



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 “scrambling” 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.



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.

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 Farquhar son 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/>

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 in local art shows and published in the New England Wildflower Magazine, two Blackstone River Valley Corridor calendars, the Metrowest Daily News and on WCVB-TV. I am a member of the Stony Brook Camera Club in Wrentham where I now enjoy learning from friends and professionals as well as sharing my work.

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

JEANNE DECOSTE

Hi my name is Jeanne DeCoste. I grew up in Rhode Island and moved to Massachusetts in 1997, right after getting married to my husband, Tony. After hairdressing for several years I moved on to retail. In the next chapter of my life, I'd like it to read "full time oil painter"!



I am a self taught artist. Over my years I've done everything from sewing and sculpting, to decorating and cooking (nefoodie.blogspot.com). Painting was always something I wanted to know more about. So in late 2013 I got serious. Now you can't stop me! I'm spending many hours a week painting and always learning something new... It's a passion and I hope it shows in my work.

In the end I hope to create pieces of art that become treasures in your home.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-jeanne-decoste/>

DOT DOWNING

As a late-comer to oil painting, having raised five children and worked full time in my native New England, I finally, after many years, acquired the specific knowledge and supplies to nurture a calling to craft the art of oil painting.

There is so much more to painting that I had ever thought: the values, the composition, color theory, for example. I have explored worked with watercolor then moved exclusively to oils.



I belong to the Franklin Art Association, BVAA, Lyme Art Association, OPA, and the Massachusetts Plein Air Association.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-dorothy-downing/>

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/>

ELLEN GOULD

I have always loved to create beauty. In my earlier years I spent some time with formal training at an Art school but found that creativity for me was best expressed in my everyday life. I have spent countless hours immersed in creating with paint, cloth, papier-mâché and wool.



But traditional rug hooking, a craft practiced for thousands of years, became an immediate love. This magical process of pulling a loop of fabric through a linen backing fills me with a sense of accomplishment and has become not only a craft but an art. This concrete, repetitive work frees my imagination and quiets my mind. I hand dye my wool yardage, color plan my patterns and give lessons to those looking to learn this age old craft.

My studio is in my home at Sisters Three Farm in Mendon, Massachusetts and much of my inspiration comes through my window and while at work with my miniature goats and canine companions on the farm. I hope to convey some of my world through my hooked rugs.

Website: www.sistersthree.org

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/>



DON IACOVELLI

Don Iacovelli treasures the arts in all its formats. He played in a band for many years, embracing the joy that music can bring. Now he turns that same creative effort to the world of acrylic painting.

Don loves to paint in the folk art style, bringing to mind a kinder, gentler time of community, family, and love.

His paintings often incorporate children at play and cozy homes clustered together in neighborhoods.

Don spends weeks on his paintings, filling in the tiny details which make them come to life. A child mischievously tosses a snowball at another. A pair of skaters circle each other. There are windows aglow with warmth and a sense that everything will be all right.

Which, of course, it will.

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



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>

JULIE CHEN MERRITT

As my photography evolves, I find that I'm attracted to the simpler things we find in life which often get overlooked. These things hold surprising details if we can find a different way to look at them.

These miniatures capture the rich hues, forms and textures hidden in the everyday, but evocative of the power of life itself. I seek to find the balance within simple oppositions.



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.

Carole is a new member of the BVAA.

FRANK ROBERTSON

My goal is simple. I want to create attractive paintings that you will be proud to display in your home ... with images that continue to please your eye and lift your spirits.

I want my paintings to help viewers celebrate the splendor of the world in which we live.

This, I believe, is the power of art.

The proceeds from the sale of my paintings are donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Thanks for your generosity!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Frank-Robertson/1560101477538351>



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.

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 life and nature to fulfill my need to experience, share, and preserve what I find beautiful.

My images are mainly from the eastern US, Europe, and the Blackstone Valley. I also provide real estate and corporate photography for area businesses.



I started learning photography from my Dad when I was eleven. My first camera was a Kodak Brownie Reflex and later I was allowed to use my Dad's Rolleiflex. I learned composition and technique on the Rolli, developed the film, and made prints in a darkroom I built in the basement. I created my first paid portrait when I was thirteen. After music and corporate careers, four kids, and thousands of snapshots, I returned to photography in 2009.

My second art class was 50 years after my class in grade school. I extend my appreciation and skills with photo and art groups, local and online classes, and studying the collections of great museums in the United States, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and Austria.

I favor Pictorialism over Modernism. I have been most influenced by photographers Jay Maisel, Jerry Uelsmann, Char Fetterolf, and many others.

Perhaps more than photographers, my creations are influenced by many artists including Vincent Van Gogh, Ynon Mabat, Ben Ham, Rick Reinert, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Thomas Hart Benton, Henri Matisse, Antonio Gaudi, Andrea Del Sarto, Paul Cézanne, John La Farge, and Bernardo Strozzi's *The Calling of Saint Matthew*.

I live in Uxbridge Massachusetts in the Blackstone Valley, which is the most beautiful area in which I have ever lived.

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

BEVERLY TINKLENBERG

As an artist living in the Blackstone Valley, I like to specialize in landscapes in this area. Here, I have an endless source of inspiration for my paintings with the 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 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.

<http://bvaa.org/galleries/gallery-beverly-tinklenberg/>

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'll be meeting and holding shows at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland Street, Whitinsville 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

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

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

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

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

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

<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 Andreotti, 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!