

STUDY GUIDE

2025 NEW RIVER ART JURIED BIENNIAL
Presented by Blacksburg Regional Art Association

Thursday, June 5-Saturday, August 23



**MOSS
ARTS
CENTER**

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The Moss Arts Center would like to thank each of the artists and their respective galleries for providing these images for our educational resources. For more information about each artist, visit the links and additional resources in the guide.



ABOUT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER GALLERIES

The Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech provides transformative arts experiences for young people through gallery tours, workshops with artists, student exhibitions, and special matinee performances from renowned touring artists for students, teachers, and families.

Explore exciting new opportunities to connect with the arts through exhibitions and study guides created especially for young audiences. Contact us to register for a gallery tour and to sign up for emails to learn more about the Moss Arts Center's PK-12 programs.

Plan Your Visit

Gallery Hours

Tuesday-Friday, 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

(during exhibition run dates)

Admission to the galleries is always free and open to the public. The Ruth C. Horton Gallery is located downstairs in the Moss Arts Center near the Alumni Mall entrance. The Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery are located upstairs near the Turner Street entrance. Find parking information [here](#).



WE WANT EVERYONE TO **ENJOY THE EXHIBITION**

Please prepare your students for their visit to the Moss Arts Center by practicing museum manners. The following guidelines will ensure that everyone can enjoy the exhibition.

- Always stay a safe distance away from each work to keep the art untouched for all viewers.
- If you want to rest and observe, you can sit on the benches or floor (watch out for gallery walls and pedestals, as these aren't meant to be leaned against).
- Food, gum, and beverages are not allowed inside the galleries.
- Please remove backpacks and put them in a safe place away from the art.
- Use only pencils when writing or drawing in the galleries.
- Photography is allowed, but please do not use a flash.

We're Here to Help

Please reach out to schedule a visit or for questions about teaching, learning, and engaging with our programs.

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2025 New River Art Juried Biennial

Presented by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association

All galleries

Suitable for students in grades PK-12

About the Exhibition

The Moss Arts Center proudly presents the 18th New River Art Juried Biennial exhibition, featuring artists living within a 170-mile radius of Blacksburg. The New River Biennial rotates every two years between the Floyd Center for the Arts, the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley in Pulaski, and the Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA). The 2025 exhibition is sponsored by BRAA and hosted by the Moss Arts Center for the second time. The BRAA, established in 1950, created the juried biennial in 1991 and remains the driving force behind the event.

▲ Gina Louthian-Stanley; *Moonlit Flowers*, 2024 (detail); encaustic painting; 8 x 8 inches



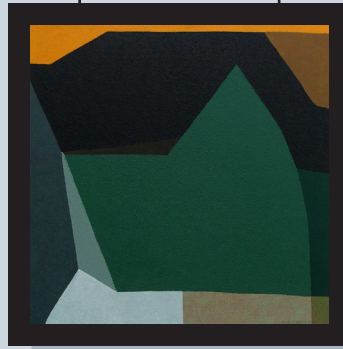
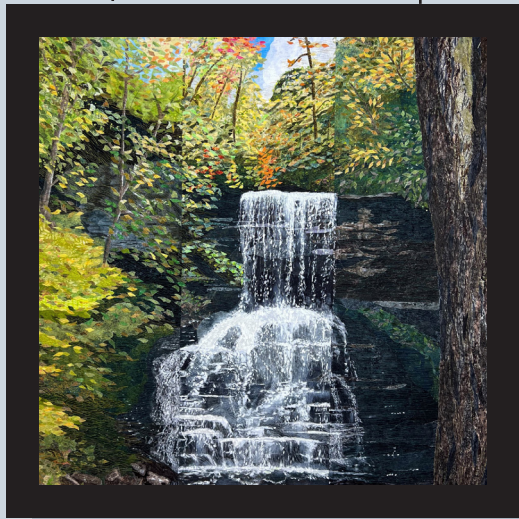
About the Juror

Michael Rooks, *Wieland Family Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta*



Known as an art curator dedicated to community building and engaging audiences across generations from every walk of life, Michael Rooks joined the High Museum in January 2010. In addition to his responsibilities at the High, Rooks served as commissioner and co-curator of *Workshopping: An American Model of Architectural Practice at the U.S. Pavilion*, the 12th International Architecture Exhibition, and La Biennale di Venezia in 2010, and he is also an independent writer.

Prior to joining the High, Rooks held curator positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Contemporary Museum Honolulu, and Honolulu Academy of Arts. His exhibitions at the High include *Monir Farmanfarmaian: A Mirror Garden* (2022-2023); *What Is Left Unspoken, Love* (2022); *KAWS PRINTS* (2021); *Ragnar Kjartansson: The Visitors* (2021); *With Drawn Arms: Glenn Kaino and Tommie Smith* (2018-2019); *Al Taylor: What Are You Looking At?* (2017-2018); *Imagining New Worlds: Wifredo Lam, José Parlá, Fahamu Pecou* (2015); *Alex Katz: This Is Now* (2015); *KAWS: DOWN TIME* (2012); and two historical survey exhibitions in partnership with MoMA, *Fast Forward: Modern Moments 1913-2013* (2012-2013) and *Picasso to Warhol: 14 Modern Masters* (2012), among others.



Activities in the **GALLERIES**



▲ T. Freudenberg, N. Hershberger, and C. Monti; *Rock, Paper, Scissors*, 2022; fiber art quilt; 36 x 36 inches
Anne Hanger; *This Way and That*, 2023; acrylic on canvas; 16 x 16 inches

Gallery Bingo

Take a look in the galleries to find qualities in the works that can be matched to each square. To win bingo, you must find five horizontal, vertical, or diagonal squares in a row. Cross the squares off as you find them.

B	I	N	G	O
Art with shapes 	Art or artist with the first letter of your name 	Art with animals 	Art with your favorite color 	Art you love 
Art with a pattern 	Art that looks cold 	Sculpture art 	Art that looks very light 	Art that looks bumpy 
Art with two similar things 	Art that looks very heavy 	FREE	Art that looks warm 	Art with a LOT of colors 
Art that makes you want to move 	Art that looks like it took a long time to make 	Art that is very small 	Art that reminds you of a song 	Art with a story 
Art that makes you think 	Art that is light or dark 	Art that makes you happy 	Art that is very large 	Art that makes you sad 

► **VIRGINIA VISUAL ARTS SOLS:** K.3a-c, 1.3a-c, 2.3a-b, 3.3a-c, 4.3a-c, 5.3b-d, 6.3, 7.3, AI.3a, All.3b, All.3d, AIV.3b

Activities in the **CLASSROOM**

Purpose Pebbles

When observing the artworks in the gallery, it is easy to notice the differences between the various artists' works. From styles to mediums to size, each artist has their own perspective to share with their community.

After visiting the galleries, take your students outdoors to find a pebble or small rock with a good surface for painting. On the rock, have your students draw or paint a piece of their community that means something personal and meaningful. This could be a sunset they adore, a place they enjoy, a favorite place to eat, or an image of their friend. Once painted and dried, students will sign the back of their work with a Sharpie or other permanent marker.

Your students then have options of how they want to share their perspective, including:

- A second nature walk, where they return their rocks to nature for others to find
- Gifting their artwork to a friend or loved one
- Making a "rock walk" or rock garden outside their classroom space

Inform your students that local art is all about shared experience. By creating something beautiful to give back to the community, they are participating in the purposed practice of shared perspective that makes local artwork so special.

► **VIRGINIA VISUAL ARTS SOLS:** K.1a-b, K.4, K.7, 1.1a, 1.7, 1.17c, 2.4, 2.7

Be a Local Artist

Encourage your students to look around the gallery and find their three favorite works of art. These works can be any medium or size and created by different artists! Have your students write down notes about their selected works, including, but not limited to:

- Name of artist
- Medium of work
- The feeling the artwork evoked
- Colors, textures, and shapes noticed in the artwork
- Sketch of the artwork
- Any community or local landmarks observed

After leaving the gallery, it's time to create artwork inspired by the styles or themes observed in the exhibition! Explain that students will incorporate the colors, shapes, or themes they most noticed and appreciated from the artworks. It's important to remember that artwork is about inspiration, not imitation; feel free to have your young people create a piece of music, pottery, or short dance that reflects their notes instead of a painting, drawing, or direct copy of the artists' work.

Finally, plan a gallery walk so all the students can enjoy each other's creativity! Play some calm background music, share a celebratory snack, and have students stand by their artwork and explain their inspiration when others walk by, just like at a real gallery opening. Now they, too, are local artists.

Optional Extensions:

- Arrange for one of the local exhibiting artists to visit your students or participate in a video call so the students can ask questions about their artwork, process, and creative journey.
- Have students research the history of art in their local community or find stories about how art has influenced the local culture, then share these stories in class.

► **VIRGINIA VISUAL ARTS SOLS:** 3.1a, 3.7, 4.1a, 4.7, 5.4, 5.7, 6.1, 6.7, 7.1, 7.7, 8.4, 8.7, AI.2, AI.6a, AI.1, AIII.4, AIV.4, AIV.7



Links and Additional Resources

Blacksburg Regional Art Association, *2025 New River Art Biennial*, blacksburgart.org/2025-new-river-art-biennial.

High Museum of Art, *Michael Rooks Wieland Family Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art*, high.org/person/michael-rooks.

Moss Arts Center, *2025 New River Art Juried Biennial*, artscenter.vt.edu/exhibitions/braa-biennial-2025.