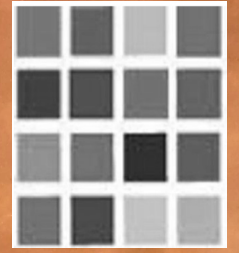


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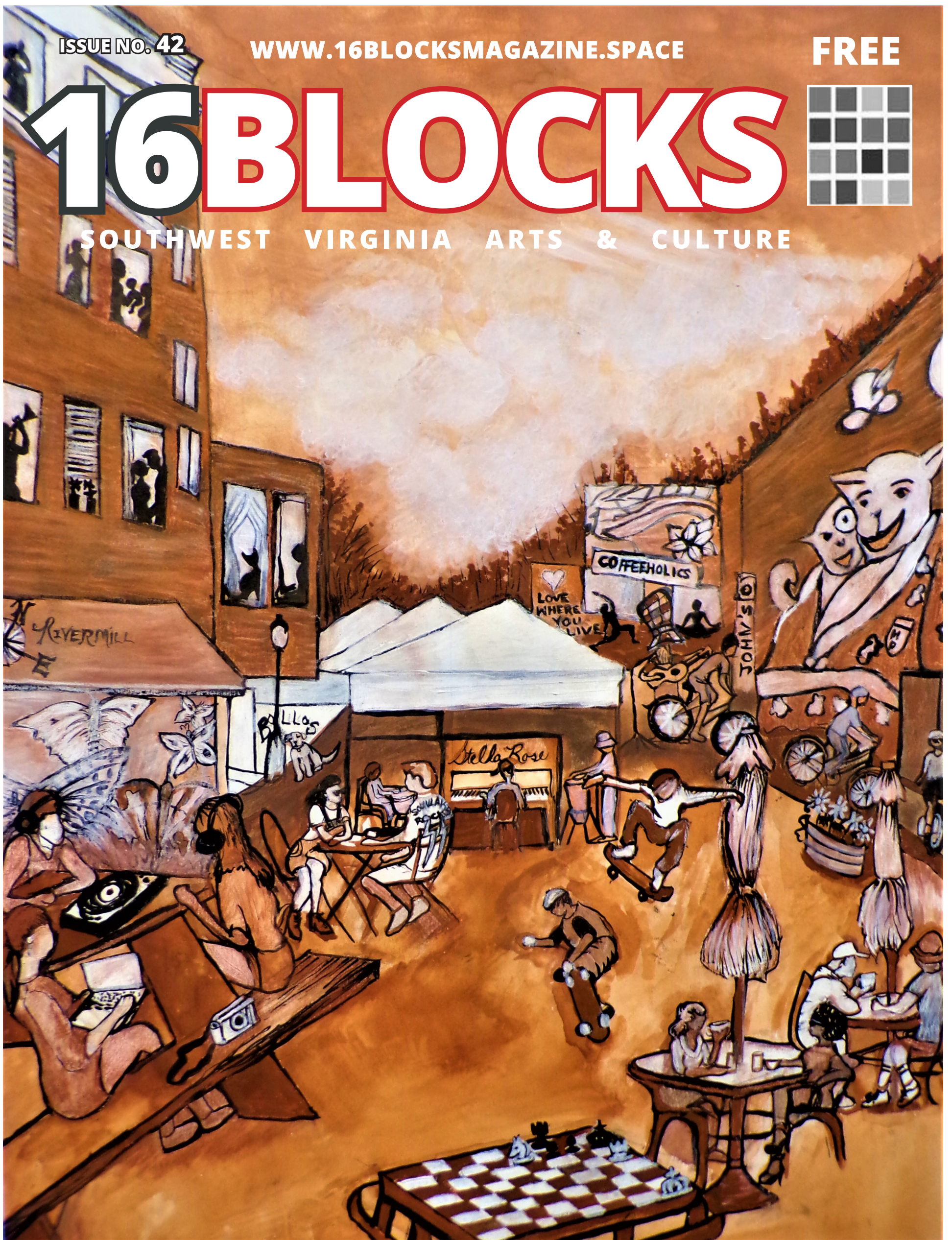
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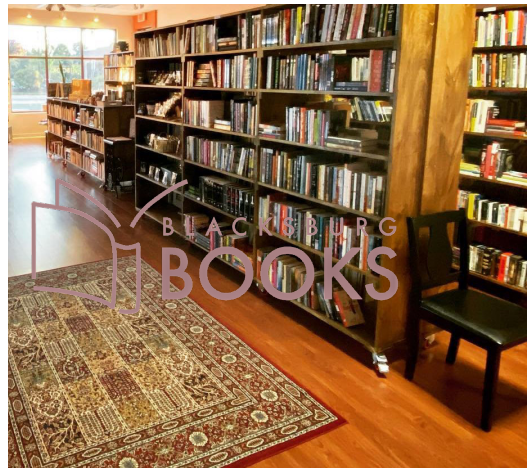
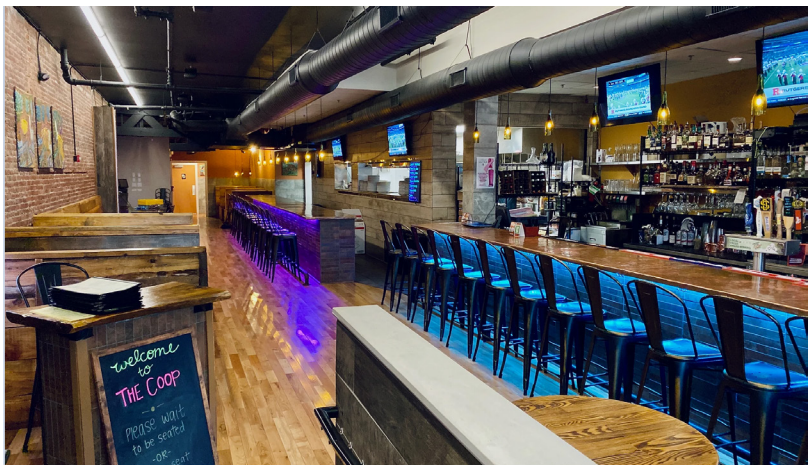
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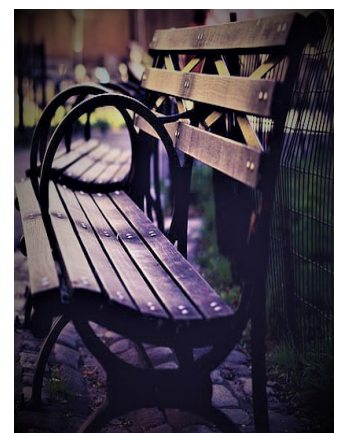


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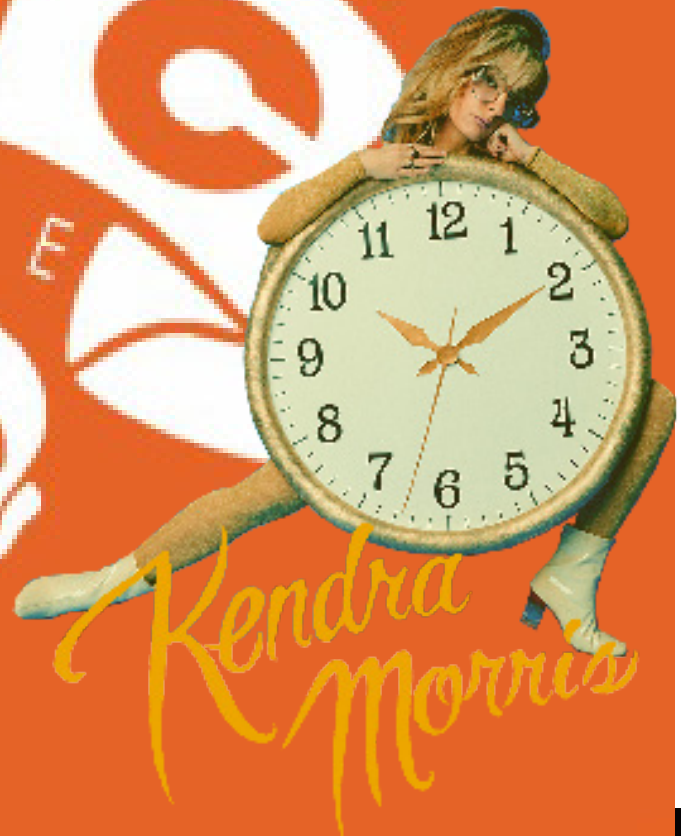


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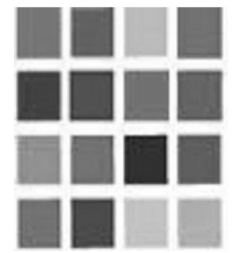
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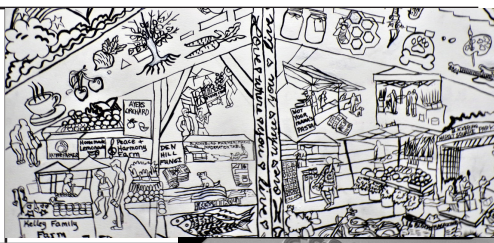
Kendra Morris



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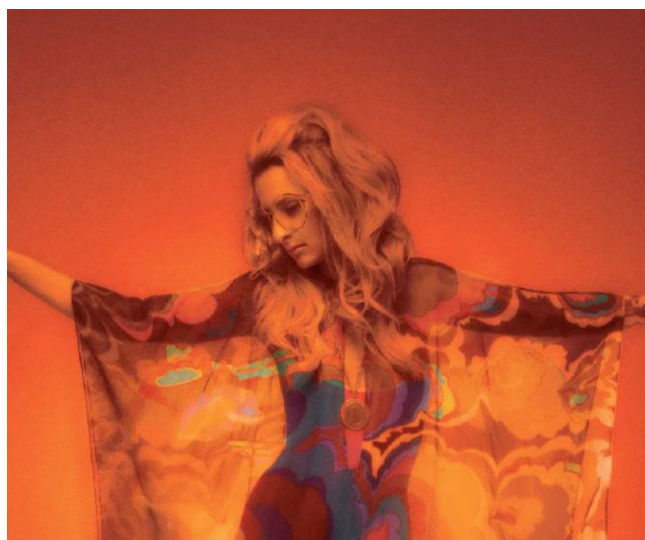


SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ARTS & CULTURE

20	COLORING BOOK <i>A Market Square Park Centerfold</i>	
22	Way Back When <i>Stories and pictures from the past.</i>	
24	NOOK LOOK <i>The Bricks, Mural Alley and Where Your Water Goes.</i>	
32	LARRY BECHTEL <i>The Henrietta Lacks Monument and other works in progress.</i>	

What Else is Inside?

In Remembrance of Joe Kelley.....10
 Draper Road Reports.....16
 Eric Marshall Photography.....30
 Fashion.....35
 Crossword.....39



Live at the Lyric

With an intimate setting, grand historic stage and excellent acoustics, The Lyric is truly a special place to enjoy a live performance in the center of Blacksburg. Margo Price, Sara Watkins, Yonder Mountain String Band, Todd Snider, The Indigo Girls, and many more have all graced the Lyric Stage. Visit the www.thelyric.com to purchase tickets for our exciting fall season!

September 6, 2023 8pm - Kendra Morris

September 26, 2023 8pm - Molly Tuttle

October 25, 2023 8pm - Jonathan Richman, feat. Tommy Larkins

1 contributors

6 ISSUE NO. 42

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16 Blocks is always looking for ways to push new boundaries. As such, we welcome the input from our readers. Please send us your thoughts about what you'd like to read, or discover via email, facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or snail mail.

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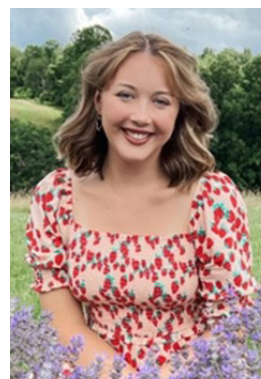
Writer



Brandy Renee McCann

Brandy is a folk herbalist and writer. Her creative work can be found at *Reckon Review*, *Still: The Journal*, and *The Dead Mule*. Brandy is a research scientist at the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech where she studies care-giving.

Fashion Writer



Emily Meade

Hello, I'm Emily! Books and writing have always held a special place in my heart, igniting a passion in me that is unlike anything else. I am so excited to contribute to 16 Blocks Magazine and help highlight the wonderful community that we share!

Head Photog



Eric Marshall

Eric has always fancied himself as a bit of a mad scientist. Sometimes he volunteers at the Ruritan club fish fries. Eric is also obsessed with ducks. I heard he likes tacos.

Wine Writer



Cassandra Kessman

Each grape, vineyard & wine-maker has a story to tell which is expressed in each glass of wine, whispering stories of the soil, the weather & the wine-maker. Cassandra hopes to share these stories with the readers.

Photog At-Large



John Kline

John's first camera was a Kodak Brownie Reflex. The OG of Downtown Draper Road, he has owned many incarnations of what is now John's Camera and Records on the block for 47 years.

Emcee Writer



Tonē Jermain

Tonē is a musician and founder and emcee of Beats in the Streets.

"Every time I pass by the piano on Draper I always envision that space being used in a way full of music and people."

Supporting Cast: Nicole LaFon - Bradley Martz - Glyph Koda - Griffin Covey - Ian Moone - Steven Arcane

"Creativity takes Courage." Matisse

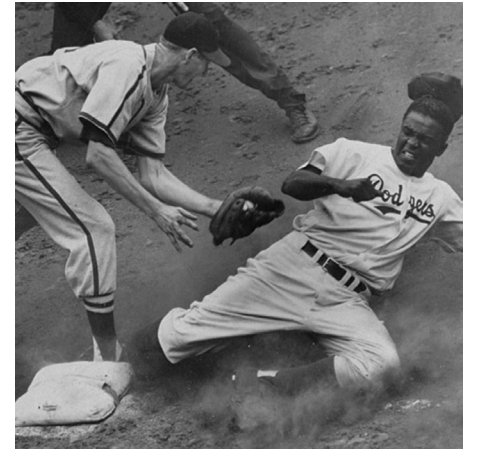
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BLACKSBURG ARTS & CULTURE



Hart Fowler -Publisher/ Editor-in-Chief

2023 marks 16 years since the first print issue was released of this Zine produced for and by the local community. Over a five-year run I had the pleasure to work with over 200 creative contributors and local, regional and national sponsors producing 41 print issues, events, a festival, and a dozen murals. As an accomplished independent journalist for other publications during the loss of nearly all local media, I am back to do what I can in the spirit of a much needed revival. It is with a humble pride that I introduce this print ReLaunch, and Creative Director Rita Brame's artistic vision into the effort to curate, guide, and engage in a local cultural exploration while documenting the experience. ~HF



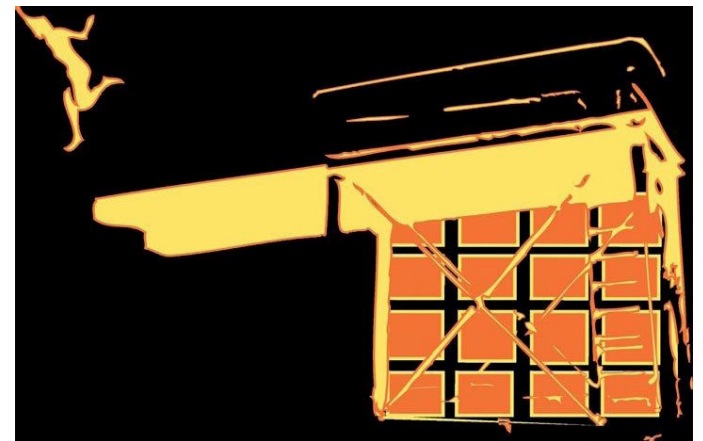
#42

Robinson slides hard to reach third base.

A Message For Our Sponsors

The Wind in our Sails and Springboard to the Print Relaunch, we ask our readers to read the ads for places to shop and go local.

- * Cabo Fish Taco * Good Vibes * Blue Ridge Axe *
- * New River Art and Fiber * Downtown Blacksburg Inc. *
- * Vets for Vittles * Moss Arts Center *
- * Blacksburg Pipe and Tobacco * NRV Renovators *
- * Southwest Virginia Pride * Blacksburg Partnership *
- * The Lyric * Steel Rose Enterprises *
- * Souvlaki * Shelter Alternatives *



Rita Brame Creative Director

My journey as a Creative Director began as Editor for my high school yearbook at Radford High School. I graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Painting, Cumme Laude. I received a Master's of Fine Arts from Winthrop University in Sculpture and was recipient of Winthrop Woman of Excellence Award. I am a professional artist and work in many mediums, from oil paintings to graphic design to murals.

Composing the Cover

This composition aims to capture naturally occurring events and activities on Draper Pedestrian Block. I used mixed media including conte crayons, washes of sanguine, and India ink with brush drawing.

The perspective is distorted to include more than the natural eye can see. The street sides are warped to showcase what one might experience on a casual stroll along the eclectic shops, cafes, along with the music from the piano under the tents.

Sketching, drawing and photographing in the streets on random days and nights provided inspiration for content. Bicyclists, skateboarders, musicians, students, public yoga practitioners... a great intermingling of people.

All sandwiched between Coffeeholic's and Bollos with public tables and benches, this block is our representation of Cafe Culture.

Café culture is a historic and worldwide tradition based in and around coffee shops which have always been a gathering place for those interested in intellectual discussion and engaging conversation which is fertile ground for artistic and creative exercise.

I see Draper Block as interactive; a place of incubation, inspiration, and collaboration.



Draper Block, Blacksburg Summer 2023
Original Currently on display at Alexander Black House
See Page 29



All supplies for the cover drawing including **Sanquine Conté à Paris** were purchased at **New River Art and Fiber** downtown.

**SATURDAY
SEPT. 16**



**1:00-5:00 PM
(VIP@NOON)

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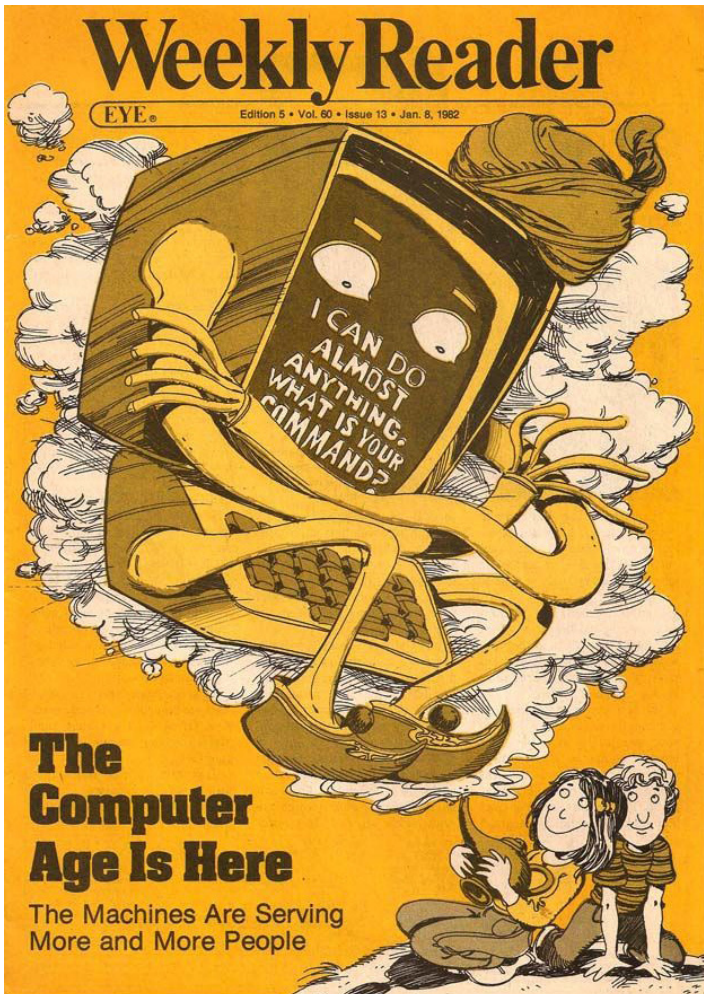
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SEPT. 29**

5:00-9:00 PM

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In Remembrance

Joe Kelley

1968-2022

Photo by Dominique Francesca

I first met Joe while working as an Assistant for local artist Ray Kass. We discovered a shared love of rockabilly music and he gave me a recording of his band playing on WUVT's The Local Zone.

He was Ray's right hand man, and I was more of a helper with the larger traveling shows to galleries and museums in Richmond and NYC. We would hang up and/or take down shows and sometimes spend a week or two at Ray's loft in Spanish Harlem, sleeping on futons or sleeping bags.

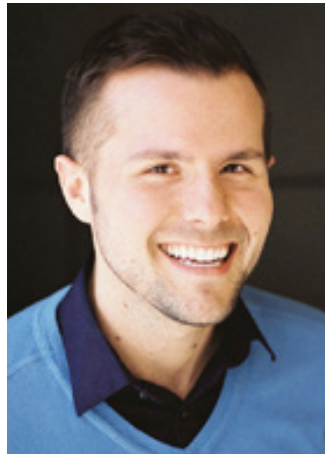
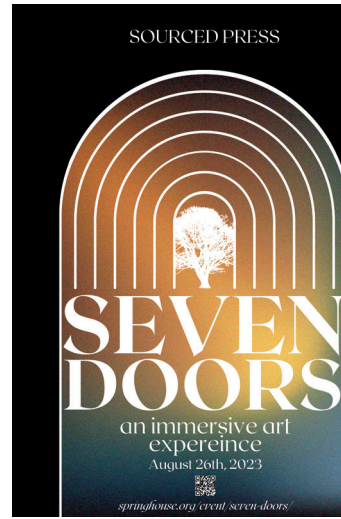
After I discovered that the barrelhouse-sized Hispanic-Afro-Haitian-Cuban after-hours club a block away had \$3 Corona and a band of drum players and dancers around a juke-box, Joe had to come to get me one night when I lost track of time. I remember his glasses and relaxed smile across the dark bodega-sized bar, him politely cutting through the crowded and sweaty room and grinning and with no judgment saying in his unique drawl: "Hart, I think it best we go home." We laughed about it walking the block back in the hot city summer early morning.

I went to pick up some of his art work and visit him a few times in his house off of Ellett Road on the side of a ridge which was often only accessible by foot and not accessible at all if the creek had flooded the bridge.

The last time I saw Joe was one rainy afternoon when he came to my house to take apart a 1926 Cincinnati Piano that's playing days were done. The sounds from the stringed harp during disassembly was amazingly creepy. The rain had stopped when he closed the door to his truck bed, us resting our forearms on opposite sides of the bed, surveying with approval the assorted hammers, keys, legs, face-board and mantle. The 300lb stringed harp leaning against a big oak behind us in my backyard like a musical lawn ornament. He eventually used the salvaged parts for art pieces he exhibited at his new home, and in museums and art galleries. The sun was setting and I remember him taking a deep breath and a pause, him saying: "Well I best get home." Miss you Joe --HF



Kelley Retrospective and Bechtel Studio
Video Interview @16blocksmagazine.space



Welcoming Seth Davis

The Lyric's New Executive Director

The former Musical Director of Roanoke's Mill Mountain Theater replaces Lyric icon Susan Mattingly who ran the theater for over 20 years.

"I come from theater life. A perfect night to me would be having an audience that's energy is fully engaged with the performers on stage, reciprocating the energy."



Sold Out Barbie Premier, Lyric Theater, July 9, 2023.



Corliss Callan
Granddaughter



Stella Rose Mullins Cranwell
with daughter Corky
and in hat below

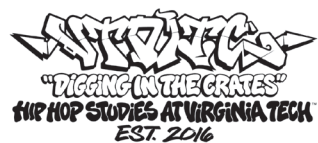


Stella's Story

Sweet tea, soft supple hands, and the most comforting lap to sit on when sad; Cornbread, paddy cake, and teaching me arithmetic. These are just some core memories that I have of my grandmother, Stella Rose Mullins Cranwell. My favorite memory of her was when we drove below the low-hanging branches of our favorite willow tree while blithely getting her black sedan stuck in the mud. To me she was Gran; but to the town of Blacksburg Virginia, she was something else, something equally as supportive, admirable, and dignified.

Stella Rose Mullins, born in 1935 to Maxie and William Mullins, grew up with her eleven older siblings in Richlands, Virginia. At a young age, Stella developed Scarlet Fever. As a treatment, she and her family moved to Ft. Pierce, FL to be in the sun and sea air, where her father continued his lucrative Lumber Mill Company. In Stella's teens, she found herself back in Richlands, VA where she rekindled her relationships with Mary Ellen and William C. Cranwell, two siblings from another family in the area. Stella and Mary Ellen were best friends and soon became sister-in-laws when Stella and William tied the knot. Becoming Stella Cranwell was one of her greatest joys in life. She was so proud of her family. She and William had three children; William C. Cranwell II, Corliss M., and Jane Ellen. She loved Williams's older daughter Kitty Branch like her own and adored her four Grandchildren: Corliss Cranwell, William C. Cranwell III, Sydney, Nicole, and Kasey. Stella and Mary Ellen Deemer stayed best friends until passing away only weeks apart.

Stella passed away in 2010 but left behind her kind and gentle touch all over the town of Blacksburg VA. Stella was a lover of the arts and gracefully participated in philanthropy throughout her entire life. Stella was a member of the Baptist church, homeroom mother for all three of her children, and was known for hosting gatherings in support of the community and Virginia Tech. Stella was also on the town's beautification board and pushed for the arts throughout Blacksburg. She and William eventually donated the home where they raised their three children to Virginia Tech (The Cranwell International Center). Stella could make anyone feel at home in her presence, from governors to gardeners, she was gracious to all. I believe that is why she put so much of her love into the Town of Blacksburg, to make it a home and not simply a municipality.



16 Blocks Presents
"Cover Art Closing Reception"
with Djs Representing VTDIC
Nov 4
Alexander Black House
Details TBA

A lot of people resist transition and therefore never allow themselves to enjoy who they are. Embrace the change, no matter what it is; once you do, you can learn about the new world you're in and take advantage of it.

Nikki Giovanni



"Striking one man show!"
- Military Times

"A must see!"
- The Washington Post

The Highlander Hotel Radford, Radford, VA
Tickets: <https://vittles4vetsoloshow.eventbrite.com>

Wed, Sep 27th, 7:30 PM

Thur, Sep 28th, 7:30 PM

Tending the Creative Fire

Be all-encompassing and earnest.
 Be all-in with full dogged bluster and persistence.
 Be in the quiet room.
 Knuckle Down and Keep your Guard Up!
 Hold then break the pattern.
 Circle and scope the terrain.
 Know the perimeter then breach it.
 Keep the nets out and many of them.
 Especially when they are empty.
 Be buoyant and profound.
 Unbeast your burden.
 Be your own Impetus
 With the discipline of a samurai monk,
 Armed with unrealized inner power.
 Keep your instrument safe and be always at the ready,
 For you will fire, like the race horse out the gate
 Full gallop leaving in your wake
 A trail of Phoenix embers flash
 Cracking light in what once was void.

-HF

Warrior Pose Mimi Rogers



The Secret is the Exhale

Releasing, letting go, ridding what no longer is needed,
 blowing away the fear
 with a whoosh like a candle flame when it is time to rest,
 shhhhhhing and bringing down the anger
 eventually rocking a baby to sleep,
 haaaaaaing of the gratitudes we feel
 restoring and soothing our soul,
 ehhhh getting out anything that is stuck to digest the present and
 hissssssing at any grief or sadness that lingers
 allowing it to shed that layer and be grounded.
 Inhale, the new, inner breath
 To draw in the fresh energy from Mother Earth
 Preparing us for the cycle to begin again.
 Exhale.

-Nicole LaFon

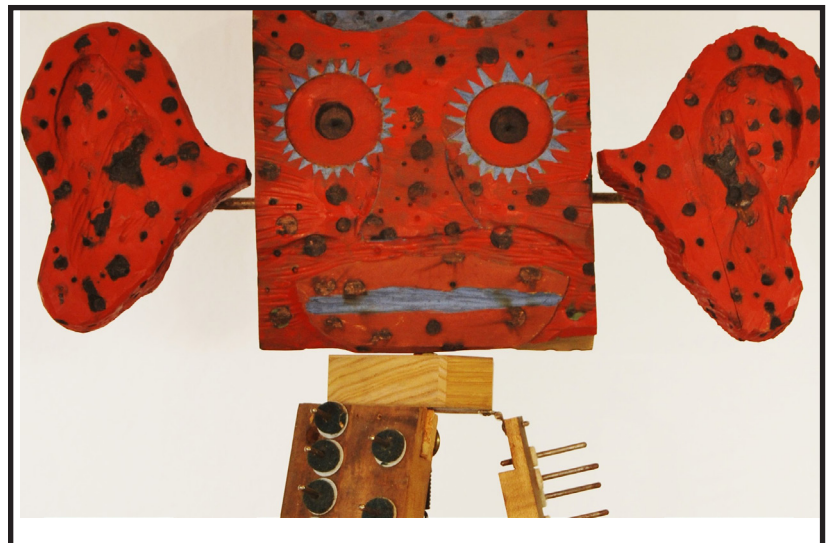
In Balance Yoga
 1512 North Main St Blacksburg



VTDITC
 Presents:
Aerosol Art Workshop
 with Good Homie Signs
Volume 48
 8/31/23
 6-8 PM
 The Media Building
 101 Draper Road NW
 Blacksburg, VA
 VTDITC: art for learnings sake

Join VTDITC: Hip Hop Studies at Virginia Tech for our 48th seminar series event - Aerosol Art with Good Homie Signs. To kick off the semester, we're celebrating one of the major elements of Hip Hop culture - graffiti art. Get creative with experienced muralist Good Homie Signs and use spray paint to help produce a 32' long mural alongside other VT students and community members. We'll be painting outside the Media Building (home of VTDITC's True School Studios) from 6 to 8pm on Thursday 8/31. This event was made possible thanks to a Weeks of Welcome grant.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, welcome! Please contact Craig Arthur at craarthu@vt.edu during regular business hours at least 3 business days prior to the event.



Works

by **Joe Kelley**

Big Ears and **Piano Assemblage** (2013) are sculptures created using carved wood, milk paint, and assembled piano parts



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ISSUE 42



13

Basic Rules on Foraging

By Brandy Renee McCann

In Search of Yarrow

A friend is building a farm just outside town on a few rolling acres beneath the ridge of Brush Mountain. Her husband is making a serious go at vegetable farming, and she is committed to giving a loving home to otherwise unwanted animals with a menagerie of horses, cats, and a sweet Jack Russel mix.

What catches my eye is that much of the land is left uncultivated with wildflowers. I am looking for a robust patch of wild yarrow. Yarrow, or ***Achillea Millefolium***, is named for Achilles who, legend has it, used the wildflower for first aid to staunch bleeding in wounds, which is only one of yarrow's many medicinal uses.

Unfortunately, my usual foraging spot had been mowed and I didn't want to take the few plants I found growing there. ***Unless it's an aggressive, invasive species, collect only a small amount from a healthy, robust patch.***

I see an ocean of white blooms and go to the edge of the field for a closer look, as Queen Anne's Lace, another knee-high, white, flat-topped wildflower is also blooming this time of year. But this plant, with her sturdy stalk and tell-tale feathery leaves is definitely yarrow. ***Know the lookalikes.***

Back at my friends' place, I explain that I make salves and teas with yarrow and ask if she minds if I collect some. ***Ask permission. Get the okay not only from any land-stewards involved, but, for those of us spiritually-minded, ask the plant's permission, a piece of advice given by some indigenous foragers.***

I carry a pair of safety scissors in my purse or car just for such occasions and was able to collect a nice bouquet of fragrant yarrow that I took home to dry a bit before infusing in oil.



McCann is a folk herbalist and writer. Her creative work can be found at *Reckon Review*, *Still: The Journal*, & *The Dead Mule*.
@appalbrandy
Left: Yarrow, or ***Achillea Millefolium***



Above: Queen Anne's Lace
Not yarrow (foto: EM-VTCRC)
Left:
Deano Chlepas shows off beautiful Birdsong farm-raised bees making honey to keep you happy and healthy!

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David Christian Rehor

Roanoke-based
VT Photography Professor

Manifestation:
A Post Industrial Landscape

I am fascinated with photographing landscapes along the borderline of human development that manifest a constant ecological shift. The environment shows signs of man-made erosion and a persistent reclamation by nature, in most cases interwoven. It is this contrast of organic and manufactured that I want to document, both struggling to evolve simultaneously.

rehorphoto.com



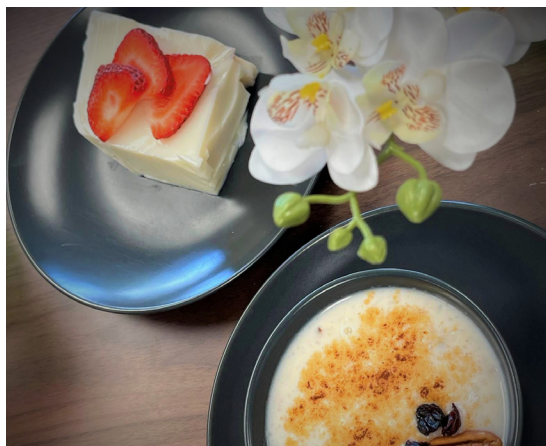
The Burgs Resto-Bar



Diverse Latino restaurant with a mix of every culture in Latin America with a unique but authentic flavor
 Restaurante latino diverso con una mezcla de todas las culturas de América Latina con un estilo único pero
The Burgs Resto-Bar
 204 Draper Road
 204 Calle Draper
 Est. 2023



Ceviche-Peru
 Raw fish marinated with lime juice, accompanied with sweet potatoes, onions and corn.
Lomo Saltado-Peru
 Juicy, stir-fried sirloin with onions and tomatoes, served with french fries and white rice.
Fried Yuca sticks Huancaína sauce
Arroz Con Leche-Peru
 White rice milked with milk, cinnamon and vanilla.
Gelatina
 Mexican homemade gelatin.



Ceviche-Perú
 Pescado crudo marinado con jugo de limón, acompañado con camote, cebolla y maíz.
Lomo Saltado -Perú
 Jugoso solomillo salteado con cebolla y tomate, servido con papas fritas y arroz blanco.
Palitos de yuca fritos con salsa huancaína .
Arroz Con Leche-Peru
 Arroz blanco ordeñado con leche, canela y vainilla.
Gelatina
 Gelatina casera mexicana.

The Boardwalk



Owner Mike Halsey

A carnival of Funnel Cakes, Fried Twinkies, Snickers, Oreos...
The Boardwalk
 110 Draper Road
 Est. 2023

Draper Road Tent Reports:
 AUGUST 2023: Stream of Consciousness by GC
 Savory kernels prepared Peruvian Style from the Burgs brought to the table by the piano seeing Mark Halsey looking like Paul Newman by the lighthouse sweeping the walk and check his street lights. A boy is doing an excellent rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" on the piano.
 A cyclist gracefully barrels down the Armory sidewalk, ducking to avoid the neck of the cello strapped on his back from hooking a tree as an electric one-wheeled superhero in shades swerves up the way cool and slow and with beats, at a distance a marching band is warming up by the ancient sounds from a PowWow tent...

Lab Reports

Summer Sipping Suggestions

by Cassandra Kessman of Blackburg Wine Lab

This summer my husband's new hobby is using our new smoker and grilling. While it is nice to not have to cook dinner, it can take hours to smoke it. In the meantime, I have a few ideas to sip on while we wait. Let's explore summer wines that pair perfectly with porch sipping, pool sitting and sizzling steaks, grilled veggies or seafood. These wines have a few elements in common—light in body, crisp with a solid acidic backbone, sometimes spritzy, sometimes still and chilled. I want to go out on a limb and suggest interesting bottles that aren't your typical varietals of Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Grigio.

#1. Vinho Verde – Vinho Verde is a style of wine from Portugal in the Minho region. Verde means green and it is best to enjoy this wine young. They are known for their spritzy bubbles, zippy acidity, citrus notes and are also low abv (Alcohol by Volume) which is perfect for a hot summer day. It pairs well with salad, fish tacos, beaches, porches, picnics and patience while you continue to wait for the grill master. It also is made as a rosé! My favorites are the Quinta da Raza Vinho Verde & Arca Nova Vinho Verde Rosé.

#2. Vermentino – This is perfect for poolside sipping. Vermentino is predominantly grown on the Island of Sardinia in Italy. You will be transported to the island on your first sip. If you are a Sauvignon Blanc fan you will love this! It has the acidic backbone that all New Zealand Sauv Blanc fans love. It is a complex wine with notes of lime, grapefruit, green apple, and a hint of white flowers. My favorite is the Argiolas Costamolino Vermentino from Sardinia, Italy.

#3. Muscadet – Muscadet hails from the Loire Valley in France. This wine is named after the region it comes from. The name of the grape is called Melon de Bourgogne. Confusing right? Why is the grape named after Burgundy when it comes from the Loire Valley? It's said that the grape originated in Burgundy. This wine is perfect with any seafood! Oysters on the half shell, mussels, white flaky fish, and seafood boils – the epitome of summer with friends!. My favorites are Domaine de la Pepiere Clisson & La Perdrix de l'annee des Betes Curieuses Muscadet.

Finally, the grill master has finished dinner, time to sit down and pour us a glass of one of these summer bottles. The hardest part is deciding which one to pop open...

Cheers!



Above: Diogo Teixeira Coelho's is the fifth generation winemaker at Quinta da Raza in Portugal's Basto Region. His Vinho Verde pairs well with salad, fish tacos, beaches and porches.



Blackburg Wine Lab
223 Gilbert Stt

Blacksburg
Pipe & Tobacco
408 North Main Street
540-951-8457

Meet Joe Nazare

"Nazare is my own preference of a premium cigar experience. That's why it carries my name. The cigar is sweet, creamy, with hints of some caramel and almonds and an underlying buttery taste. Smooth, well behaved and interesting. The perfect child."

When I was tasting Nazare, blend 12 really stood out. I was in 2 minds. Rich dark chocolate and espresso notes, giving way to hints of nutmeg and toffee.

Nazare is the essence of my palate. However, the blend 12 is the slightly naughtier younger brother. It's the one that got away. The flavor is slightly fuller and more dense. The cream in Nazare makes way for dark chocolate in blend 12. The size is slightly larger than Nazare to balance the strength. In the end, only 1 cigar could be Nazare. But blend 12 was special too. So special, that I decided to commission it too."
Joe Nazare

Puff in Peace, bro
Nazare exclusively sold @ Joe's



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blacksburgfarmersmarket.com



16 BLOCKS MAGAZINE COLORING PAGE





Brame Hotel

LEFT: Floyd, Rooms starting at \$2.00 with hot and cold running water, private baths, gas-lights and hot-water radiators. For 50 cents more, a guest's horse will be stabled, watered and fed out back. The Floyd Telephone Company switchboard (est. 1903) is available for guests. In-house butcher, eye-doctor, dentist, bank, dance hall and restaurant with a Chicken Dinner Specialty (Building razed in 1965)



Above: "Back in the 1970s and early 80s, our dad, Francis Kelley of Draper, sold produce at the Pulaski Farmers Market. He took great pride in what he grew. My sister and I, along with my husband, carry that tradition on with quality produce, baked goods, jams, and fine craft as Kelley Family Farms at both the Pulaski and Blacksburg Farmers Markets." -Martha Biggar, Draper



Above: Marvin Fowler, Barbara Fowler and Brenda Robeson, Carol Lee Donuts, Downtown Blacksburg, 1970s.

Right: These women, probably Garden Club members, assist staff at the Blacksburg Esso Company in 1957. The business was participating in the Flower Garden Contest. (Courtesy Montgomery Museum of Art and History, D. D. Lester Collection)



**WAYBACK
WHEN**



The Hare

Fiction by Griffin Covey

Left to right

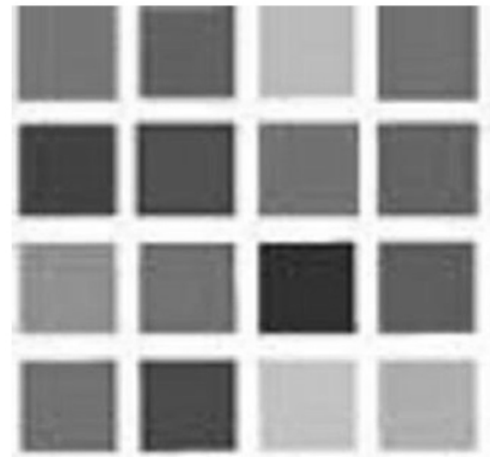
Dillinger, dog years 28, aka Dill

John Sherman Rogers, boy years 12, aka Jackie

May, bovine years 12, aka Mavis

John Tecumseh Rogers, boy years 14, aka Johnny

Floyd, dog years 48, aka Pretty Boy



Their Daddy, a good man, said keep those dogs on a leash but the two boys let them loose after the house was out of sight because it was a long walk to town on the dirt road cut through cornfields, and holding the leash is no fun. Especially with Dillinger and Floyd, both of which are pulling dogs and not walking dogs.

They were escorting May to the market to sell, a walk they'd made with cattle before. This was their third trip without Pa. A band of two brothers, the two dogs, and May with her cowbell clinking and the dogs taking the opportunity to sniff and water the way.

The boys kicked dirt, whistled and danced "Sweet Georgia Brown", spoke bank-robber tales while May moseyed alongside. In a quiet moment, younger brother Jackie jumped up and knocked his brother Johnny's hat off into the dust and the procession stopped.

Johnny, older and taller, looked down at Jackie with a fightin' face. Jackie understood the look, and punched Johnny in the belly as hard as he could. Johnny went down on one knee and fake-cried. The boys shadow-squabbled with feints and jabs. May grunted.

The dogs paid no notice. They were distracted by the hare.

From the moment they'd left the mowed grass of their yard and entered the fields walking on the dusty sanguine road the dogs Dillinger and Floyd had been smelling and tracking something. While the boys had been foolin' around, they were aware and on the ready-scent. Silently they had saunter-trotted with paws on dust then disappearing on a dime into the corn stalk curtain. The boys got up from the dust.

"Dillinger", hollered Johnny.

"Floyd", hollered Jackie, doing as best he could to match his big brother's voice.

They looked at each other, then at May, and it was Johnny's time to act as an older brother feels obligated to do.

"You guard the road in case I can't collar them and they bolt for home."

Jackie was flustered, scared of the corn, his brother going into the swaying stalks as tall as him. Johnny understood and took a deep breath like a young man.

"It'll be alright Jackie, just stay here with May and I'll be back."

Johnny went into the field now swelling in a rising wind like the surface of the sea, blindly tracing the distant yip sounds of the dogs. Jackie watched the legion cornstalks sway as if possessed by an unknown evil that had lured the dogs into its fold. He waited for his brother, while May sat down slow, like a cow does, with all the time in the world.

It was a long wait. Long enough that it made Jackie Boy sit down crossed-legged, nervous in the middle of the dusty road. The sky bent down closer on him without his brother, even though it was the same open blue as it had been. He sat and tried to whistle. He threw pebbles at nothing and thought of impending storms and witches.

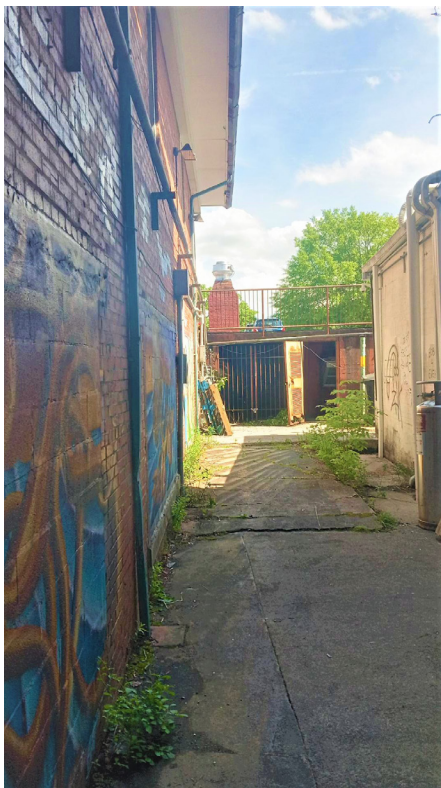
May sat beside him on the dusty road, yawned and wagged her tail, swatting the flies on her back and looking at him with droopy black eyes. Time passed slowly and Jackie Boy didn't like it, thinking of Johnny or Dillinger or Floyd never coming back.

It was the moment when the slow boil of the quiet waiting crescendoed and peaked, the crossroads decision to head home alone or enter the fields himself, into the Menace Incarnate! Then in a WHOOSH the dog Dillinger burst through the corn-stalks full-tilt with a rabbit in his mouth, followed by Floyd with a slower trot and his tongue lolling out.

Johnny walked out of the corn stalks next, rubbing his neck and red-faced.

Dillinger greeted Jackie still sitting Indian style at full dog-gallop with the hare and nearly knocked the boy over. Jackie sighed relief and threw down the rocks he'd gathered. He stood up, wiggled May's leash, and she ambled up too.

Johnny gathered himself upon the approach and called Dillinger. Dillinger circled back and dropped the dead hare at Johnny's feet and he put the hare in the sack he had on his back and thought it was worth the trouble.



Nook Look

A collection of crannies
found when off the path
Rhyme by Glyph

These places are best kept secret,
to remain safe for the curious few.

Because a nook is only a nook,
when hidden from the common view

The secret spots you never knew,
Always curious perspectives,
Make for the best views.



Where Does Your Water Flow This is in an alleyway behind The Lyric in downtown Blacksburg. This piece was funded by the Town of Blacksburg's *Love Where You Live* project and the Watershed Awareness Fund in Blacksburg. This was done almost entirely in freehand spray paint. Enjoy! AO 2013



Right: B-Rad, on the B-ramp, Watershed Art Collective, Portland, OR, 2012

Left and Below Right: The Bricks Blacksburg August 2023 fotos from video reel by Eric Marshall on 16blocksmagazine.space



© Jon Huey

"The Bricks... the amount of wax on the ledges tells you this is a daily hit for skaters in town." Bradley Wayne Martz



B-Rad, Burnside Daze Gone By, Portland, OR 2012



MURAL ALLEY

In the Summer of 2012, we locally curated, commissioned, and located the downtown spaces with amenable business owners co-producing 12 murals with Blacksburg Neighborhood Services Director Kim Kirk. Six of those are on 215 North main Street.

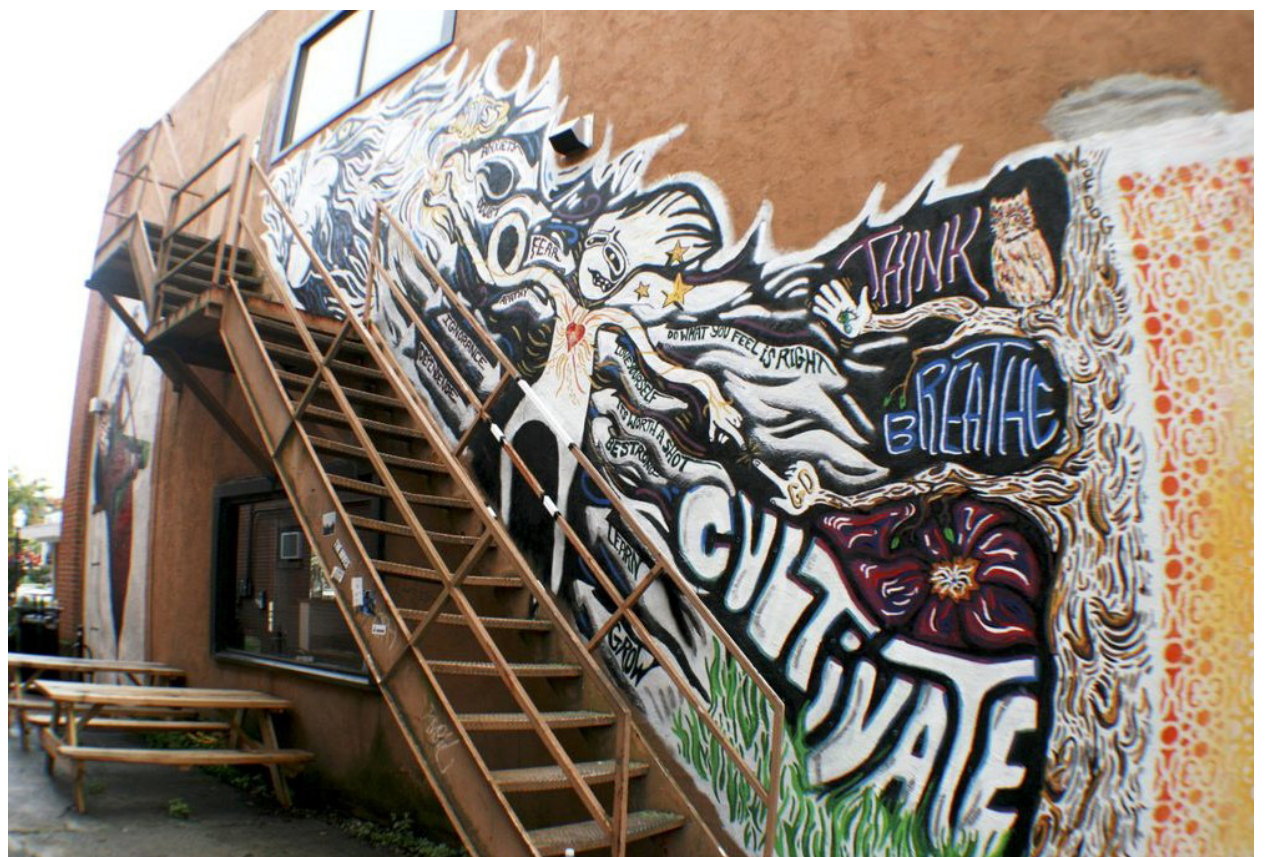
Its all about taking ugly places and make them look pretty. - Joey Paleukas on graffit art



AO



Toobz



Woofdog



Joey Paleukas

Creative Process of Piano Painting

by Rita Brame

My creative process and collaboration of ideas with the Downtown Piano Committee began with the arrival of a donated piano from the Blacksburg Pentecostal Holiness Church replacing the old one on Draper Road.

The broad idea for the imagery to be placed on the piano focuses on the democratization of music by the Boombox and incorporating local art patrons to honor Stella Rose Mullins Cranwell and Danny and Johnson of the Greenhouse in Blacksburg. The Boombox is also a tribute to local Blacksburg artist Joey Paleukas' mural for the 16 Blocks and Town of Blacksburg mural program *Untagging the Town*.

Stella Rose's family was instrumental in the production of a half dozen downtown murals on the exterior walls of the downtown properties including the three at the Farmer's Market. Greenhouse owners Danny and Lee Johnson worked with the city of Blacksburg to design and build the town skatepark. I am truly inspired by these endeavors to give people a place to express themselves.

I installed and stretched a blank canvas on the back of the piano. I used an old-school projector to transfer the image of a retro boombox. The Boombox adds to the musicality of the acoustic piano, creating a transcendental experience when the piano is played as if the music is emerging from painted speakers.

I used a combination of oil and spray paint to Upcycle this interactive art piece. "Stella Rose", hand painted in cursive metallic script and rose designs were painted on the front and skateboards on the sides. I added the 16 Blocks Magazine logo with a hand-painted working QR code on the top to encourage players to reach out to the magazine to share their experience.

A member of the Downtown Piano Committee added a small plaque with a quote by the musician Roy Ayers. 'The true beauty of music is that it connects people.' Ayers continued, saying, '[Music] carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers.' This piano has been creatively revamped and is an interactive art exhibit accessible to all. I hope this is just the beginning of more public art works I hope to bring to the Blocks.



Foto: HF, June, 2023

Stella Rose, Hardee House 1980



Foto: RB, July, 2023



Foto Eric Marshall July 2023

Players Above:

Adeshola Oke-Bello: Mic

Tone Jermaine: Emcee

Hart Fowler: Piano

Chuck George: Electric Guitar

Dave: Electric Guitar

Adam Sowder: Drums

Beats N the Streets

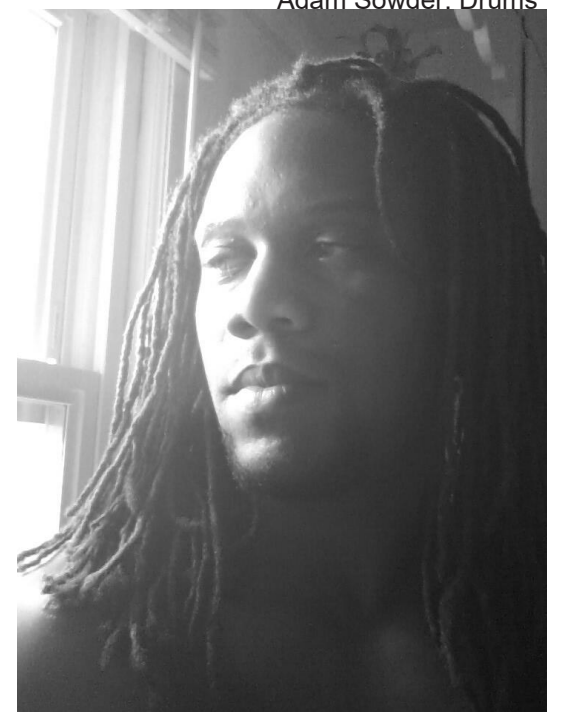
by Tonē Jermaine

Every Tuesday night, from 8 PM until midnight, the streets of downtown Blacksburg transform into a vibrant symphony of melodies and harmonies at “Beats N the Streets.” This unique open-air weekly music event brings musicians and music lovers together to the piano placed outside on the pedestrian-only section of downtown, the one cared for and documented by this magazine. It is the focal point and muse for this creative collaboration.

The open jam begins at eight, and the streets become alive as musicians of all backgrounds and skill levels arrive. Instruments are provided or you can bring your own. Passersby are encouraged to join in the fun, making “Beats N the Streets” a truly inclusive and community-driven activity. Some stay for the duration, some only stay for a song. Throughout the streets you can hear the sounds of hip-hop beats, soul grooves, rock, reggae, blues and everything in between. People often stop and ask me “Are you all a Band?” I simply say, “It’s not a band, it’s a jam.”

“Beats N the Streets” fosters a welcoming environment, where musicians share their passion, learn from one another, and inspire onlookers with their talents. And no, it’s not just a music jam; it’s a celebration of togetherness and the power of music to connect people from all walks of life.

At midnight, the last notes of the jam resonate through the streets, leaving behind a sense of unity and anticipation for the following week’s gathering. “Beats in the Streets” has become a cherished tradition, embodying the spirit of community, harmony, and the love of music that defines Downtown Blacksburg.



Photos of Meadow Creek Cannabis Farm



PUFF PUFF PASS

This is a preview of our upcoming series on marijuana legislation at the state and local level. Virginia has been described as the “Wild West” by journalists trying to understand any sense of direction by the Commonwealth founded on the commerce of hemp and tobacco. We interviewed two local cannabis businesses, one with an “adult share” model and the other a grower with a thriving crop limited to low THC hemp products.

THERESA PRIEST : “This is like the Napa Valley for weed, right?”

Owner of Good Vibes Smoke Shop, Blacksburg

Let’s face it, we can’t have recreational cannabis in 2024. And there’s no way we can have local growers. Local growers can’t grow enough to support their businesses. I’d love to, right. And we have the most beautiful, lush soil and plenty of rain. Like the Napa Valley for weed, right? This is Humboldt County right here. Dark, rich dirt.

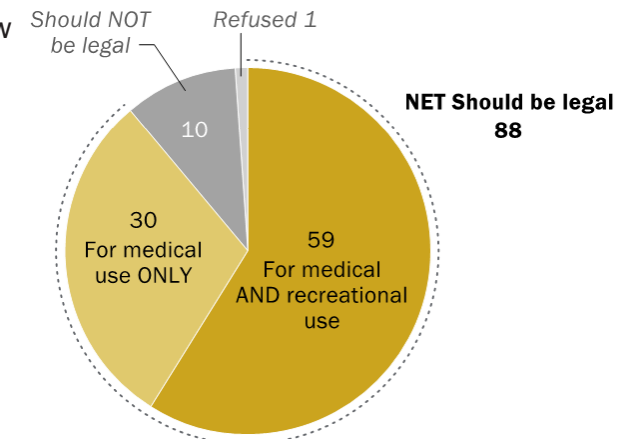
PARIS POLSENO-HENSLEY: “I’m sad to see the growing licenses go immediately to multistate corporations”

Owner of Meadow Creek Cannabis, Floyd

I genuinely hope that one day we will have a license to operate as a grower [of recreational cannabis] in Virginia. I’ve been a little sad you know, sad to see the growing licenses go immediately to multistate corporations because they’re really kind of pulling back on a lot of their promises of helping Virginia farm ourselves. But I hope to legally mail recreational cannabis, within the next few years. That’s the direction that I want to be headed.

Just one-in-ten U.S. adults say marijuana should not be legal at all

% of U.S. adults who say marijuana ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 10-16, 2022.

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VT Football Home Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 2
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8:00pm: ACCN

Saturday, Sept. 9,
Purdue Boilermakers
12:00pm: ESPN2

Saturday, Sept. 30
Pitt Panthers
Time TBA: TV TBA

Retrospective & Unveiling

Draper Block Cover by Rita Brame

Alexander Black House & Cultural Center

204 Draper Road SW Blacksburg

August 4-November 4 : Mon - Sat 10am- 4pm

FREE ADMISSION

"16 BLOCKS PRESENTS COVER ART"

An exhibition of forty covers showcasing the painting, drawing, photography, typography, and graphic design work of over two dozen local and regional artists.

The Alexander Black House is the name and former home of the founder of Blacksburg. He drew the original town charter for 16 downtown blocks in 1798, much of which is still visible from the second story window. Black was known for having a mint julep on the front porch rocking chair after his workday and waving welcome to his neighbors in the community to join him in the gloam of the Appalachian evening.

16 Blocks Magazine was founded upon that principle of open conversation and celebration, a homegrown and free publication and creator of public artworks and events for locals and visitors alike.

In the CosmoLocal sense, 16 Blocks is a metaphorical microcosm meaning the interconnectedness of neighbors and travelers from all walks of life along with those who came before, allied in a shared community experience and celebration of our time, our place.

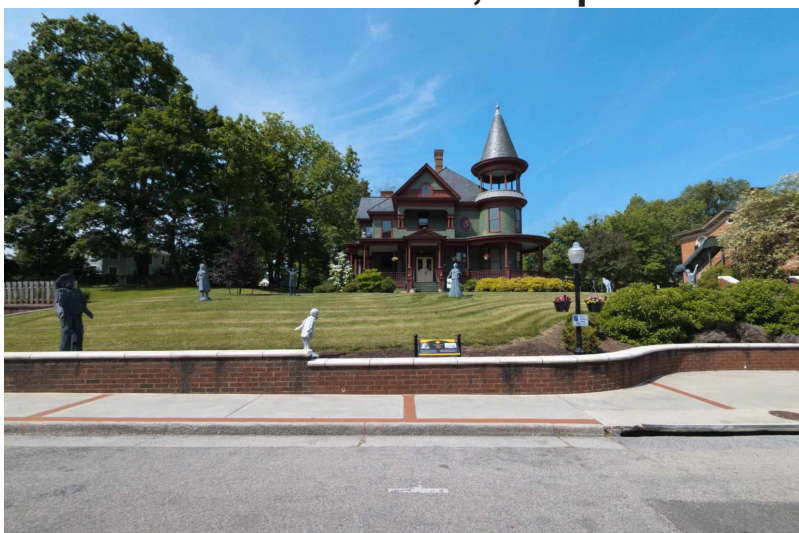


Foto Local:Eric Marshall

**Reception:
Thursday
Nov 2
5:30 - 8:30pm
Alexander
Black House
204 Draper Road
Blacksburg**

www.16BLOCKSmagazine.space

ISSUE 42  29





Milk Parlor, Tim and Niko, Aug 5

Eric Marshall

Photography SUMMER 2023

Eric is the son of a coal miner who moved to Blacksburg in 1998 and as a player has had the opportunity to jam with hundreds of amazing musicians and co-hosted a show on WUVT.



Stormy Sky over Jackson Street, July 26

There may or not be a UAP in this photo.



Milk Parlor, Her Majesty, May 27

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30  **ISSUE 42** www.16BLOCKSmagazine.space

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Koda, Jazz Cat, Watercolor, 2023

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Lyric Theater, 2023

Milk Parlor, Dripping Candles, June 2



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ISSUE **42**  **31**

Larry Bechtel

Works in Progress

The celebrated and prolific Blacksburg sculptor opened the gates to his wife Anne's garden and the door to his studio for a tour of finished and unfinished sculptures. Bechtel was recently commissioned by the City of Roanoke to make a larger than life-size monument to replace a Robert E. Lee statue with one of Henrietta Lacks.

He also recently completed a commissioned sculpture of John DeVoy for the American Heritage Museum in Albany, New York and his new piece *Transformations* is taking great shape in his backyard studio.

***Transformations* In His Words**

I'm working on it now so its in process. I like it out here because I get the sun in the morning which makes the clay real soft, and I can manipulate the clay better with my hands.

It is actually based on an Irish folk tale. There was a poet named Angus who was the God of Poetry. He searched the world for his lost beloved, whose name was Caer, and discovered that she was entrapped in a magic lake and was a swan among many, many other swans.

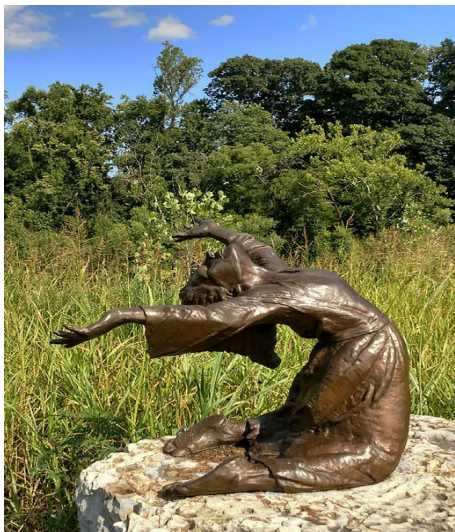
So in order to identify her, Angus turned himself into a swan, and they saw each other, and they recognized each other, and the two of them then flew up out of the lake as swans. They re-assumed human form as they did and that is the basis of this piece.

Right:
Transformations

Photo: Eric Marshall

Below:

Due to overwhelming response to his *Calling the Powers*, which was commissioned for the Roanoke Greenway, Bechtel is in the initial stages of making a follow-up sculpture.

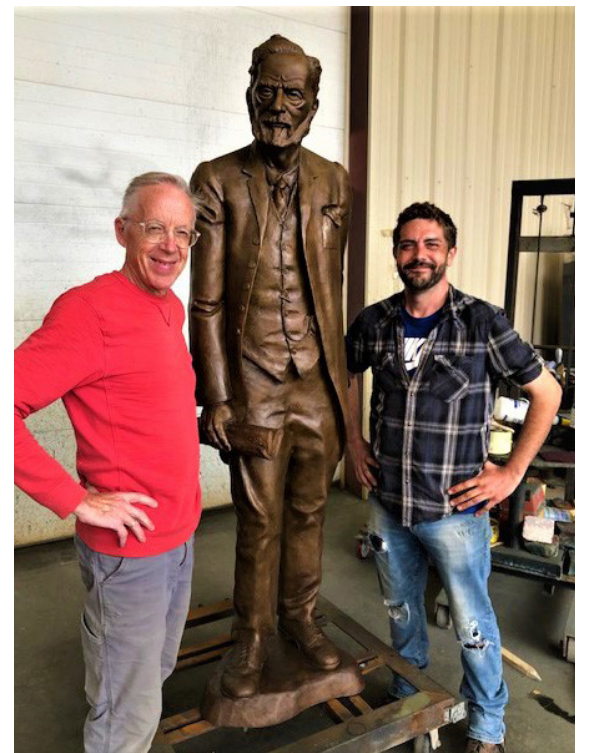




Above: John Devoy, a fierce advocate of Irish freedom, active in the early 20th century.



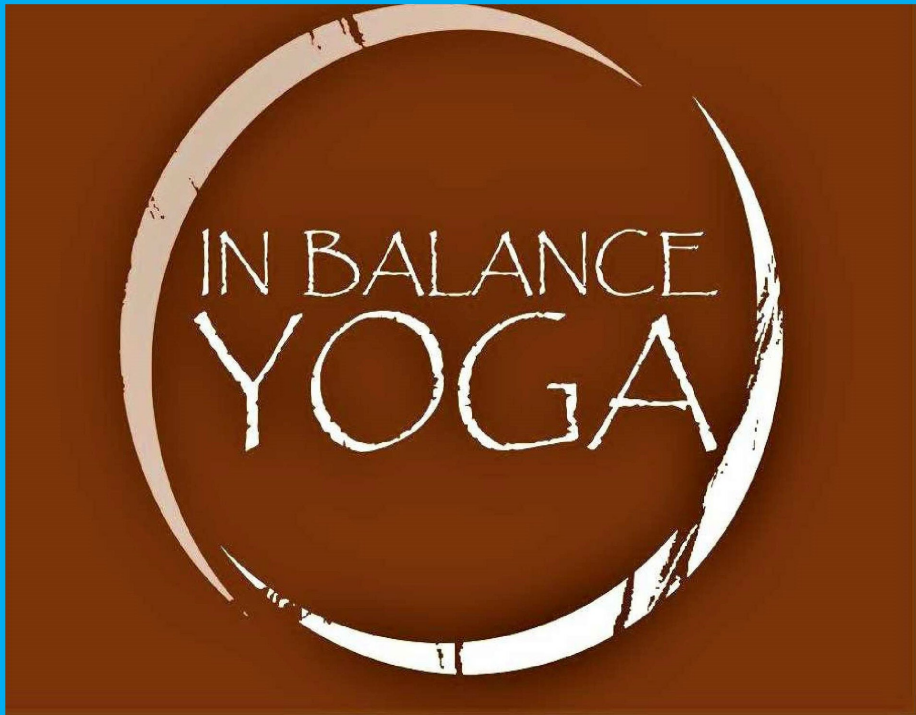
Above: Larry discusses the process of sculpting and possible Blacksburg monuments in a video interview recorded in his studio on 16blocksmagazine.space.



Above: The Devoy sculpture is now housed in the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany NY. Bechtel is shown with John Turi, who commissioned the work.

Lacks has become a posthumous icon for the Civil Rights movement. Her cancer cells (aka the HeLa Line) were the first ever immortalized and have saved millions of lives worldwide.

Left: Lacks' bust displayed in Larry's backyard. The full-sized monument will be unveiled on October 4. in a public ceremony dedicating Freedom Plaza, formerly Lee Plaza, in the center of downtown Roanoke.



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FASHION

Where Fashion Meets Artistry and Individuality

Fashion Writer Emily Meade with the co-owner of Hello Gorgeous Boutique, another new downtown shop nestled in the growing blocks of South Main Street.

For Morgan Hoge, "Fashion is an art, and your body is your canvas." Her unwavering passion, coupled with the idea that fashion is meant to express your creativity and individuality, has been a driving force throughout her life. This connection with fashion is what has led Morgan and her mother, Sherry, to venture into the realm of entrepreneurship in the fashion industry by becoming the proud owners of the charming local small business, Hello Gorgeous Boutique.

EM: How did you first become interested in fashion and what motivated you to pursue a career in the industry?

Hoge: My mom and grandma definitely inspired me from a young age. Every Sunday they would get super dressed up for church, and by the age of two, I loved wearing my grandma's heels around everywhere! My parent's have always owned small businesses, which influenced me to go in the same direction.

EM: Can you describe your personal signature style and aesthetic?

Hoge: I definitely have more than one personal style, I feel like it is varied pieces of everything - boho, business casual, street-wear, girly, flirty, and feminine.

EM: What challenges have you faced while owning a small business in our town?

Hoge: Opening our business amid the pandemic was a challenge, everyone struggled at that time but we adapted to the situation.

EM: Can you share some tips for readers who want to enhance their personal style on a budget?

Hoge: Definitely pick staple pieces that you can mix and match to wear with everything, a good pair of jeans and a solid colored shirt can go a long way.

EM: With the rise of online shopping, how do you see the future of brick-and-mortar fashion stores?

Hoge: In a way, it's good that a lot is going online when it comes to things such as rent and the convenience of having items delivered straight to you. Although, storefronts will always stay because shopping is about the experience - walking around with your friends, trying on clothes, etc.

Hello Gorgeous Boutique
208 S. Main St

Instagram: @hello_gorgeous_boutique

Some answers were edited and condensed for clarity.



Kelsie Brumet Coffee Dragon Watercolor and Ink

Much of my subject matter follows that thin line where the fantastic and the mundane meet, a chance moment where a cup of coffee becomes something magical by the addition of a small, friendly dragon.

Prints available at Blacksburg Books



Parhelion, the 5th studio album by Blacksburg based Black Metal band, **Death Shroud**, was released on June, 21st, 2023.

Worldwide digital distribution is set for September 8th via Italy's Wormholedeath Records.

Audio and Merchandise available at:

www.deathshroud.bandcamp.com

Image: Parhelion, Nuremberg Chronicle, 1493



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Seth Davis' First Show at Lyric is aHit!!!



Buzzing lobby in The Lyric for
the Barbie Premiere.



Pictured here with husband
Travis Viars



View full video interview

of Larry and more @

16blocksmagazine.space

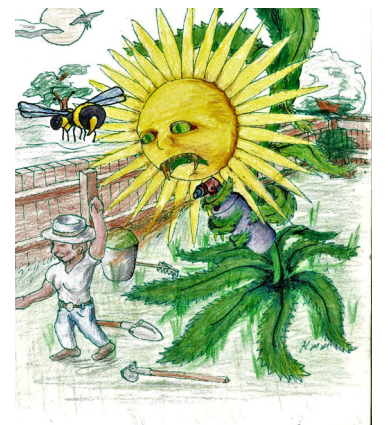


The Alexander Black House's
Philco has been tuned to
90.7FM WUVT since delivery
from Sears in 1926.
DJ Shout Out:
Len Comaratta
Rare Groove-Thurs 9-12pm



"It was the first sold-out movie at The
Lyric in as long as I can remember,"
said Diana Francis, who hosts Reel Talk
discussions after the Sunday matinee.
"I got emotional and had to gather
myself before going in."

Killer Weed
by Ian Moone
Downtown
Street
Artist
RIGHT



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We are here to restore a sense of belonging to a local community in the post-pandemic un-quarantining, reopening our eyes to the world around us often lost in the fog and pollution of politics and tech and mainstream media. Our goal is to not be a Repeater like most modern media, but a Base Station.

LEFT #42 Robinson beats #8
Berra's tag, Steals Home!!!

www.16BLOCKS magazine.space

ISSUE 42  37



Week-O-Scope

By Steven Arcane
Psychic Reader

101 n Main St, Blacksburg, VA 24060 (714)882.0706

Tarot is a powerful tool of insight

Tarot can help to clear up confusion, give direction and confidence in situations in which we feel unsure. I am a psychic and a gifted clairvoyant as well as a sensitive medium with over 25 years of experience and knowledge in tarot palmistry, spirit guide communication, and other similar practices.

There are 7 tarot cards and planetary rulers for each day of the week. I will give you advice and insight for each day.

SUNDAY: The Sun

Our closest star rules the planet on the opening day of the week with positivity, new beginnings, friendship, gathering, enlightenment, and joy. You'll find success in reaching out to old acquaintances and friends and forming new bonds. Today is a day to explore, take a journey and even a little risk. You will find joy in doing so.

MONDAY: The Magician

The Moon is the planetary rule of the day where we often feel lethargic with fatigue and sluggish. However, don't let this affect you too much. Today is a day of manifestation and seed planting One's desires. You'll find much luck in manifesting that of which you want to achieve. Today is all about our emotions. We are much more sensitive today than most days. I recommend journaling one's wishes and wants during the day of Monday.

TUESDAY: The Empress

She speaks of the Divine Femininity. Today we must be nurturing and empathetic to those around us, especially to ourselves and our mother figures. Mars is the planetary ruler of this day for strength, courage and confidence with the opportunity to discover more about ourselves and find our full potential.

Now is the time to start actively working towards your goals and you will find you can achieve them. Expect to be on your path to your destiny and trust in yourself to make the right calls. Now is the time to reach out to a love interest. For those in a relationship, expect it to be the most romantic and exciting. Now is the time you and your partner's relationship will flourish and excel. If proposing to your partner has been on your mind, now is the perfect time to do so.

WEDNESDAY: The Hanged Man

Mercury is the planetary leader for this day of communication. Today is going to be a day of trials so exercise discernment. You will find success in breaking old habits and patterns. You'll understand today is going to be a day of sacrifices for the greater good in the near future.

THURSDAY: The High Priestess

On this day of Jupiter we are most intrigued by the spirit realm and all the things that are considered taboo. Today we are most connected to our higher selves and now is a good time to make a decision that you've been pushing to the side. You will find that you'll be very content with your decision. Reason being that you are very connected to your intuition and your judgment will be at its peak.

Today is all about luck and prosperity. Now is the time to seek out financial growth. This is an Optimistic Day that is all about faith and expanding your wisdom and sharing it with the universe.

Today you will find yourself being connected with your emotions and today is a good opportunity to open up to those around you.

FRIDAY :The Empress

Venus's day is the day we will find ourselves most and look at the bigger picture.

This is a day of attention to the small details while being reminded to not lose yourself in them.

Today is a very powerful karmic day. So therefore we must be charitable on this day. To those we give we shall receive back 3X

SATURDAY: Wheel of Fortune

Saturn is all about fairness on the day of ins and outs. How much we put in is exactly what we will get out. The Wheel of Fortune is Today, the perfect opportunity to discover more about ourselves and find our full potential. Now is the time to actively start working towards your goals and you will find you can achieve them. Expect to be on the path to your destiny and trust in yourself to make the right calls.

COSMO-LOCAL by HF

"Drawing is no joke. There is something very serious and mysterious about the fact that one can represent a living human being with line alone, and create not only his likeness but, in addition, an image of how he really is.

**That's the marvel!"
Picasso**

Across

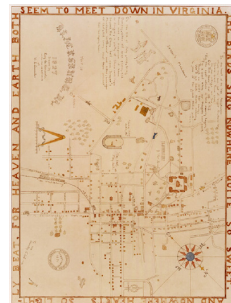
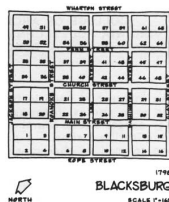
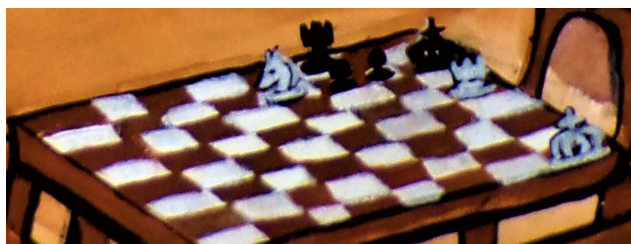
3. All about the creative reuse.
5. A local and rare cold spell gives the town this name some winters
10. Early hemp seed smuggler and cannabis grower
11. Joe from Blacksburg Pipe and Tobacco smoked one with Eastwood
14. A Head Spinning Sequel coming to a theater near you.
16. Mobile Speakers and Deck
17. Upcoming live radio performance at Moss Arts Center
18. No longer shoes just for boarders
21. Time Machine: it was the salt in the springs that gave Roanoke this nickname
23. Hyper-local Classic Hitchcock film depicting a room with a view, this cover looks like the movie
26. "I'm your BLANK," Doc to Ringo, pausing taking off his coat. "Say When." Or Blacksburg Trail

Down

1. Reddish color of Rita's cover, also means at ease and confident.
2. System of designing space for harmonious energy flow
4. To the Keep, in Chess
5. The Where the boarders congregate by Greenhouse
6. Not a local Greek fraternity, a British one from the past

CHESS PROBLEM

Black's Move



Down Continued

8. DIY Pub
9. Living tea for good gut feeling
12. Milk Parlor, Lantern, Sycamore Deli Funk Band Staple
13. Blacksburg News
15. A form of seafood marinated in citrus
19. Fire breather that buzzes in Indian summer
20. Site of upcoming beer celebration and historic plantation.
21. Monarch Mania, Reading Rainbow
22. Alexander Black's preferred drink to offer guests who joined him on his front porch at the end of the workday.
24. His #20 jersey hangs alongside the NBA shooting great Dell Curry in Cassell Coliseum.
25. Bruce Willis movie and Blacksburg's Original Grid

With Gratitude

To the Three Wise Men, Moon, Peter, and Yusef, And all the family and friends, good Samaritans new and old, and for all those who took the time to read this far. We'll see you in #43... ~HF



Hannah Ark, Letterland, crochet with beads, May 2023, Ashburn, VA
Explanation/Inspiration: Recently, I've been trying to use things that I find around the house that maybe I bought a while ago or aren't being used. In this case, I just found some scrap yarn that my mom bought to make hats with but never got finished and the beads were a pack that I bought around 5 years ago. I enjoy creating artful chaos and only using things that I find gives me some kind of barrier that I can creatively work around to make something cool or weird.



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