



The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the **Del Ray Artisans...** since 1992

www.thedelrayartisans.org

Artioms, Reading and Workshop, Oh My!

ARTIOMS (*ahrt ee-ubm s*): **v.** To express idioms, clichés and word phrases in your artwork

Ever wonder what would happen if art was inspired by a word phrase, an idiom, a word play, or a cliché? Well, wonder no more! Artists young and old, near and far, new and experienced have gathered at the DRA gallery to answer the challenge of this month's show, Artioms. Visit the gallery in February to see how artists interpreted their favorite word plays into art! The opening reception is on Friday, February 5 from 7 - 10:00pm.

An exciting addition to this show is our collaboration with the Tuesdays at Two writers group. These writers will review the artwork and each write up something on a piece that "speaks" to them. These writings will then be

posted on the wall next to the artwork muse for visitors to enjoy. Then on Friday, February 12 starting at 7pm, the Tuesdays at Two group will present a Reading of their writings. Join us for this fun spoken "art"!

Another fun activity during the Artioms show is a self-marketing workshop for artists. This workshop is scheduled for 7pm on Friday, February 19. This workshop is all about finding the words to express yourself and your artwork to others. The Tuesdays at Two writers group will guide workshop registrants through some word and writing exercises to loosen up our thoughts about how we describe our art. Space is limited so register early!

Lady Luck challenges artists and their imaginations



March is a month of contradictions — on the one hand St. Patrick's Day and the luck of the Irish and on the other, the unfortunate Ides of March.

Now the Divas of Decoupage and the Del Ray Artisans are throwing the Lady Luck Challenge into the mix for the Women in Art: Body of Work exhibit. All artists (members and non-members) are encouraged to enter the show, which runs March 5 to March 21.

On Sunday, January 31, artists have the chance to pick up boxes filled with assorted odds and ends. Boxes will be available from noon to 6 pm on that day at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA.

Artists who take the luck-of-the-draw challenge will incorporate some or all of the contents of and/or the box itself into their submission for the show. The boxes are optional and not required in order to enter the show.

Women in Art: Body of Work invites artists to explore women's many roles over the centuries: friend, healer, goddess, Madonna, warrior queen, siren and saint. And that's the short list.

For more information, contact Ellyn Ferguson at 703-549-2660 or elferguson@netzero.com or Vivienne Lukacs at viv703@msn.com or 703-979-8996. The Call for Entries is available at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org and is included as an insert to this newsletter.

Introduction to Figure Drawing Workshop – Tuesday, February 23rd, 2-5 pm

If you are interested in life drawing but have been apprehensive about coming to our regular open sessions, join us for a special Introduction to Figure Drawing Workshop. Hamil Ma, a resident of Alexandria and instructor at Prince George's Community College and VisArts, has graciously agreed to hold this instructional session at the Del Ray Artisans gallery.

Hamil Ma will cover basic techniques and strategies for getting started with drawing the figure. Demonstrations to facilitate the learning process will be followed by a chance for participants to practice drawing from a live model. Bring paper (18"x24"), pencil, compressed charcoal, kneaded eraser, backing board and portable easel (optional). All levels of drawing skill are welcome.

The fee for this workshop is \$12 for DRA members and \$16 for non-members. Space will be limited to 15 participants. Visit the DRA website to register by 2/19/10 or contact Katherine Rand at 703.836.1468 or katherine@katherinerand.com if you have questions.



Impress Your Valentine!

Forget those cookie-cutter store bought Valentine cards and give a hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind card purchased in the gallery at Del Ray Artisans. There are many styles to suit just about anyone. Whether you are in love or in lust, friend or fanatic, there is something just right waiting for you.

An original work of "heart" says so much more than one from the store! Made with love by DRA's cardmaker partiers! Happy Valentines Day!



Bag Watch!

Check out the accompanying call for "bag art" for the Del Ray Artisans What's Your Bag show in April. You can submit bags as art, art made from bags, art made on bags, art of bags, etc.

Look around! Everywhere you look there is potential with grocery bags, backpacks, satchels, suitcases, briefcases, pouches, purses, etc. Photos, glass, ceramics, fiber, paint, beads, and more will be expected and accepted. Start thinking in and out of the bag today! In addition to the wonderful exhibit, there will be a marketplace to purchase items on the spot and an evening devoted to bag swapping.

In the spirit of DRA's service to the community, we will be collecting bags of donated food and clothing for area shelters. Curators Theresa Kulstad (tkulstad@verizon.net) and Karen Schmitz (schmityk@yahoo.com) look forward to your participation.

What's Your Bag? show will run from April 2nd through the 25th.

Accolades

Del Ray Artisan and writer/photographer Judy Heffner has published a book profiling the entrepreneurs of Del Ray. The book, "On the Avenue: Faces of Del Ray," was published in conjunction with the recent Del Ray Dozen photography show.

Judy showed six of her portraits at the show, and the book expanded the concept to include nearly 30 merchants and restaurateurs who have businesses on Mt. Vernon Avenue. The book features an environmental portrait of each business owner, and a biography of the business.

Judy was interviewed by both the Gazette Packet and the Alexandria Times, and has sold nearly 300 copies of her book. She will be doing a book signing at A Show of Hands, which is the exclusive seller, in late January, and an author talk at the Duncan branch of the Alexandria Library in March.

Judy Heffner Photography, judc3@comcast.net or 703-820-0807.

New Member

Welcome New Member: **John Messina**, Media: photography.

March show puts spotlight on women

Women as creators, patrons and sources of inspiration in the arts will be celebrated in Women in Art: Body of Work, an all-media show from March 5 to March 21. The exhibit is a joint effort by Del Ray Artisans and the Divas of Decoupage.

Artists of both genders are invited to interpret the varied roles women play in the creative life. Those roles have been as varied as Mona Lisa, the icon; Annie Leibovitz, the photographer; Mary Cassatt, the painter; Elizabeth Catlett, the sculptor-printmaker and the quilt makers of Gee's Bend, Ala., guardians of a homespun tradition showcased by the Smithsonian Institution.

Artists looking for additional inspiration or a test of their imagination can take the Lady Luck Challenge. Curators will provide boxes filled with... well that's for you to find out! Artists who take boxes will be required to use some or all of the box contents and/or the box itself in the piece(s) submitted for the show.

The call for entry is available at www.theDelRayArtisans.org. For more information, contact Ellyn Ferguson at 703-549-2660 or at el Ferguson@netzero.com or Vivienne Lukacs at viv703@msn.com or 703-979-8996.

Happy New Year to All of our Del Ray Artisans Members!

As your new Membership Director, I would like to jump into my duties quickly. I will be reviewing our member lists with Tracy Wilkerson, our Gallery Assistant, to be sure we have all of our member info correct. If you have any questions, or need us to make any corrections, please feel free to contact me directly.

Our membership process has only two renewal dates: either 12/30 or 6/30. So, you can deduce that about half of our members have just passed their renewal date.

Thank you to each of you who have just recently renewed! We would love to have all of you renew and join us in our exciting plans for 2010! Please check the mailing label on the newsletter you have just received to see if you need to renew; that can be done online, by mail, or in person at the gallery.

You may know that I have been on the Board for many years, as Assistant Treasurer, and I am pleased to call many of our members friends already! I look forward to meeting you, if I haven't had that pleasure yet, and to seeing your art in our exhibits, or joining you in one of our many workshops or programs!

Kathryn Brown
Membership Director
DRA.membership@gmail.com

Membership Notice
Please check the date on your newsletter to see if your membership has expired.



Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301

703.838.4827
TheDelRayArtisans.org

Gallery Hours:

Thurs: noon-4pm
Fri: 10am-9pm
Sat: 10am-9pm
Sun: noon-6pm
The gallery is open during all events and performances

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month
Editor: DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com

2010 Calendar

February

- 5 - 21 Artioms: Idioms, cliches and word phrases expressed in art**
Tracy Wilkerson curator
tlwideas@comcast.net
- 9 Board Meeting, 7pm
10 Life Drawing / Gestures, 11am – 1pm
10 Life Drawing / Poses 2 – 5pm
12 Prose Reading for Artioms Show, 7pm
19 **Workshop** Self Marketing, 7pm
23 **Workshop** Introduction to Figure Drawing 2 – 5pm
24 Life Drawing / Gestures, 11 am – 1pm
24 Life Drawing / Poses 2 – 5 pm
28 Art Swap/General Meeting

March

- 5 - 21 Women in Art: Body of Work**
Ellyn Ferguson curator
elferguson@netzero.net with
Vivienne Lukacs and Beverly Hansen
- 9 Board Meeting, 7pm
10 Life Drawing, 2 – 5pm
24 Life Drawing, 2 – 5pm

April

- 2 - 25 What's Your Bag?**
Theresa Kulstad, Karen Schmitz,
curators, tkulstad@verizon.net,
schmityk@yahoo.com
- 13 Board Meeting, 7pm
21 Life Drawing, 2 – 5pm

Del Ray Artisans Open Life Drawing

For all those that have been waiting for an evening life drawing session, February is the month for you. Come join us on February 10th from 6-9pm for a long pose session. The focus of this evening will be poses lasting at least one hour.

Our daytime gesture sessions with dynamic 1-5 minute poses and our short/long pose combo sessions with short warm-up poses moving into 10-45 minute poses will continue during the day at their regular times. All sessions are drop-in so no registration is required. Bring your supplies and join us.

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|---------|----------|-----------------|
| Feb 10: | 11am-1pm | gesture |
| | 2-5pm | short/long pose |
| | 6-9pm | long pose |
| Feb 24: | 11am-1pm | gesture |
| | 2-5pm | short/long pose |

The fees for each 3 hour session are \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. Two hour sessions are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members.

If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Rand at 703.836.1468 or katherine@katherinerand.com.

2010

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DRA.President@gmail.com

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DRA.VicePresident@gmail.com

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DRA.Treasurer@gmail.com

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vacant

Secretary

Monica Wise
DRA.Secretary@gmail.com

Directors

Fundraising

Barbara Boehm
DRA.Fundraiser1@gmail.com

Linda Elliff

DRA.Fundraiser2@gmail.com

Membership

Kathryn A. Brown
DRA.Membership@gmail.com

Historian/Archivist

John Hiller
DRA.Historian@gmail.com

Volunteers

Lesley Hall
DRA.Volunteers@gmail.com

Facilities

Marlin G. Lord
DRA.Facilities@gmail.com

Curator Coordinator

Michele Reday Cook
DRA.CuratorCoordinator@gmail.com

Outreach

Margaret Slipek
DRA.Outreach1@gmail.com

Randy Scheessele

Randall.M.Scheessele@hud.gov

Community Representative

Nora Partlow
DRA.CommunityRep@gmail.com

Communications

Paige Ireland
DRA.Communications@gmail.com

Programs

Sue Galvin
DRA.Programs@gmail.com

Gallery Assistant

Tracy Wilkerson
DRA.Gallery@gmail.com

Web Curator

Roy Wright
DRA.WebCurator@gmail.com

DRA Accounting

Vacant
DRA.Accounting@gmail.com

DRA Newsletter

Vacant
DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com

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Many thanks to Royce Flowers for providing such spectacular arrangements for our opening receptions.

