

vaea

Fall 2020

Virginia **art** Education Association



Kolton, 12th grade, Clover Hill HS, Ms. Berneche



Creativity has been an important skill that we have had to hone throughout this year as we face changes to all segments of our lives.

Virginia art educators heard the call to PIVOT the learning plans in March and adjusted to face the challenge of teaching art virtually. On our VAEA social media platforms, I witnessed educators sharing ideas, coming together as a community and being creative problem solvers.

Our VAEA leaders heard the call to help and have developed a variety of resources to help art educators across the state face the new challenges in the 2020-21 school year. Jimi Herd, the VAEA Advocacy Chair, has formed a committee to help answer your questions through the [Advocacy Hotline](#) and helped develop the Creativity Continues- Guiding Practices for Visual Art Education during the 2020-21 School Year document. The [VAEA social media](#) has become a stronger community through a variety of initiatives: Facebook Friday Night Draw, Tech Talk Tuesday, and featuring a variety of Virginia Artists on Instagram. Our VP, Cheryl Miehl has created a wonderful opportunity to build community through a monthly Artist Trading Card Exchange (check the [FB VAEA Member Forum](#) for information). Together art educators continue to add resources to our shared Call to Collaborate

initiative to gather resources for art educators. Gathered links, documents and resources will be shared with our membership this Fall!

The VAEA organization has taken quick action to pivot our fall professional development conference from an in-person event to a virtual conference. The large task of leading the effort is being organized by VP Cheryl Miehl and our Executive Secretary Peggy Wood. The event will be a wonderful opportunity to find inspiration from the safety of your home to fuel your

practice whether you are teaching in person, hybrid or virtually. Our conferences are a community effort and I want to take an opportunity to thank all offering to present during our first virtual conference. Together we ART better!

In these moments we need to take time to be mindful of our own inner artists, give grace

to ourselves as we face challenges, and stay connected. It is easy to feel isolated in the arts if you are the lone arts educator in your building, yet now many of us face isolation even from our school communities. Community is important. VAEA is your arts education tribe where together we help support, promote, and advocate for art education. As you face the variety of changes to our educational practices this year, I hope you will rely on VAEA to be your community where you find resources, community, and opportunity to fuel your own creativity!

Register [here](#) for the Fall conference.

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@vaarted



@VAartED



Mikela, 4th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Our Mission

is to promote, support and advance visual arts education through leadership, professional development and service.

The VAEA News Magazine

is a publication of the Virginia Art Education Association, and is distributed to members three times a year: January, June and September.

Articles

are submitted by the Executive Board and Extended Board members. Contact your Regional President, Division Representative, or appropriate Affiliate Liaison to offer news or photographs for inclusion in their reports.

Contact Information

See page 26.

Student Art

Members send submissions directly to Susan Silva, News Magazine Editor at news magazine.vaea@gmail.com

Vendors

wishing to advertise should contact Peggy Wood, Executive Secretary, at wood.vaea@gmail.com

Submission Deadlines

Winter Issue: December 15

Spring/Summer Issue: March 15

Fall/Conference Issue: July 15

Vice-President's Message

Cheryl Michl



We have a change of plans, however "Creativity Isn't Cancelled!"

Last summer when I submitted my nomination packet to serve as your vice-president of VAEA I had done my due diligence and spent a good amount of time talking with those who have served in the role previously. That coupled with serving as the Northern Region president when we hosted last, I felt confident in my ability to meet the challenges this position would present. My term began in January, Leigh and the Tidewater Conference Committee were a well-oiled machine setting up conference committees, making connections with the Virginia Beach community to bring as many opportunities to fruition as possible. The conference they designed was to be one for the ages!

Little did we know what life was about to hand to all of us.

I never imagined spending two months working closely with Holly Bess, Peggy, Mary, and our contacts at the Marriott Hotel trying to balance the unknown timelines, phases, member concerns, fiscal responsibilities and every detail of what makes up our amazing conferences. We were trying to assist the Virginia Beach committee to keep planning moving forward until we knew for certain what conference would look like. All the while being realistic about constraints we faced if

forced to hold the conference live. The discussions were lengthy, thoughtful, and involved a multitude of "what ifs?" I cannot imagine a better team to learn and grow through this process with than those I did. We collected data, explored options for online conference possibilities, spoke with multiple vendors and service providers to prepare our contingency plans. We were prepared for any number of possibilities, until we were able to formally secure advancing the "Shape of Memory" conference in Virginia Beach to 2021. This saves all the hard work and creativity the Tidewater crew generated from being lost.



Isabella, 10th grade, Lewis HS, Leslie O'Shaughnessy

Now that we know "Creativity Isn't Cancelled" we are shifting gears. We changed the proposal forms, and requested proposals again, we are looking at new ideas for a keynote speaker, and figuring our way through scheduling the online aspects, requirements for videos and supplemental materials for presentations, creation of the virtual storage for pieces that will be available after conference to all who participate, and even how our student and member artwork exhibitions will advance along with us on the virtual platform. I am excited at the members that have stepped up and

offered support as we navigate the unknown, and do not be surprised when I reach out for your assistance! "Creativity Isn't Cancelled" and we will still have an amazing conference experience even in the current world happenings!

Advocacy

Jimi Herd



Greetings fellow art educators! I hope this newsletter finds you well, as we've settled into an unprecedented school year and continue to adjust our teaching practices to a "new normal". I continue to be inspired each and every day as I witness the flexibility, creativity, and leadership that art teachers have demonstrated in meeting the needs of our students despite the challenges we all face. The power of art in our schools have never been so evident and needed as it is today. I am so very proud to be a part of such a dynamic community of Virginia art educators!

During these ever-changing times, the role of art advocacy within our schools and communities has become more important than ever before. Being an active art advocate in school or division planning as well as demonstrating the adaptability of visual art to different forms of instruction has been instrumental in providing the meaningful continuity of our programs. Thank you for lighting the way and keeping our

Virginia art programs strong!

The Advocacy Team here at VAEA continues to work for you with assistance, advice, resources, and mentorship as you navigate the year ahead. I am happy to introduce Kimberly Gianopolus, Sandee Darden and Tisha Burke as members of our very first VAEA Teacher Advocacy Committee. This committee, comprised of experienced art educators of different levels and backgrounds, has been meeting since last spring to plan and create resources to support Virginia's art teachers. You can access many of these resources including guiding practices documents, letter samples, and advocacy platform statements within our Advocacy Toolkit on the VAEA website at <http://www.vaea.org/advocacy-toolkit.html>

Our Art Teacher Advocacy Hotline is also a great way to contact our team for support! Simply fill out the [google form](#) and a member of the Teacher Advocacy Committee will email or call you back asap for input and advice. This open form of communication is a great way to expand your network and brainstorm with other art educators as we problem solve together! Our team has truly enjoyed connecting with so many art teachers through the hotline. We look forward to hearing from you this year!

We will also see you soon at the Virginia Art Advocacy Forum on November 21st from 9:00 am-10:00 am, during our [Virtual Fall Professional Development Conference!](#) Join us as we share new resources, discuss issues in the field, and connect with colleagues in both large and small group formats.



Naeem, 7th grade, Binford MS, Kirstie Hein

Check out the
ATC Gallery
at
vaea.org



“The Tone of the Times” by Jess Beach

Did I tell you being Archivist is fun? I meant to. It really is! I get to look at documents that help create who we are today that I had no clue existed. Here is the thing: we assume some events must have happened to get us to this point where VAEA is a strong body of art educators, but not all of us know how. Due to COVID-19, I have not had an opportunity to go into the VCU archives to look at our full history, but I have had the chance to riffle through a big box of things handed to me when I put on the archivist hat. In that box is a hard drive with so many interesting documents that tell our story. Our story is one of so many dedicated art teachers that creatively built the VAEA we know and love today.

In hearing that our conference was going digital this year, I decided to look back at the many conferences of days gone by. Some of our earliest conferences in the 1970's to included titles like “Visualist” (1970). I wonder if we could visualize then what is happening to our art studios? Fall 2020?... Nah, I can't even visualize it now! There was also “Arts-The Connectors” (1983). Three little words that struck me right in the heart. We are connectors of so many things: other subjects, techniques, and people. It is the people we connect to through art education that encourage me to teach this year. They need us to help them connect in ways they have never been asked before through barriers of CDC guidelines, online learning, and necessary safety concerns. None of it is easy. But we are the connectors. This one really stood out! How about “A Monumental Experience” (1990)? Thirty years ago, in Richmond, VA we convened under that conference title. The monuments were seen as a symbol of pride then. Whichever side you stand on about monument removal, it is interesting to look back and see where the mentality was just three decades ago. Isn't it interesting how times change, and so does our point of view? Just under two decades ago “Drawing on the Past, Creating the Future” (2001) was our conference title. As archivist, I hope to do some of this and pull parts of our VAEA past into the light. We must learn from our history in order to shape what comes ahead.

And, like me, I am fairly certain most of us are feeling unsure of what that will look like in a pandemic.

Today, I watched a two-hour school board meeting deciding the future of my county's school system for the fall (so when you are reading this it will have already transpired). I found myself sitting on the fence with each “Citizen's Time” speaker from my community. One would beg for schools to open full time for the security and stability of our students while another would plead for part time and virtual learning for the safety and health of our students. Did your county do the same thing? How did you feel when you heard what plan they selected to kickoff this unusual year? I can tell you I felt like I had no idea what the future holds for us. Honestly, I was scared. I was scared for all the children who need us. I was scared about what this meant for all I needed to do to get ready. I was scared for my colleagues who are not ready to be that close to others. Then, I remembered our conference title this year “Creativity Isn't Cancelled” (2020). Like a glimmer of hope, I thought if anyone can figure this out it is a group of artists. We are creative in every challenge we face. Teaching in obscure conditions will prove no different.

As you move forward this year, document and archive the history you are making for art education. We are captains in uncharted waters. Where will you steer your classroom? All of us can learn from your choices. Share them! If you learn a new way to teach digitally, post it in our [VAEA Facebook forum](#)! If you find a great PD to do six feet away from each other, contact your regional president! If your student teaches you something you never thought about, take note! Let's connect through our organization to make history for the big box that gets passed down from archivist to archivist.



As you get ready for conference this year in this virtual format, don't forget to congratulate the 2020 winners. We may not be celebrating at the Awards Brunch, but we will celebrate during the “Creativity isn't Cancelled” Conference. These winners were nominated because of their achievements, service to their school communities, dedication, and love for art education. These are the educators who did not cancel creativity in their art rooms; they only changed locations and became more creative. Congratulations to the 2020 nominees and winners! Next year, this could be you... Here is what you need to know to prepare.

WHO ARE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES?

Any VAEA member who meets the [award criteria](#) established by NAEA may be nominated. VAEA Membership is not required for the Distinguished Service (Outside the Profession) and “Friends of the Visual Arts” Awards.

WHO MAY NOMINATE?

Any VAEA member may nominate. You can even self-nominate. Art Administrators / Supervisors may be nominated by Administrators, Supervisors, or Principals that do not hold a VAEA membership.

WHAT TO INCLUDE?

- VAEA Nomination form
- Letter of Nomination from nominator
- NAEA Standardized Vita/ Resume Form, using no smaller than 10-point type
- Two letters of Commendation
- Digital Image of Nominee

Get started now with your Vita and include everything you do. For more information and helpful hints, please visit <http://www.vaea.org/awards.html>



Banks, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Supervision and Administration

Aaron Stratten



What is Essential?

The events of the past months have led to new thinking and new approaches in education the likes of which we have not seen in decades. As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year amid a global pandemic and a significant social justice movement in our country, educators are focused on what is essential. Collaborative teams and curriculum specialists are identifying essential standards, designing essential curriculum, and planning to meet the most essential needs of our students in a school year that will be unlike any we have experienced. A core consensus that leads this quest is the importance of social and emotional well-being, and the value of developing relationships with and among students, even in an all-virtual educational setting.

This summer, some of us have also been engaging with the next iteration of the Standards of Learning by developing resources and professional development to support their implementation. It was through this work that I stumbled across an essential gem nestled right in the middle of the 2020 Visual Arts Standards of Learning – Standard 7, Community Engagement.

Standard 7 is one of three standards in the History, Culture, and Citizenship strand – the strand that gives art context. I credit my friend and colleague Andrew Watson for explaining it this way, “history, culture, and citizenship are past, present, and future. History is who we were, culture is who we are, and citizenship is who we want to be.” Standard 7 for all levels aims to help student “understand visual arts as a form of community engagement.” Through this standard, we “nurture a lifelong engagement with the arts as an integral component of communities and cultures.” In taking time to consider this standard, I realized how powerful it is in our current climate and our quest for essential learning. Community engagement offers up a timely enduring idea to explore through art making, and a powerful lens that sees artists as a voice for social justice.

to which you belong, and the words and phrases that come to mind when you think about community. These prompts may conjure ideas like neighborhood, nationality, place, social groups, diversity, cooperation, and pride. You may associate your communities with activities, interests, hobbies, and even identity.

Each of these potential responses demonstrates how Community is a particularly powerful enduring idea. These ideas can serve independently as a key concept for exploration and many are worthy as enduring ideas in their own right. Everyone – that is, every student -- can connect with this theme. It is a theme that can help our students understand their place in this world. What’s more, by exploring community through a concept-based art curriculum we are sure to open doors to building community in the classroom and in the school – even if it is virtual.

Equally timely to this valuable concept is the need to engage in the cultural and political upheaval in our country. Standard 7 asks us to consider the artist as a contributor to society... as an agent for change within their communities. The grade six standard, for example, reads, “The student will describe ways artists contribute to their communities and society through their work.” And the high school level two standard says, “The student will identify ways that art can be used to address community needs.” Virginia’s 5 C’s, too, say that “Students will grow as citizens when they act as a steward of self, community, and the world.” What better way to be the steward of a better world than by using your artistic voice as a voice for justice.

As we plan for less instructional time, more challenges, and greater needs than we are used to, we have been identifying essential standards that will allow us to focus on those things our students need most from us, right now. Community engagement – both as an approach to engaging with ideas of community, and engaging as active contributors to our communities – offers us an opportunity to empower our student-artists to explore relevant concepts, build community within their schools, and find their voice to speak out for what they believe in. Perhaps we should all consider Community Engagement, in all its forms, essential as we move into this historic school year. In doing so, we may help to make our classrooms, schools, and communities more just and equitable places.

Virginia Department of Education

Kelly Bisogno



Welcome to a NEW school year – one that already looks different than any other in history and can continue to change. This year feels messy, unfinished, able to change at any moment, and like we still have a lot to figure out and do.

But maybe the feeling of this school year is familiar to us as artists – after all, it’s how we work in our studios, labs, and other creative spaces.

I know that we’re used to being ready to start the school year much like we would be ready for an exhibition. It’s okay if we are not there yet, because the next steps of the process are to include students

as we figure out what new methods of teaching and learning look like. We’re testing things out, asking for input and feedback, learning new things, seeing how it goes, and adjusting.

And again, isn’t that process familiar? To me it sounds a lot like a creative process.

Just because the process may seem familiar, does not mean that it’s easy. More than anyone else, we know that creative processes come with deep thinking, hard work, vulnerability, sweat, tears, and setbacks.

But we persevere. I am constantly inspired by you: the art teachers who are rising to the challenges of this moment to bring creativity, joy, and imagination to students, schools, and communities amid difficult times. I wish all the very best for a very new school year.



Keagan, 4th grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti

Division News

ELEMENTARY

Sean Murphy



How the world has changed since March. As I am writing this, I am preparing to head back to a school year like I have never seen in my thirty years of teaching. I know many of you are feeling anxious about the virtual teaching mode we are in now and miss seeing your students face to face. In these uncertain times (sorry, I know we are all sick of that phrase) we must challenge ourselves to stay creative for our students and for ourselves. We as art educators know the importance of creativity. It has been one of the few joys the past couple of months to see how humanity is using creativity to cope with the pandemic. From seeing the painted stones and sidewalk chalk in my neighborhood to watching the amazing creative releases of artistic expression on the internet, I have seen the importance of creative thought and action.

We, as art educators, are now tasked with keeping that creative spirit going and developing it within our students. "As strange as it sounds, creativity can become a habit," says creativity researcher Jonathan Plucker, PhD, a psychology professor at Indiana University. "Making it one [a habit] helps you become more productive." Making it a habit for our students has always been our priority. We will have to be creative in planning and our instructional delivery. Remember we must stay creative for them and for ourselves. In his book *The Big Book of Creativity Games* (McGraw-Hill, 2000) psychologist Robert Epstein, PhD, recommends that you:

- Capture your new ideas. Keep an idea notebook or voice recorder with you, type in new thoughts on your laptop or write ideas down on a napkin.
- Seek out challenging tasks. Take on projects that don't necessarily have a solution—such as trying to figure out how to make your dog fly or how to build a perfect model of the brain. This causes old ideas to compete, which helps generate new ones.
- Broaden your knowledge. Take a class outside psychology or read journals in unrelated fields, suggests Epstein. This makes more

diverse knowledge available for interconnection, he says, which is the basis for all creative thought. "Ask for permission to sit in on lectures for a class on 12th century architecture and take notes," he suggests. "You'll do better in psychology and life if you broaden your knowledge."

- Surround yourself with interesting things and people. Regular dinners with diverse and interesting friends and a workspace festooned with out-of-the-ordinary objects will help you develop more original ideas, Epstein says. You can also keep your thoughts lively by taking a trip to an art museum or attending an opera—anything that stimulates new thinking.

All of these suggestions I am sure many of you do anyway and reinforce the principles of our Fall Conference "[Creativity isn't Cancelled](#)." Through the hard work of many people at VAEA and those of you who volunteered to present workshops, we are afforded the opportunity to share our knowledge and insights, success, and failures, and of course our talents and creativity. I know it will look different and not feel the same way, but we can still grow from the experience and fuel our creativity in both our teaching practices and our own lives. We are fortunate to be part of a community that respects and celebrates the creativity of others.

Please stay healthy and safe and continue to do the amazing work you do for your students, families, and communities. Keep creativity alive! Please feel free to reach out: smurphy@acps.k12.va.us. I thought since our reliance on technology has become paramount this quote and who it is from would be appropriate:

"Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while." – Steve Jobs

MIDDLE

Kirstie Hein



"2020 has rocked our world with the pandemic and racial reckoning. Survival has been a creative act, from simply making meals, to sewing masks, making art, and creating positive memories. This time of forced retreat from life as I have known it has allowed me to examine and reflect on what really matters, and to focus on cultivating joy and creativity. To be human is to be a creative being, simply by our existence. "Creative" defined as "to cause to come into being, as something unique that would not naturally evolve or that is not made by ordinary processes." (1). Cultivating creativity is essential in our own lives and in our students lives.

At the start of the pandemic, I dove into yard work and gardening. The weather made ground conditions perfect for pulling up overgrown vines, creating new flower beds and rearranging plants. Digging in the dirt provided hours of 'flow' which benefitted my mental health by providing me with a physical, tangible, "real" focus, and a "start to finish" visible end. Preparing soil, stacking rocks, planting seedlings, and exchanging an excess of sprouting perennials with friends allowed me to feel grounded and connected in a time of disconnection. Something I had never done before was to start zinnia plants from seeds. The miracle of a tiny seed transforming into a large thriving plant that produces flowers and attracts butterflies to our yard is a source of delight and joy. Neighbors express their appreciation as they walk by, the cut flowers become bouquets to brighten inside space, and serve as an inspiration for a painting or two in my own art making.

Gardening provides many metaphors for life: weeding out beliefs that no longer serve us, cultivating hope and expectation, getting to the root of things. Gardening metaphors for teaching and learning include that as teachers we cultivate our students' creativity. The miracle of the seed is in our students simply because they are human beings in existence. As teachers, we are given the greatest honor and opportunity to help water and nourish, shine light on our kids by crafting lessons that affirm and appropriately challenge

students to grow into themselves.

VAEA has been a huge part of my "survival and thrival" as an art educator. Urban Dictionary defines thrival as "looking

beyond your soul into the deepness of society's problems; sacrificing yourself and going beyond one's comfort zone in order to help the people around you." (2)

Our time and place in history at this moment is time to thrive creatively and "look out beyond our souls (the principle of life, feeling, thought, and action in humans...), into the deepness of society's problems (racism, inequity) sacrificing ourselves (what we thought we knew) and going beyond one's comfort zone (unlearning what we thought to be true, and embracing online teaching and learning) in order to help the people around you (humanity, our families and students we serve)." Thrive creatively. Practice radical self care and be self-sacrificing to the extent that you are able to discern what depletes you from what brings you joy and nourishment, so that you can love and serve your students.

Please join me at the virtual fall conference Middle Division meeting, where we can build our community of educators, share what is working for us in these virtual times, and explore resources for equity and culturally responsive teaching. In the meantime, take extra good care of yourself, take delight and joy with you into your activities. Please reach out and email me if you have any resources or artists you would like to share with the middle division khein@rvaschools.net.

(1) <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/create?s=ts>

(2) <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=thrival>



Division News

SECONDARY

Rachel Principe

Embrace the Constraints: Virtual Art Education

Our current world has seen unprecedented changes in a relatively short amount of time. Most of these changes have resulted in new constraints for our everyday lives, while some have opened doors for real social change. The constraints that have evolved from Covid-19 can seem frustrating as they have interrupted our normal routine and how we interact with our students, communities, and our own families. I would like to place a positive spin on the current limitations of our new normal and expectations of virtual learning. Whether it is a limitation in materials and/or money or time restrictions in the classroom, as educators, we have experienced and often teach about the beauty that lies in creative solutions among limitations. We now have new, quite large, educational constraints that we must operate within while ensuring all students are receiving a high-quality education. If we can focus on how these constraints, which can easily be dismissed as roadblocks, can be celebrated as environments for creativity to thrive, we can grow our skills as educators and evolve within these limitations. I will outline a few ideas using the 5 C's of a Virginia graduate as a guide on how we can embrace the constraints of virtual learning to continue the growth of our students and our professional practice.

Creative Thinking Skills: When adapting this fundamental skill of arts education into the virtual realm, allow students more options to experiment and explore with non-art materials. Provide opportunities in your lessons for students to go outdoors and use natural materials or found objects to create compositions or to try as alternative drawing materials. Check out these artists as inspiration for resourcefulness in materials. Artists: Andy Goldsworthy, Noah Scalin

Citizenship and Critical Thinking: Critical thinking skills such as reflection, analyzing, interpreting, and even challenging personal perspectives, are all essential for success outside the classroom. I have combined citizenship with critical thinking here because, when exploring our social climate today and the issue of



race in America, introducing your students to a diverse curriculum of artists is just not enough. Allow more opportunities for your students to really explore what is happening in the world around them through artists who investigate these very ideas. Students can then create meaningful connections to significant issues that will continue to impact their lives outside of the K-12 environment. Have students dig deeper into research-based assignments to establish connections to the past and present. How have artists used their own experiences to inform their work and what are these experiences? How do they differ from their own? A weekly artist exploration in which students engage in regular reflection exercises in the form of sketchbook prompts or journaling assignments could be a great way to keep the skill of perspective taking and critical thinking a cornerstone of your curriculum this year. As art educators, we not only have the luxury but the responsibility to teach empathy and compassion through the arts. Artists: Titus Kaphar, Wangechi Mutu, Jaune "Quick-to-See" Smith

Communication: Being constrained to a screen for learning options can have us feeling very limited when engaging the social skills we practice daily in the art classroom. Consider how students can interact with new people whom they normally would not have the opportunity to interact with inside the school building. Invite local artists to talk about their work in a Google Hangout (or the like) and ask students to prepare questions to engage the artist about their process and their materials. Have students practice their active listening and reflection skills by writing a short summary on big ideas as well as their opinions about his/her work.

Collaboration- This may seem like the toughest limitation inside a virtual education setting; however, it is a vital skill that needs to be harnessed despite the limitations. Students need to know how to share responsibility, demonstrate flexibility, compromise, and work towards a shared goal. The flipped classroom is

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Karin Tollefson Hall

Renewing Your Creative Life

Welcome back to what has to be the most unusual academic year any of us have experienced. While adjusting to new modes of teaching and learning for ourselves, our children, and our students, I would encourage you to set aside the challenges and frustrations in order to reflect on the benefits, blessings, surprises, and new beginnings that have occurred. In many aspects of life, we have drawn on our personal and collective creativity to continue to move forward. I would like to share the beginning of a list of creative engagements from which we may benefit.



Magnolia, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake



1.) VAEA Fall conference Creativity isn't Cancelled: A first ever virtual VAEA conference offers the possibility

of increased accessibility. Participation can be possible for members who may not have had the opportunity to participate in the in-person format due to schedule, funding, location, lack of administrator support, etc. The VAEA hopes to welcome first-time attendees through the flexibility of a creative format and scheduling. As a presenter you have reimagined your role and activities to be able to share your content online.

2.) Rethinking Education: As we completed courses from home and planned for a new semester, creativity was key in remaking courses and curriculum to allow for social distancing and distance learning. Many of us have attended trainings, reached out to colleagues, and developed new skill sets for delivering instruction. We expanded our ideas of how to engage students in the visual arts without school. We will continue to rethink and critically examine our educational system at all levels. New questions have been raised for art education in higher education. What does it now mean to be prepared to teach visual art in our country?

3.) Re-examining the artistic self: The dramatic shift in daily life, as well as political and social events of the past six months, may have stirred a re-examination of the content of your artistic production. Working at home or closer to a studio may have provided you with increased time and impetus to reawaken your creative practice.

Continue to grow, create, and reflect on the advantages your creativity and life have brought this year. I look forward to hearing and seeing new and returning voices and faces at the [VAEA virtual conference](#) in November.

Division News

Museum Education

Cody Long



Memory and the Museum

While we closely monitor school opening plans, many museums have cautiously extensive cleaning procedures. While we are operating at 25% capacity, many have asked (and rightly so) why we decided to reopen. Other than feeling we can do so safely; we believe art is important. As art teachers, I imagine you would agree.



Gustave Doré - French, 1832-1883
The Neophyte (First Experience of the Monastery), ca. 1866-68
Oil on canvas - [Chrysler Museum of Art](#)

During this pandemic, I have had the privilege and challenge of finishing the training for 24 new docents. Docents at the Chrysler, and in many other museums, do extensive training in order to tour visitors, especially students, through the museum. Some of the docents are retired educators. Many are parents. Some are artists. In this particular group, we have a lawyer, a biologist, a hospital administrator and a homeschool mom. Despite their backgrounds, all of them believe in connecting our visitors with the art in our museum. These docents have trained for nine months to give tours. Through masks, standing six feet away from their audience (comprised of their family members and veteran docents) they eagerly engage their group. Through a delicate balance of questions and information sharing, they hope to connect their audience to the art in the museum.

One docent chose to present on Virginia artists in our collection. While he did a great job, what was most memorable were two anecdotes he told between stops. He paused in front of *The Shepherd and His Flock* for

a moment. He told a story about his wife, a former docent who recently passed, and how she demonstrated a sheepdog wrangling their sheep with students decades ago. He stopped again in front of *The Neophyte* to talk about his own experience joining the clergy and realizing he was destined for other things (like marrying his wife). Both anecdotes stayed with me for several days. I've looked at those two pieces hundreds of times and never felt as connected to them as I did when viewing them through his memories.

While it is important to share and talk about art in context, looking at the techniques and elements of art that make pieces museum-worthy, making personal connections to art is what lasts. The more we can connect students to artwork through their own experiences, the easier it is to connect to them



Charles-Émile Jacque
French, 1813-1894
Shepherd and His Flock, 1880
Oil on canvas - [Chrysler Museum of Art](#)

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POLICY

Barbara Laws



A large number of education-related bills were proposed during the General Assembly's 2020 even-year long session. Several of these bills passed the House and the Senate and were signed by the Governor, including the following: biennial compensation review and report (HB1443); establishment of and report from a Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education Practices Advisory Committee (HB916); additional dual enrollment and work-based options to meet graduation requirements (HB516); school counselor staffing requirements (HB1508); definition of social-emotional learning and guidance standards (HB753); substitution of computer science credits for foreign language requirements in certain circumstances (SB323); and revision of CTE work-based learning guide (HB1680).

A number of bills were left in a committee, subcommittee, or failed to pass the House or Senate, including the following: incorporation of financial literacy objectives into math SOLs (HB197); teacher compensation goal requirements (HB233); planning time for teachers (HB273, SB134); and STEAM grants which specifically include the arts (HB953).

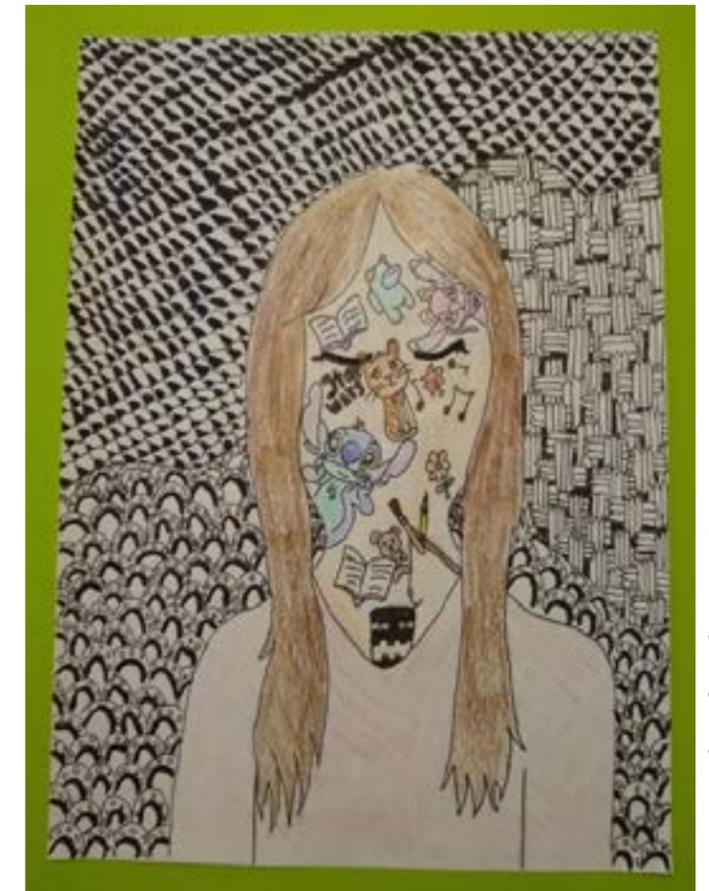
The most concerning of these bills that failed was HB694 which would require the completion of a stand-alone semester or year-long computer science/introduction to technology course during grades 6, 7, or 8. Elective courses, including the arts and world languages, would be severely impacted by the passage of this requirement. In response, the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education (VCFAE) developed a position statement which was distributed to stakeholders, including the arts education associations, along with a call for action. The House Education Subcommittee: SOL and SOQ recommended that the bill be continued to 2021 and the full Education Committee followed suit with a voice vote. We will be monitoring the situation over the next few months.

Thank you to those of you who responded by contacting your representatives, the bill patron, and members of the committees and to Michael Gettings who spoke before the subcommittee. Your voice

makes a difference! Your VAEA board and VCFAE members also contacted legislators and visited many to let them know of our support and concerns during the 2020 Advocacy Day.

Be sure that you maintain (or make) those communications with your legislators so that when the next legislative session rolls around, you already have a connection.

As this article is being written, schools are still closed and the impact of the closures on next year's instructional content and school schedules is unknown. We do know that the arts are critical for the return to normalcy in our school lives and look forward to the time they can be celebrated communally and in person once again. Be safe; be well.



Hope, 6th grade, Jack Jouett MS, Donna Evans



Cayden, 11th grade, Warren HS, Andrea Stuart

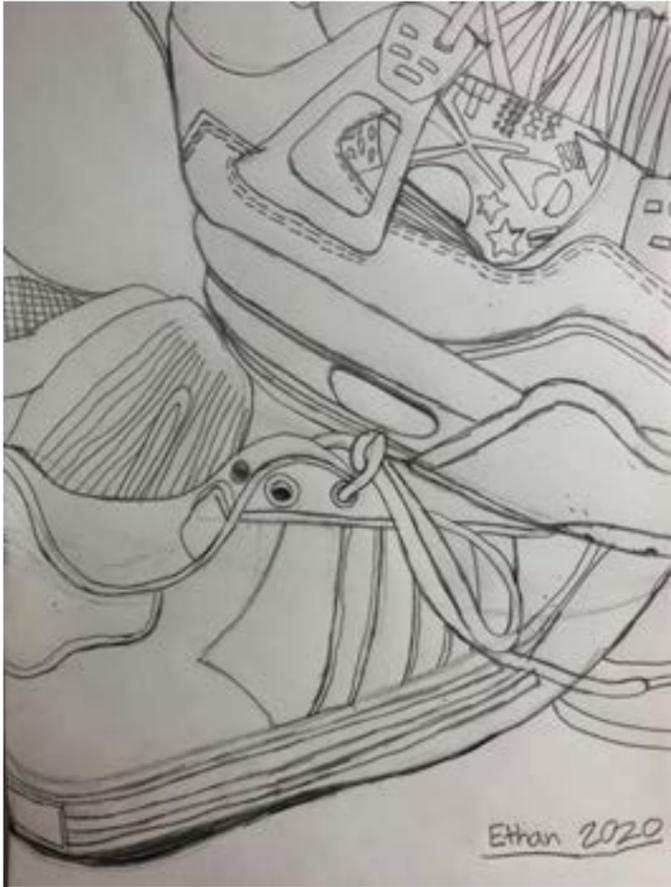


Bradley, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Taya, 11th grade, Lewis HS, Leslie O'Shaughnessy



Hunter, 8th grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti



Ethan, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake



Jack, 12th grade, Jefferson Forest HS, Jennifer Tonkins

Membership

Patsy Parker



Creativity, you've never had it so good!

As art educators, we have always struggled to find time to make our own art because we have been so drained from guiding students in making their own art works. Well, Covid-19 gave us lots of unexpected time to get our own work done...work we had only dreamed of making, finishing, or preparing to show.

Now, so much for all that alone time. In the past, we have enjoyed the luxury of participating in regional workshops, state conferences and national conventions. NAEA and VAEA have facilitated sessions, panels, hands-on workshops, and presentations led by inspirational peers and guest speakers. Art educators from across Virginia and beyond have presided over sessions regarding cross-curricular units, art history, media, and technique. These experiences were not just about what ideas could be incorporated into the K-12 setting but motivated how "well loved" lessons and units could be upgraded and intensified to make the art program a more enriching experience. They have also proven to be an asset to the advancement of art education, propelling the DOE's mission of professional excellence and a vehicle to stay current with the larger goal of educating students. The Learning Curve: The pandemic has challenged us to rethink how to provide these resources on the state level. The Good News: Not having the administration's blessing to secure professional leave or financial support to attend the conference is no longer a factor keeping you from coming to our art family reunion.

We now find ourselves in the "Land of Zoom" (not to be confused with Oz) reaching out to connect, communicate and exchange ideas with our peers. Our Annual Fall (first ever virtual) Conference, "Creativity Isn't Cancelled" will have approximately 70 presenters and over 120 sessions and workshops. No long drive, no over-packed cars, no forgotten items, no waiting impatiently for restaurant food, no crowded hallways, no long bathroom lines and no snoring roommates (that would be me) to endure. All you will need to have

is an active professional membership to participate from your favorite armchair wearing your comfiest sweatpants. Alas, it will not be free...you will have to pay a registration fee (as always) but it will be minimal in exchange for what you will be receiving in return. You will be given a list of supplies needed for workshops that you "go to" with no worries about a limit on participants or how to carry wet stuff back to your hotel room. Now, there's a couple of firsts in VAEA history!

If the conference time frame does not work for you, your membership gives you a personal password which opens a treasure trove of information to keep you moving onward and upward in your career growth and finetuning your curriculum. If you haven't checked us out in a while, please go to arteducators.org to see for yourself for the amazing depth and breadth of knowledge and information accessible to you 24/7 snuggled in the previously mentioned armchair and sweatpants.

- Virtual Art Educators – monthly webinars, archived NAEA Convention videos, Virtual Conferences and more. Earn university credit for participating in live and archived events.
- National Visual Arts Standards – FREE Arts Standards Toolbox App! Easily view the National Visual Arts Standards, design Standards Based units, lessons and more.
- NAEA Website, create your member account at arteducators.org and have access to members-only web content.
- Open Forum Digest = Burning questions and thoughtful responses in a 24-hour turnaround. (Rather like that daily ration of chocolate...anticipation and satisfaction).
- Need the Tactile Experience? Art Education Journal still arrives by snail mail.

But it won't be the same as the [VAEA Virtual Conference](#).

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Research

Yiwen Wei



I am still feeling odd and uncertain halfway through 2020, like walking in a mist and trying to find a clear direction. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 at the beginning of this year, many schools and universities around the world have been closed or offered courses online. We are required to act fast and be flexible for work duties while we are responsible for our own physical and mental health. It is a challenging year for many of us and our students.

I have learned from many teachers and reports saying that economic inequality appears more prominent than ever when schools are closed, and courses have shifted to an online format. Many low-income students did not and may still have not received adequate educational support and resources compared to their higher-income counterparts. Many teachers have been volunteering to distribute food and digital equipment to their students. Their actions, effort, and time represent tremendous love, care, and hope.

I want to talk about "hope" in this column that ultimately leads to "creativity." I want to focus on

how art teachers quickly evolve new ways of teaching and adapt technology and the internet to connect with other teachers and their students in a creative way.

Since the practice of physical distancing and travel restrictions, more and more visual art teachers, including members of VAEA, have shared their art projects and creative images on social media. VCU Art Education students also learned to record and edit their art teaching videos to better engage with children.

Meanwhile, my art teacher friends around the world have been organizing art educational activities and workshops through various online platforms. For example, the World Chinese Arts Education Association hosted an English and Mandarin bilingual lecture on June 27, 2020 (see the image below), and had nearly 100 participants from China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, Turkey, Canada, and the US attend the meeting. Within two hours the live streaming on Facebook had more than 1,000 views.

continued on Page 25



Regional Messages

BLUE RIDGE

Elizabeth Reid

Over the past several months, I have found myself trying to wrap my head around all the changes and challenges that have inundated our lives due to COVID-19. Having to quarantine made me take some needed time to really think about life and art. Whether I was thinking about family, friends, or the creative artists who have inspired me, I realized we share a common bond of passion and appreciation for art, and for that I am most grateful.



During the summer hours, I joined a multitude of learning platforms and chat sessions, excited to learn and share ideas about teaching art under these “new normal” circumstances. The experience was wonderful but more importantly it reassured me that “Creativity isn’t Cancelled” and allowed me to build a stronger connection between my passions for art and teaching. While creativity is not cancelled, it has CHANGED, but I am hopeful we will continue to travel together, sharing, creating, and allowing ourselves to embrace all the new opportunities ahead of us. I look forward to a post Covid-19 summer of collaboration in art, and the celebration of many of our favorite summer traditions, as noted in one of my favorite poems.

Summer-By Robert M. Shortell

Of People and Places Book II 89.

*Summer begins in June. It never comes too soon;
Twentieth day of June, first night of summer moon.
Birds and Bees at ease; mating no longer waiting.
From nearby thicket you hear the chirping crickets.*

*We forget about school; need not follow rule.
Pools are in full action, bring satisfaction.
Also, within our reach is a day at the beach.
Many take to the surf, avoiding the hot turf.
As the weather gets hot, we wear less than we've got.
Air conditioner's force vies with the days' course.*

*Barbecues are in style; we leave the house for awhile.
Baseball weather is here; time to cheer and sip beer.
July 4th is at hand, a parade with big band.
Fireworks in the park; hard to wait until dark.*

*Growing season is here; corn shoots high in full ear.
Land vibrant with power, brings full leaf and flower.
Plants properly nourished, abundantly flourished.
Earth has opened its womb; the land is full bloom.*

*Winter and spring impotent, looking back's verboten.
Don't forget vacations with friends and relations.
As they demand their roll, they may strain your bank roll.
Vacation days must end sooner than you intend.
Summer's last day is nigh; I am wondering why.*

*It's time to remember we are into September.
For some school bells will ring, ending summer's final fling.
For all, back to the grind.
Thank God, the summer's been fine!*

Ethan, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake



CENTRAL

Julie Crowder



Happy Fall, Ya'll

As we head back to our “classrooms” this year, it is really hard to muster up the normal feelings of excitement to begin a new school year when everything is so different than it normally is in September. The leaves may still be changing, the sweaters may still be on, but with everything happening online, or behind masks, it is difficult to feel our typical new school year excitement.

2020 has been marked with so many losses and challenges, and it is difficult to want to show up and be our most enthusiastic selves when so much feels unknown. But, as we do every year, despite personal losses and feelings, we art teachers step into our chosen role as the creative leadership of our schools. We step into our role of modeling creativity for both teachers and students. That role will be wildly different this year.

At my school, which is entirely online until January, I (and the rest of the specials/encore team) will be assisting in other teachers' classrooms for the entire first half of the day, and then teaching six 30 min classes per day after lunch. It is going to feel like the meeting place between

the cringeworthy drudgery of proctoring the SOLs and the frantic energy level of field day every single day, and yet I do feel up for the challenge.

I, like many of you, and glad to finally have any kind of schedule so that I can move out of the place of

“What on earth are we doing, what on earth should I plan?” and into a place of “How can I make this work, let me start trouble shooting”. I think that is exactly what it will be: trouble shooting. Nobody knows exactly what it will look like and what will work, because no one has really been in this situation before. Trouble shooting is code for creativity without a canvas, and we art teachers are especially well versed in thinking out the box, scrapping ideas that don't work, and starting again without (a lot of) self-judgment.

I know you can do it, I know you will do it, and I can't wait to see how you show up for your team to teach them how to try, fail, and try again with grace and new ideas. Happy fall, ya'll. It doesn't look like it used to, but creativity isn't cancelled. It's just on zoom now.



Natasha, 5th grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti

Regional Messages

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Julie Galvin



Teachers are creatures of habit. We have summer routines we follow to reflect on a great year, take time to rest, and get ready to pour our energies into the new year. This year, the routines that brought us comfort and a sense of control were interrupted. Our August checklist is no longer fitting the current situation.

The transition of working at home has led to my home art studio morphing into a home office. My once messy art table that used to be filled with art supplies is now home to my laptop, planner, and documents that fill my day.

Never have I needed a creative outlet more! Since my art space has been overrun by the office, I have shifted to simpler creative pursuits. Each evening, I leave “the office” behind and look forward to an evening



Artwork by Julie Galvin



Artwork by Julie Galvin

that includes binge watching the latest on Netflix and working in my art journal. I have been enjoying the organic mark-making of neurographic art with the addition of color coming from Crayola markers and a paintbrush. I enjoy seeing where the marks take me and letting the freedom of the journey relax my tired mind.

I hope each of you is finding time for yourselves to exercise your artistic creativity as you continue to practice creatively maneuvering through a year unlike any other!

Creativity has not been cancelled! It has been our comfort and safe space to process and redirect our stressed and wondering minds.

SOUTHWEST

Jennifer Fowler



I’m struggling to write this article. As I sit here at my computer, my mom is in surgery for cancer. Wow, I said it out loud again and it still doesn’t sound any better. Cancer and Mom in the same sentence; I feel a stab each time I say it.

All of us are dealing with the coronavirus aka Covid-19 in some shape or form. Many of us have now been introduced to hours upon hours of Canvas training. I’m really starting to hate ‘c’ words. This brings me to a very important ‘c’ word, “cope” or “coping”. I know, you probably thought I was going to say “creativity”. After all, the theme of this article is supposed to be “Creativity Isn’t Cancelled”. Don’t worry, I’ll get there by the end. Right now, coping is more important.

The past several months has been nothing short of a stressful, anxiety filled, hot mess. If you’ve been joining us on our weekly Zoom meetings, you have learned I have an amazing ability to find humor in nearly everything. This summer has greeted my family with a massive tree hitting our house, an uninvited front yard pond, a broken septic tank pipe, and a busted radiator pipe flooding the basement, just to name a few. With each new event I was able to cope by laughing at the ridiculousness of each new situation.

I have yet to find anything humorous about cancer. Do you know why? I’m not in (here’s another ‘c’ word) CONTROL. I have absolutely no control anymore and I thrive with being in control. Everything I have ever known, planned for, expected, has changed this year (another ‘c’ word) with little time to adapt.

So, let’s think about our students and a combination of these ‘c’ words. Rarely do they have control over their own lives; living in a world of unknowns. We are the adults they depend on to teach them how to cope. Much of what we do is focused on being their outlet, while providing empathy and compassion. They need us as their outlet now more than ever before. This year, it’s just going to take some creativity (I promised I would get there) on our part. Our students need us, not another handout, or writing prompt, but us as *continued on Page 25*

TIDEWATER

Leigh Drake



‘Creativity Isn’t Cancelled’ is the theme for the VAEA’s first virtual conference to be held this November 2020. I believe that this theme is appropriate given what we have faced in our lives, and continue to deal with, these past few months. We have had to adjust, learn, and adapt as we figure out new ways to teach all while continuing to be effective teachers. We, as art educators, are so fortunate to be naturally creative individuals. During times such as these we can be assured that art will always thrive. Even during difficult times, creation is never-ending and there are so many opportunities presented to us which allow our minds to flourish. We hope that during this conference you will try new things, meet new people, and just enjoy your time learning from each other through this virtual platform. This conference will be a one-of-a-kind experience and a steppingstone for future professional development opportunities for our state.

From presenting, to attending, to being behind-the-scenes of making this conference happen, we all work together to create a uniquely beautiful picture of art education in Virginia. I want to acknowledge and say a huge thank you to the Tidewater Region for being flexible, adjusting, and stepping up to not only help with the virtual conference this November but also with the 2021 conference to be hosted in Virginia Beach. Tidewater is so lucky to have dedicated educators such as yourselves. I look forward to our continued work to make the 2021 conference a premier event for our conference attendees.

The Tidewater board is honored to announce this year’s award nominees for the art education awards for the region. This year’s Tidewater award nominees are as follows:

Elementary Art Educator: Angie Salerno (Suffolk Public Schools)

Middle School Art Educator: Sarah Clark (Accomack County Public Schools)

Secondary Art Educator: Liz Bahl-Moore
continued on Page 24

Continued

Continued from Leigh

(Williamsburg-James City Public Schools)

Retired Art Teacher: Susanne Andleton (Virginia Beach City Public Schools)

Administration/Supervisor Art Educator: Chris Buhner (Virginia Beach City Public Schools)

Higher Education Art Educator: Natalia Pilato (Old Dominion University)

Museum Education Art Educator: Alison Byrne (Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art)

Congratulations to our nominees! This is a well-deserved honor for all your continued hard work and dedication in art education.

We look forward to seeing everyone, virtually this year, at the VAEA conference in November and are even more excited to welcome everyone to Virginia Beach next Fall 2021. The beach is waiting for you!

Additional information can always be found on the [VAEA website](#) and the [Tidewater Region's Facebook](#) page for our up-and-coming activities and workshops.



Kara, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Continued from Rachel

a great model for collaboration. Prepare instructional materials and provide Google Hangouts or breakout rooms for grouping students to decipher new content together. Then have students return to a whole group virtual classroom and allow them to review and



Alicia, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

present the material in creative ways.

Many artists and scientists understand the need for limitations for innovation and discovery. Limitations are only the starting point. We can use these constraints to propel us forward into new innovative ways of teaching.

As artists, we create artwork based on our response to the world around us. Therefore, the context of our experiences cannot be separated from the work we produce. Keep encouraging students to express their points of view and celebrate their experiences alongside them.

Continued from Cody

personally. We should also consider how, as educators, we can share our own connections to and memories of art to build relationships.

Looking at art through the lens of memory is a great way to engage all students. Here are a few questions you can use with any artwork or object:

What might have been happening in the life of the artist or maker while they were creating this object?

What do you imagine the artist or maker was thinking while they were making this piece?

Once the artwork or object was made, where might it have lived? What might the object have "seen"?

What do the colors, shapes, textures, or subject matter remind you of?

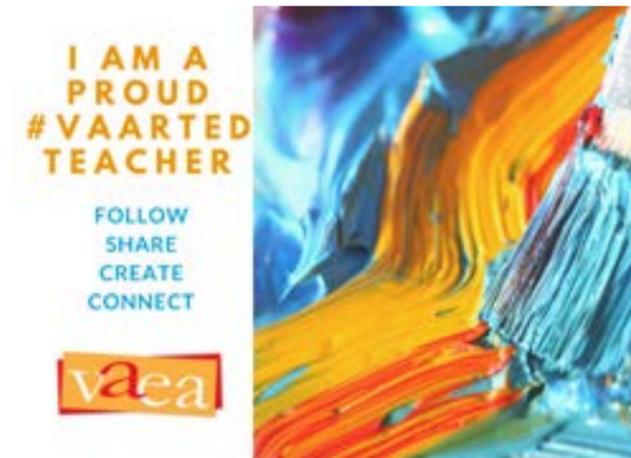
Can you think of a specific time or event this object or artwork reminds you of?

How does this object or artwork make you feel? When was the last time you felt that way?

Continued from Jennifer

creative thinkers. We must change what we've always known and always done and that, my friends, will take a lot of creativity. After all, creativity isn't canceled, just the way we've always taught it.

If you're finding you are out of ideas, need a boost, or just someone to talk to, please join us. We meet every Wednesday night at 7pm via Zoom. What started as a creative way to continue our summer Meet and Make session has developed into art therapy. This year it has been just what we needed to talk things through, seek advice, rant, laugh, and build friendships. All are welcome to join.



Continued from Patsy

Are you getting your money's worth?

I get it that you don't want to be bombarded with "stuff" on your personal email...but you are not getting your money's worth if you only give NAEA and VAEA your school email address. Electronic communication versus "snail mail" makes it faster for VAEA to alert you concerning future regional workshops and events so you may participate. We also need to advise you about pertinent and critical information concerning the state of art education in Virginia. Work spam filters are so strong now that our messages are bouncing back disabling our communication. You would no longer receive any VAEA information. Please send me a message at p2artkrt@gmail.com using your personal email so I may add it to my records to keep the information flowing. Please help us to serve you better.

When you speak to/share with a colleague about the VAEA, you are not selling a membership...you offering a "life line" to an art educator who may feel isolated and has no knowledge of the generosity offered by belonging to the VAEA.

Continued from Yiwen

It seems to me that art teachers, not only in the US but also around the world, are resilient and creative amid the pandemic. Their actions have shown me the hope that we can break through the physical and geographical limitations and develop innovative and creative ways of learning with the help of technologies. I would like to summarize this article with my three main points:

1. Remain hopeful.
2. Collaborate with friends.
3. Have a growth mindset.

Youth Art Month.

Juan Brooks
& Kelley Shradley-Horst



What a magnificent showing we had during [Youth Art Month](#), March, 2020, even though covid-19 threw us for a loop. You made a zero turn on your art journey and kept going. The flexibility of the art teacher never disappoints.

The 2021 Youth Art Month theme is “Art Connects Us”. Consider using the theme for artwork and a division focus for this school year. As you plan your calendars and create Youth Art Month events and publicity, please remember to use the 2021 theme logos and general YAM logos found on the VAEA website under advocacy.

It is time to design the 2021 YAM flag. The template can be found on the VAEA website. Please use the template and complete designs that feature the following:

1. The theme, Art Connects Us
2. Art Supplies (art focus)
3. Items that represent the commonwealth of Virginia (state shape, dogwood, etc).

Designs may incorporate one or all of the features listed and must include the YAM logo and state name, Virginia. Designs should be postmarked by December 14. A rubric (found on the website) will be used to assess the designs. One design will be selected to create the flag that will represent Virginia at the NAEA conference in Chicago, Illinois, March 2021.

We look forward to sharing during the upcoming online conference. Please watch for information and let us know how we can help you celebrate Youth Art Month.



Social Media Helping VAEA Members Stay Connected

Social Media is an amazing way to help us all stay connected, especially in this time of quarantine and isolation. We are all learning new ways of teaching and how we can keep in contact with our students. It is important we help each other and that we all share what we know. Your VAEA learning community needs your knowledge.

On the [VAEA Member Forum Facebook](#) page we have:

Tech Talk Tuesday: each Tuesday night at 7pm EST. Here we go live and talk about any and all tech issues you may be having, answer questions and give demonstrations.

Friday Night Draw: Each Friday night at 7pm EST. On this show we have different teachers and artists give live demonstrations that you can follow along.

Virginia Artist of the Month: On the first of each month, a different Virginia artist will be highlighted. This is an exciting way to spotlight artists living and working in Virginia to your students.

[Artist Trading Card Swap](#): This monthly activity is sponsored by our Vice-President, Cheryl Miehl, and gives you an opportunity to trade your artist cards with other artists from all over the world. Each month there is a different theme. Please check on the Facebook VAEA Member Forum site for details.

Retiree News

Gianna Cullen



We are in the middle of a pandemic and creative minds are on steroids. For months, art educators across the country have been figuring out alternative teaching strategies, creating virtual classrooms, lessons and communicating with educators throughout the world. Who knew there were already so many online classes? What an opportunity. We are all learning how to “zoom,” face time, create videos and a myriad of other online platforms. As retirees, this is an opportunity to learn from and also assist those who are actively in the profession.

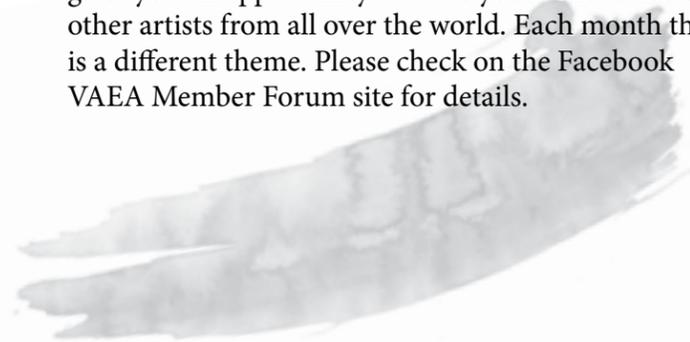
We can no longer use the excuse of not having the time. We need to “step up to the plate” ourselves and offer assistance when and where we can. Maybe we have extra supplies in our studios, a technique we could video and share, or become a visiting artist for an art class online.

Most of us are still making art. We are so lucky because we can lose ourselves in this process. WE HAVE THE TIME! The local UPS driver has become my new best friend.

I stopped cleaning house in March, and to put icing on the cake, the local ABC store manager is one of my former students who always says, “I’ve been worried about you” each time she brings my order to the car. Connecting with former students makes me happy.

Please contact us with any ideas you have and also let us know what you are doing in your studios and communities.

A long time ago someone quoted this to me. “When you are knee deep in alligators it’s hard to remember you came to drain the swamp.” We must all try not to be too overwhelmed and to remember that AFTER THE PLAGUE CAME THE RENAISSANCE.



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 Send photos and student artwork to Susan Silva, News Magazine Editor, at newsmagazine.vaea@gmail.com
 Send address changes to Patsy Parker, Membership Chair, at p2artkrt@gmail.com

VIRGINIA ART EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
TECH TALK TUESDAY
#VAARTEDTECHTALKTUE
 EVERY TUESDAY AT 7PM EST ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
 VAEA MEMBER FORUM
 This is a weekly on-line discussion about all things tech and returning to school virtually

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- Hybrid Learning

Contact your local representative, David Taylor, at 410-952-8502, or email DTaylor@DavisArt.com.



Calendar

November 13-15 & 20-22
VAEA State Conference



Virginia **art** Education Association

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Alexa, 11th grade, Lewis HS, Leslie O'Shaughnessy



Wrenyi, 5th grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake



Tanjah, 10th grade, Lewis HS, Leslie O'Shaughnessy



Liam, 8th grade, Binford MS, Kirstie Hein