraction from reality of key elements helped by almost exclusive use of black and white.

Early influences were Fay Godwin, a very accomplished English landscape photographer, sadly no longer with us. Her work evokes a deep empathy with the land and her keen eye and technical skill inspired him greatly.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fay_Godwin).

Learn more about Bob at his website:

<http://ArckArts.com>

CAROL FRIESWICK

The world of art has been a wonderful journey for me. I generally paint daily, learning with each painting session. My inspiration comes from the landscapes of a day well spent.

I became inspired to paint with the works of former BVAA member Marilyn Rocks. I took classes from her for several years. As time allowed I soon became passionate about the craft. I try to paint daily, learning with each session.



Although I painted in watercolor for years I now paint in oils and pastel. I have continued my education at the Worcester Art Museum, going to many workshops and local demos. I participate in many local art shows and attend as many New England shows as possible.

My artistic goal is to share a wonderful day that I have had. Nature is ever changing, and you only have a small window to capture its magnificence.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/CAROL-Frieswick/242497909244936>

LIBIA GONCALVES

I am mostly a self-taught artist, therefore I have many many questions. I have been painting off and on all my life; my first cows (in kindergarten) were purple. As a child I was told I must study and become "Somebody" and to study art wasn't a choice. Therefore in 1984 I got a bachelor degree in Science from Catholic University in Colombia.



Around this time a friend of mine introduced me into watercolor and I tried a few of them.

Painting is for me an urgent need to express myself in color. Long ago, I learned that a good design can sustain a bad painting but not vice versa, so I saw the need to know more, to investigate more, and to spend more time practicing.

I have learned that when a hobby becomes a passion then there is no way out but to know it, taste it, conquer it, own it; consequently with it, I am now in the task of knowing the color, form, and light which gives me unknown joy and drives me to create and to be at peace with my surroundings and myself.

As an artist I like to use my Maiden name Libia A Quintero, since the desire of expressing myself in color manifested itself when I was just a little girl. Goncalves is my husband's name.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-libia-goncalves/>

SARAH GUIMOND

As a 'jack of all trades, master of none' sort of artist, I enjoy having as many pots in the fire as possible, always working multiple projects or processing multiple ideas at once.

I particularly enjoy acrylic painting, usually of quaint area buildings that catch my interest. Stylistically speaking many pieces I create reflect "folk art" in that they are unique pieces, each to their own. I also do found object 3D collage, drawing and photography. I like immersing myself in the creative process and getting my hands dirty. I'm always up for experimenting with, and learning new forms and techniques.



ELIZABETH HAVENS

I paint because it makes me happy. Painting is therapy and taking an empty canvas and creating a new painting ... that's an awesome feeling.

I use all the mediums :-) Oils, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal, and pastels. This inspires me to always be learning new techniques. I love painting landscapes and animals. I create shapes first, then colors and expressions evolve.



I have painted on sheep farms in Tuscany, llama farms in Maine, old buildings in Brooklyn, central park, Venice and Rome and my own back yard with never a lack of beautiful inspirations.

Many artists have inspired me:-) Charles Birchfield, John Marin, James Fitzgerald, my mom and sister, and of course, van Gogh.

I hope my paintings express the joy that creating them gives me.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-elizabeth-havens/>

JAMES HUNT

James Hunt's photography explores the interdependent and often conflicted relationship between human activity and the natural environment. His photography has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Jewish Community Center of Worcester, Sorenson Center for the Arts at Babson College and the Westborough (Massachusetts) Public Library. His work has also been exhibited at the Brush Gallery in Lowell, Massachusetts, Rockport Art Association and the Griffin Museum of Photography.



He has been chosen for juried exhibitions at the Northern Valley Art League (California) and twice at Photoplace Gallery (Vermont) Images from his portfolio, "Constructing Quabbin," were published in the June 2015 edition of Black and White Magazine and from the portfolio "Lost in the Water" in the June 2017 edition.

James is a graduate of the Professional Photography Program at the Center for Digital Imaging Arts at Boston University and has also studied at the International Center of Photography, Maine Media College and the Griffin Museum of Photography. He received his doctorate from Boston University and is currently is associate professor of management at Babson College where he teaches entrepreneurship and organizational behavior and studies creativity. His studio is in Westborough, MA.

He lives in Grafton with his wife, Chris and poodle, Teddy.

<http://jameshuntphotography.com/>

DON IACOVELLI

I am a retired public school music teacher who treasures the arts in all its formats. I am also a composer and performer.

When I retired from teaching I turned my creative energy to painting. My style is folk art and was influenced by the works of Grandma Moses and her great-grandson Will Moses, who has become my mentor.



The folk art style brings to mind a kinder, gentler time of community, family, activities, and love. My paintings try to incorporate children and adults at play, cozy homes and neighborhoods.

I spend most of my time painting and creating new scenes that depict activity of past times. A child mischievously tossing a snowball, people skating and sliding, just having fun. Summer picnics, kids fishing, barn dances, and many other wonderful joyful times. Clustered homes with windows aglow with warmth and a sense that in their world everything is all right.

My paintings hang in many homes; some have been customized with that home in the scene. My paintings are at the Milford Public Library, Sutton Town Hall, Countryside Nursing and Rehab Center, Draper Place, and more ...Which, of course, it will.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-don-iacovelli/>

DONNA MANLEY

As a retired empty nester I decided to bring back the interests I focused on before life got busy.

After attending Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls, MA, workshops have given me the opportunity to travel and photograph diverse subjects. I have attended workshops at Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, CT with Rick Dole, a former Getty photographer, now an independent motorsport and golf photographer. Onne Van der Wall, an award winning nautical photographer, conducts on the water workshops and taught me how to shoot sailboat races. I have traveled with a company, owned and operated by the photographer for the Marlboro cigarette magazine campaign, to the ranch where the campaign was shot in Moab, Utah. On another trip we traveled to Cuba to explore Havana and the countryside in the western and southern territories of the island.

Although my passion lies with equine, landscape and motorsport photography, I have found new and unusual subjects through travel opportunities and continue to learn.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-donna-manley/>



ANNE MCNEVIN

Photography has allowed me to explore and see my surroundings in ways that I hadn't done without my trusty camera. By taking pictures over a period of time, I've been able to discover patterns of deterioration and renewal



I love the residue left in places that have been rarely inhabited for a period of time, as well as the evidence of how it might be currently used. The leftover traces in these areas reveal a wealth of information about what was loved and well used. I drive and walk around looking for evidence of personality, creativity and humor that have been inserted into neighborhoods by the people who inhabit them.

I've also developed an interest in photomontage, using it to elaborate on themes of change, mood and internal perspectives. These are developed by combining the written word and scanned objects with my photos, which may contain other images already layered in through the use of Photoshop.

<http://www.adiamondmcnevinphoto.com>

KATIE MESSINA

I am an Expressionist Painter and Photographer.

I was the one with the Brownie camera when I was growing up in California during any Holiday I could capture.

My expressionists oil and acrylic landscape paintings in the 1990s allowed me to explore and imagine the color and light of the mountains and seas.

This directly leads to my other passion of photography, which ultimately, I decided to pursue.

I enjoy catching the drama of images in landscape so that the viewer can form their own experience and impression of the photograph.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-katie-messina/>



KAREN PENDLETON

I am a self-taught artist and have participated in many exhibits and solo shows, including Broadmoor (Audubon) in Natick and Hawthorne Suites in Franklin, MA. I have won several awards, both in photography and pen and ink. I have also been accepted into several juried shows, including Marblehead and Southboro, MA.

My love of nature's forms and shapes inspires me to photograph and draw them in pen and ink. The contrast between black and white intrigues me. Occasionally, however, there is a subject that says, "color me." For these, I will use colored pencil or watercolor.

The sources of many of my subjects are the canyons of the southwest and Yellowstone National Park. Recently I have also been doing drawings of historic Hopedale, MA.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-karen-pendleton/>



CAROLE PLANTE

Carole Plante was a muralist/faux finish artist and owner of Creating a Scene Murals.

A volunteer art teacher for five years at the former Central New England Christian Academy in Worcester, she now enjoys acrylic, pastel, and watercolor painting in her recent retirement.



She has a degree in graphic design and has taken courses at the Worcester Art Museum but is largely self-taught.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-carole-plante/>

KATHIE ROCHA

Capturing the innocence and simplicity of childhood is a frequent focus of my watercolor work.

Being primarily a self-taught watercolorist, when I first began painting people, both adults and children, I feared inaccuracy, allowing myself only to paint my subjects from behind. Over time, as my fears began to



subside, I began painting subjects in more traditional settings from multiple angles. I now enjoy the challenge of capturing tiny details in my work – the twinkle of an eye, the cheeky grin, or the warm glint of sunshine on a tiny head – and freezing that moment in time.

Many of the children I have painted have grown into adulthood, and I am often told by parents and grandparents alike that my work still triggers strong memories. Be it love or loss, I take solace knowing my paintings have allowed for such emotional responses.

Surprisingly, even those early paintings set from behind still have strong stories to tell.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-kathie-rocha/>

BOB SEE

I cut my teeth on film photography, shooting air shows and wildlife. With the advent of digital I have converted over and now primarily use a Canon EOS 7D Mark II.

I enjoy the challenges of nighttime and HDR photography.



<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-bob-see/>

LISA SHEA

I discovered at an early age that I loved a variety of creative arenas. I photographed everything I saw. I scribbled on notepads. I folded origami out of receipts. Rides in busses and cars would become long brainstorming sessions for epic sagas.



As I've traveled to different parts of the world, from the misty jungles of Costa Rica to the dark-soil farmlands of Ukraine, I've become even more aware of the wide range of the human condition. So many people feel trapped in tin-roof shacks or collapsing farmhouses because that is all they know. Women stay with battering husbands because life in the outside world seems beyond their ability to cope. Because of that, I donate much of my profits to charity and strive to have my art be a vehicle for change. Sometimes I take a strong political stance, seeking to showcase a situation that is in need of change. In many other cases I strive to create a sense of optimism; a sense that, with effort and perseverance, a better outcome could result.

One of my central themes is the embracing of serenity and peace. So many times precious energy is squandered on stress, guilt, or wallowing in a past which cannot be changed. The more we can find a sense of peace within us, and cultivate our energy to use in a focused manner, the more we can achieve our goals and dreams. This is valuable not only for us directly, but also for all of those around us who we wish to help and support. This theme especially shines through my soul in my many photographs of quiet, natural scenes.

Most of all, I enthusiastically strive to learn and grow every day. I am continually exploring new techniques, researching new styles, and extolling the diversity which is our world.

<http://www.LisaShea.com>

PAMELA WHITE SIDEREWICZ

Creating art in many different forms has always been part of my life. I remember my first lesson that my father gave me since he was working on portraiture in his spare time. I learned how to draw an eye, nose and mouth at the age of five. I was hooked on drawing.



Then came color and composition and I knew I would do this the rest of my life. Through the Guild of Creative Art located in Shrewsbury, NJ, I had the opportunity to study with Evelyn Leavens, Betty Hart and Mary Sheehan. Carol Petzutti Lenehan fresh out of college introduced me to portraiture that supported my art supply purchases drawing coworkers' pets and children during the holidays for many years. Other than a few electives of art classes in college, my creative process was put aside to pursue a career in various chemical and scientific industries for many years.

Moving to Massachusetts and having the mountains, several major cities and the many beaches and parks so close sparked the creative spirit. Initially my photography was to serve as reference material for future paintings. I've found my association with photographers has me refining that aspect of my work. I also have gone back to pastels, oils and acrylics for color in my life. My best efforts at this time are my pencil drawings and that's my focus over the next year.

I attempt to replicate that moment I see whether it's a soft, misty morning or hard, crisp edges reflecting the midday sun. I want to convey that "Wow!" moment with one work or evoke a relaxed sigh by the viewer thinking about a peaceful time in their life with a serenity piece. I want you to have emotion viewing my work. Enjoy the view

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-pam-siderewicz/>

DENNIS SMITH

I create images of nature, life, and conflict to meet my need to experience, share, and preserve both what I find beautiful or what I see as unjust.

For decades I have used photography to capture the realism and art of places. I was drawn to painting since when visiting beautiful places, only rarely is the light perfect, the weather beautiful, and the season peaked. In a painting, I can perfect the scene.

I work principally in transparent and opaque watercolors, I enjoy how the unlimited options presented by painting allow me to express how I feel. I prefer strong pallets but venture into many colors and moods.

I favor having reflective emotion and abstraction over realism in my paintings. For my art photography, I favor artistic expression over technical perfection.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-dennis-smith/>



VERNE THAYER

I have been surrounded by Art and Nature starting from my early childhood. My father, Elton V. Thayer, was an artist and we lived on a farm in Vermont when I was young. He only passed on the basics to me due to him being so busy and died when I was a young adult. So basically I'm self-taught. My influences were my father, Robert Wood, Earl Daniels, and George Cherepov. I tend to be drawn to the Hudson Valley style. But the best part of my adventure in art is that I learn or see something new every day. I'm never as happy as when I have a paintbrush in hand and a canvas in front of me.



One of the important lesson my father did teach me was, "Paint for yourself, and to hell with everybody else". It has been that rule that has allowed me to enjoy my art without a lot of guilt or depression. Oh I have made many mistakes and still do. But I don't let it hold me back. And I'm free to try something new or different.

I've been fortunate to have people like what I am seeing and feeling in my oil paintings. My paintings hang in the homes of New England and Australia. Though my paintings have been in shows, it is not my goal to paint for galleries or shows. As my father taught me, "Paint for yourself".

There is no divine intervention or deep metaphor explaining my art as some artist have. Art is special and meaningful to me period. People who buy my art, see or feel what I have captured on canvas. And for that I am grateful. Anything more than that is their good fortune and nothing that I have done.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-verne-thayer/>

BEVERLY TINKLENBERG

As an artist living in the Blackstone Valley specializing in landscapes of New England, I see an endless source of inspiration for my paintings. We have rocks of all shapes, sizes, and color as well as forests, stone walls, rolling hills, and seacoasts. We have the seasons that give us a rainbow of color in the fall, yellows and mint greens in the spring and the various colors of white in the winter.



Whether I am painting plein air or indoors, I try to show a moment in time when light changes the mood of a place and of a painting. This portrayal of light by the use of color, texture, value and interesting shapes can make the painting peaceful, moody, dynamic or calm. My challenge is to show the viewer what I see and feel.

I am a member of the Blackstone Valley Art Association and have exhibited at their shows as well as at Post Road Art Center, Milford TV, the Black Box Theatre, the National Gallery of Framing, Quaker Tavern, Millbury Library, Northbridge Library, Pam and David Lussier's studio, Hopedale Art in the Park and the Attleboro Art Museum.

Presently I have a sole show at Tucker Hill Inn in Vermont.

beverlyrtink@gmail.com

AL WEEMS

A professional with over two decades of experience in capturing images to represent a wide range of clients including Fortune 500 companies and some of the largest organizations in the region. With a background in business management along with a creative and award-winning style, clients are offered a unique combination: an understanding of the business world presented with a sensitivity to corporate requirements, schedules and availability, an appreciation for the importance of timely service and a mission to keep his client's best interests in mind.



An ability to create a vision and capture a moment, personality, room or landscape allows him to best represent his clients. This combination sets Al apart in the world of photographers and it's precisely why his clients return to him again and again.

His goal is to allow his images to speak for themselves and his sense of versatility offers clients an opportunity to create a unique vision for their company. Ranging from culinary to portraiture, events to architecture, Al will work with a client from project initiation through completion to create images with a professional approach that ensures satisfaction.

<http://www.AlWeemsPhoto.com>

MIKE ZEIS

Even though I keep my eye out for a pretty scene or a subject that inspires a clean composition, and even though I have taken shots of rainbows and lighthouses, what drives much of my photography is an interest in how the things we make reflect who we are.



My interest in documenting self-expression is manifested in three principal ways. First, signs and buildings mirror the era in which they were put in place. The current era is not as defined in my mind as earlier ones, so the artifacts I shoot have been there a while. In other words, I photograph old buildings and signs. Second, our personalities show in our own creations, and who we are can be poignantly or painfully obvious in homemade signs, another favorite subject. Finally, who we are rubs off on the places we call home, particularly when it comes to decorating our yards. A yard with two flamingoes hardly gets a glance. But populate the front yard with a half dozen, and I hit the brakes and get out the camera.

I photograph nature, too, loading up my tripod and lights and heading to the woods, adding to my collection of wildflower photos. I am interested in applying distortion that renders a wildflower more “flower-like.” For instance, I use a vintage Argus C3 35 mm film camera with lens modifications that add distortions. Other flower photos are enhanced by special printing techniques: depending on the photo, I use an ink-jet transfer process or create a rice-paper decoupage assembly. Although both printing processes have an effect on saturation and sharpness, the real benefit is that the final prints have a tactile character that is just right for subjects such as flowers.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-mike-zeis/>

ABOUT THE BVAA

BVAA Purpose

Since its inception in 1957, the Blackstone Valley Art Association has been dedicated to the advancement of the arts and preservation of the finest artistic traditions by means of exhibitions, classes, lectures, and other activities favorable to artistic expression, and to the development of friendly exchanges amongst artists and those interested in the arts.

Funding

The BVAA is an organization which relies on dues, grants and corporate donations in order to cover expenses incurred in holding events and meetings. The number of events we will present depends on our income and budget.

Meetings

We meet at the BVAA Alternatives Uxbridge Community Art Gallery on the third Tuesday of every month EXCEPT during the summer months. Please check our calendar for more information. Board meeting venues will be announced. All meetings start at 6:30 pm unless indicated otherwise.

BVAA On the Web

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bvartassoc>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BVArtAssoc>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+BvaaOrgArt/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/bvartassoc/>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/bvaa/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bvartassoc/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/blackstone-valley-art-association>

<http://BVAA.org>

History

Since 1957 the Blackstone Valley Art Association members have continued the original charter of offering a cultural dimension in the Valley by fostering interest in the arts through exhibitions, demonstrations and meetings. Founding members Alfred Demars, William Boyd and Raymond Sullivan knew there was a void in the region. A tremendous number of people nurtured the expansion and development of one of the oldest art associations in the area. Members such as Bernard Corey, Doris Daniels Cox, Michael Graves, Raymond Andreatti, Marilyn Rocks, Linda Sinacola, to name a few, have gone onto very successful careers.

Over the years professional galleries, old mills, public buildings, assisted living facilities and even a flower farm have been the venue for the many shows per year the BVAA has held. At this time, we have a major spring and fall show. With a growing contingency of photographers, our January Show at Alternatives / Uxbridge exemplifies the hidden talent in our region. We participate in several other shows throughout the year in addition to our ongoing exhibit at the Milford Television Studio which changes every two months.

The BVAA continues to have meetings at least every odd numbered month since our beginning and attempt to plan field trips and outings the months we don't have formal meetings. With all the current talent and interest, we have a full schedule this year. Please visit our website BVAA.org to see our latest activities, meetings, show awards, member activities and galleries in addition to our Facebook page and Google+.

We are a diverse and eclectic group that enjoys art and camaraderie.

Come join us!