



# The Well Crafted Word

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

[www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)



## APRIL'S SHOW IS IN THE BAG

Paper-or-plastic this show is fantastic!

April brings a gallery filled with bags not flowers or showers, April 2-25 during the What's Your Bag? exhibition. Starting with a sack full of art in all media interpreting the bag as art, the opening reception is Friday, April 2, 7-10 pm.

"Look" deep into the eyes at Facebook hostess Connie Zabowski's lunchbox purse with her mixed media approach to the bag. Co-Curators Karen Schmitz

and Theresa Kulstad are just "clutching our lips" with all the diverse entries from paintings, drawings, ceramics, jewelry as well as just good bags!



"We have also decided to have an additional Bag Marketplace that allows happy bag goers to cash and carry items right on the spot." Check out the "fun"derful pen and ink drawing done on tea bags by DRA's newcomer Guy G. Jones.



Back by popular demand is Certified Creativity Coach, Lynn Wyvill, who will be conducting the workshop: Creativity - Thinking In and Out of the Bag on Sunday, April 11. Register soon at [www.theDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.theDelRayArtisans.org).

Also continuing the bag theme will be a free Bag Swap on Friday, April 16. Bring an old gently used purse, handbag, tote, backbag and swap for something new-to-you!

Bags are also known as a giving gesture so we are taking donations of food and clothing for area shelters. Think spring and summer clothing and non-perishables as well as everyday needs for children and adults. There will be a special drop off area designated.

Please become a friend of the bag show with your comments and artwork at the special Facebook: What's Your Bag?

Yes! We will finally close the bag show with A Bang of a Bag! closing reception on Sunday, April 25 from 3 - 6 pm. Everyone is invited to come and play the Mystery Bag game. Artists participating in the show are asked to pick up their unsold works after 6 pm.

## ALL'S BAGS THAT ENDS WELL!

## ATC IS BACK...AND IN THE BAG!

After a couple of months without swapping, April's 'What's Your Bag?', curator divas Karen Schmitz and Theresa Kulstad will host our next ATC swap on Friday, April 9 from 7-9PM. In celebration of our successful show, the April ATC swap will be themed 'part bag'. ATC will have part of a bag incorporated in the design. So grab a bag pull it apart and use it in your little 2.5 inch x 3.5 inch creations! Bring friends your favorite supplies and a snack if you wish. It will be a Friday night delight! For more information contact Theresa Kulstad at [tkulstad@verizon.net](mailto:tkulstad@verizon.net) or (703) 283-0399. To learn more about ATCs, check out [www.artist-trading-cards.com](http://www.artist-trading-cards.com) and click on gallery!

## ONE MEMBER BENEFIT OUTLINED

Many of you may already know that credit unions are not-for-profit financial institutions owned by the people who use their services. So, what that means to you is lower fees and better rates on loans and deposits than you would find at most other financial institutions. The Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union, which DRA members can join, is a safe and secure financial institution that has been in existence for over 65 years. Not only are they a full service financial institution but they also offer convenient access to your funds and accounts for small or home-based businesses.

See Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union web site for additional products and service offerings. The web address is [www.cofcu.org](http://www.cofcu.org), or contact DRA's representative Susanne Waltemyer.

## CREATIVITY: THINKING IN AND OUT OF THE BAG

**WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1 PM - 3 PM**

**INSTRUCTOR: LYNN WYVILL/CERTIFIED CREATIVITY COACH**

Are you stuck in a creative rut? Does it feel like your creativity has taken a vacation? Do you describe yourself as not having a creative bone in your body? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this workshop is for you.

During this fun, interactive, hands-on workshop, we'll spend two hours helping you get in touch with your creative side. Workshop activities are designed to give you a new perspective on your creativity and get your creative expression flowing again. Absolutely no art experience is necessary, just an open mind and a willingness to play, discover and have fun.

All materials are included. Adults only.

Members \$20/Non-member \$25.

Please check website for registration details.



## UNDECIDED: A DIALOG BETWEEN ARTIST AND VIEWER

By Betty Plummer, Curator



How does someone who sees your painting respond. Have you wondered what your abstract artwork is truly communicating? Do you put "Undecided" on your collage because YOU are not sure what it's about? Or do you leave untitled your sculpture or photograph because you want viewers to project their own feelings onto it?

June's all-member, all-media show is an opportunity to find out how people really respond to your work of art. Next to each piece will be a sheet on which viewers may write in their own title for your masterpiece!

This show for me is about the process of creating art and noticing how subjects, or titles emerge. To help get the inner dialog going and the paint a-swashing, here are some inspiring ideas from industrial artist Paul Sedan who said, "The only reality any past can have is our present sense of it. . . elegant simplicity resides in the ordinary. . . the different is seldom better but the better is always different." I like what he said about his own process: "To me, the most important thing about my art is the process. It's often easy to mentally "see" an idea. But then there's the practical work that wrestles with what you want to make with the facts that the materials and tools impose. As I work I try to keep an open mind and let myself be guided through the process. Often the results are much better than what I originally "saw." To read more about Paul Sedan please go to his website <http://www.paulsedan.com/biography.htm>

I am excited about this upcoming show and invite you to explore your creative process. Maybe you will begin to see differently in your chosen artistic genre and want to tell us about it, or perhaps you'll be inspired to experiment with different media. The field of life is open. Enjoy the discovery!

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR BANGLADESHI WOMEN THROUGH TEXTILES

THIS ARTICLE IS DRAWN BY TARA HARDIMAN FROM AN ARTICLE RECENTLY FEATURED IN HAND EYE MAGAZINE ([HTTP://WWW.HANDEYEMAGAZINE.COM/CONTENT/ACCIDENTAL-SAINT](http://www.handeyemagazine.com/content/accidental-saint))



Very far from Del Ray in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Surayia Rahman has guided hundreds of poor women in Bangladesh to create masterworks of exquisitely embroidered tapestries. A self-trained, passionate artist now in her late seventies, Surayia began to put her artistic talents to work in 1958 working at a charitable organization in Bangladesh and has continued to train and mentor girls and women in the art of Nakshi Kantha, or "embroidered quilt," a folk art of Bangladesh and West Bengal, India. Surayia's pieces are dispersed throughout the world, in Australia, Japan, Italy, France, Canada, and the U.S.

After a long "artistic" and life journey and wishing to develop the art form, in 1986, Surayia founded "Arshi", which is Bengali for mirror, symbolizing the fact the each textile tells a story, reflects a memory. The women just started coming -- by boat, train, and bus, sometimes swimming during floods. Surayia had two rules: they must be paid and they must learn. The women were extremely poor, living in mud huts and living on rice -- yet relying on Surayia to survive.

Two friends of Del Ray Artisans members Tara Hardiman and Roger Jackson, Cathy Stevulak and Len Hill, are working on a documentary. To learn more about the documentary, Surayia's legacy, and how you can support the effort, please visit [www.kanthathreads.com](http://www.kanthathreads.com).

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## GALLERY WITHOUT WALLS IS NOW UP AND RUNNING!

Three Del Ray Artisans, Seana Gallagher, Diane McClaugherty, and Michele Reday Cook are exhibiting their paintings at the Prudential/Carruthers Real Estate offices, 300 N. Washington Street in Old Town, Alexandria, through May. DRA is working with Prudential/Carruthers to continue hosting exhibits in this wonderful space. This is a tremendous opportunity for our artists--look for upcoming information on how to apply.

A reception is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday April 7th, 6 – 8 pm at 300 N. Washington Street, suite 100 in Alexandria. All Del Ray Artisans are invited to the Grand Re-Opening party for this new office location. Light refreshments will be served.

## ART THEORY AND DEVELOPING THE ARTISTIC IDENTITY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010  
10 AM – 12PM

From Picasso to Warhol, whether the artist is a realist or abstractionist, each artist is challenged with the task of producing work that is both compelling AND lucrative without sacrificing his or her artistic vision. This workshop shows the artist how to balance this duality of product and profit. During the first hour, each attending artist will learn how to define their own individual art theory and build upon that philosophical foundation a unique artistic identity. During the second hour, the artists will learn promotional techniques on how to identify their target audience; and how use their new artistic identity to truthfully compliment their work, as well as achieve profitable result.

The workshop fee is \$10 for DRA members and \$12 for non-members. For more information about the workshop, contact Matthew Cuenca at 703-768-1726 or [matthew@matthewcuenca.com](mailto:matthew@matthewcuenca.com)

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. You can register at the DRA gallery or online at [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

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## PLAY THE MYSTERY BAG GAME!

Take a chance for prizes and guess what's in the 'Mystery Bags' on Sunday April 25 at the closing reception (3-6 pm). A clever assortment of bags will be displayed with different items inside. Some may be clear where you guess how many? Some may be opaque wrapped in string revealing a shape and you guess what is it? Some bags may have a mysterious fragrance and you'll be asked what's that smell?

Prizes will be given to winners and this is free for all to play at the 'What's Your Bag?' exhibit!

## WHY PARTICIPATING IN DRA'S ART SHOWS IS GOOD FOR YOU

By MICHELE REDAY COOK

I joined DRA quite a few years ago, as a relatively new artist. The opportunity to show my work at a small, collective gallery, in a non-competitive atmosphere was very appealing. The first show I entered was an all-member show, and I was thrilled to see my art displayed on the wall. I try to submit work regularly and usually get at least one piece accepted.

I find it instructive to see my work displayed together with the work of other artists - many times I see how far I have to go for my work to equal that of my fellow artists; other times, I'm pleased to see how I've improved and that my art looks pretty good.

Of course, selling is even better! When buyers put down their hard earned cash so they can take your art home to enjoy, it feels like a pretty good validation of your skill and efforts.

But best of all, is the sense of community here at DRA, and nowhere is it more strongly in evidence than in our monthly exhibits. Everyone who exhibits must work together in order to make the exhibit a success. Not everyone is happy with this: non-DRA members who enter our shows are not particularly interested in volunteering, especially gallery-sitting. DRA members who do not live locally find the volunteer requirement difficult. The trade-off is being able to show your work.

New members who are hesitant to submit their art for our monthly shows sometimes feel left out--they join and nothing happens--no one calls them and they have no idea how to get involved. Well, here's how: come by the gallery any time we're open and talk to whoever is around. Come to every opening reception and talk to artists. Call a curator and find out how you can help with a show, even for an hour.

Is there a downside? Yes. The juror or the curator may not select your work and you may not get in at all. Furthermore, the work that is accepted in any given show, especially all-member shows can be very uneven. DRA is committed to supporting the emerging artist and often, this commitment results in new, fresh and exciting works by beginning artists; other times, we see not-quite-ready-for-exhibit work from beginners. Keep on submitting art, take classes, come to our workshops, become a better artist!

If you'd like to become a curator, an even greater commitment of time is necessary. Volunteer to help with a show and find out what happens "behind the scenes".

We make art for ourselves, yes, but we want our art to be viewed and appreciated by others. Showing our work in a "real" gallery is a worthy goal, one that DRA makes possible.

## OPEN LIFE DRAWING

Our open life drawing sessions are popular! We will be continuing with the morning-gesture sessions and adding a long-pose evening session for the month of April. All sessions are drop-in, no registration required. Bring your supplies and join us!

Session dates:

April 7th

11 – 1 pm Gesture

2 – 5 pm Short/Long Pose

April 21st

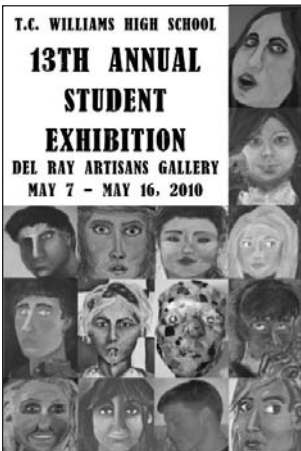
11 – 1 pm Gesture

2 – 5 pm Short/Long Pose

6 – 8 pm Long Pose

The fee is \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members for each 3-hour session. The 2-hour sessions are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. Please visit the DRA website for more details or contact Katherine Rand with questions at 703.836.1468 or [DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com).

## STUDENT EXHIBIT SHOWCASES ALEXANDRIA'S ARTISTS OF THE FUTURE



Del Ray Artisans and the T.C. Williams High School Art Department jointly present the 13th Annual Student Art Show at the Del Ray Artisans gallery Friday May 7th through Sunday May 16th. The exhibit will feature the work of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) members.

Students are inducted into the NAHS by recommendation of their art

teachers. T.C. Williams High School students must have completed a minimum of two years of art study during which they have demonstrated exemplary achievement in art. Fourteen juniors and seniors comprise this year's selection. Many of these students will continue to study art at the college level, and much of the work on exhibit has been featured in their winning college admission portfolios. The University of Michigan, Moore College of Art, Savannah College of Art and Design, Syracuse

University, and VCU Arts are among the schools eager to welcome T.C. Williams artists this fall.

T.C. Williams offers a vibrant art program that attracts hundreds of 9th-12th graders each year. Many ultimately complete most of the program's offerings. One of the students whose work will be featured in this year's Del Ray show is currently enrolled in four art classes! Former students can be counted among today's working fine artists and art teachers, graphic artists and web designers, fashion and fabric designers, animators and special effects artists.

Come celebrate the newest additions to those proud ranks! The opening reception will be held Friday May 7th, 7 - 10 pm.

DRA volunteers will be needed to gallery sit Friday and Saturday nights from 6 to 9 pm during the TCW Student Art Show May 8th, 14th and 15th. Also needed are key-holders to open and close if TCW faculty is not available. You have been such good supporters of this important project over the years we know we can count on you now. Contact Michele, with your availability, at [dra.curatorcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:dra.curatorcoordinator@gmail.com)

## DRA MEMBERS:

We are increasing our reliance on electronic (rather than paper-based) communications and we don't want you to be left out. Please make sure we have your correct and current email address now, and keep DRA in mind if you make a change in the future. You can submit any updates to your contact information (email or other) via the membership form on our website, by calling the gallery at 703-838-4827, or by submitting your information to Kathryn at [DRA.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.Membership@gmail.com) or Tracy at [DRA.gallery@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.gallery@gmail.com).

For those of you who do not have email, or do not wish to receive email from DRA, please be assured that you will be taken care of also! We will continue to print our postcards and a paper-based newsletter to have available in the gallery and to mail to you. And we will keep you posted as these changes take place.

## ART EXHIBIT IDEAS FOR 2011 SEASON

By Betty Plummer, Curator

DRA member and June curator for "Undecided: A Dialogue Between Artist and Viewer" Betty Plummer offers us a selection of enticing show possibilities for the 2011 exhibition year. All of these suggestions would make terrific shows—**which one would you like to curate for next year?** Contact Michele Reday Cook (DRA.curatorcoordinator@gmail.com) or anyone on the show selection committee to discuss how you could become involved.

1. **DRAWING PLUS: OUTLINE, FORM, AND COLOR**  
This is a focus on drawing in all drawing mediums in which the artist adds at least one other medium, such as watercolor, pastel, etc.
2. **CONTEXT & PERSPECTIVE: NEW LANDSCAPES**  
This show invites artists to create a landscape in which they pay particular attention to composition. Inclusive of perhaps unusual elements which may add context & perspective to the landscape.
3. **ART OF THE ORDINARY: A RETAKE FROM EVERYDAY LIFE**  
We invite you to look again, look deeply at your everyday subjects. Be re-inspired by seeing into these things anew and perhaps find an elegant simplicity in views of the ordinary. This is an all media show.
4. **LIVING IN THE QUESTION: ABSTRACTS ARE ART?**  
What is art now? What is art to you? What do you like? What is it about abstract art that attracts or repels you? Are you willing to consider these questions? Then you may enjoy exploring the abstract art genre; working with patterns, rhythms, balance, and geometries and sharing your distilled vision of your subject. This is an all media show.
5. **COLOR FIELDS OF DREAMS**  
Create it and they will come...art lovers, decorators, buyers that is! Show us your dreams and imaginings, but keep it dreamy and not too subject-specific, think universal archetypes, geometric shapes, and nature forms to which everyone may relate and has to have for their newly decorated room! All color media invited.
6. **TRANSFORMATIONS: OBJECTS INTO ART**  
Calling all sculptors...gather your materials and found objects, pick up some screen or cast-off wood, discarded toys, or 3-D things and see if you can create an objet d'art French style!
7. **ARTISTIC REUSE & USEFUL ART**  
Artists must incorporate something they found in Alexandria (or the general area) into their art.
8. **BIG AND SMALL TOGETHER**  
Come fill the gallery with very large paintings and very small paintings. Large paintings will fill space with color and light-play while small paintings will bejewel the wall.

## NEW DRA ART MARKET

Del Ray Artisans has just launched a new monthly outdoor art market that will give members an opportunity to sell their original handmade art work and provide them with consistent exposure to the community. There will be 5 monthly markets on the 1st Saturday of the month on the following dates: June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4 and November 6, 2010 from 10 am to 4 pm.

The art space fee is \$35 per market or \$30 per market if the artist commits to 3 or more market days. The art market will be held on the lawn area of the Del Ray Artisans gallery and 10% of each artist's sales from each market are due to DRA.

Each artist will be assigned a 10' X 10' space. Each artist is responsible for providing their own tent, tables, chairs, and displays. Artists who sign up for 3 or more markets will be assigned a permanent space. The outdoor art market will be held rain or shine.

Please check our website for application details or contact Kimberley Bush at 703-627-7656 or DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**ROBERT BURGESS**  
Photographer

**KERRY J. DONLEY**  
Friend

**REGINA M. BARKER-BARZEL**  
Oils, Painting

**SUSAN PAWLUKIEWICZ**

**BARBARA HALEY**  
Wordsmith

**JACOBE NOONAN**

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## "WHAT'S YOUR BAG?" BAG SWAP

Bring 'gently used' bags and swap them out for something new-to-you!

Curators Karen Schmitz and Theresa Kulstad will host this FREE and FUN happening at the gallery. So scope your closets for handbags, luggage and/or totes. Bring as many as you wish! Items not chosen will be donated to area shelters and charities.

When: *Friday, April 16, 7-9 pm.*  
Free and open to all. Bring gently used handbags, luggage, totes and/or backpacks to the Del Ray Artisans gallery and trade for someone else's.

Want to be up on all the DRA happenings? Sign up for our weekly e-blast.

Did you know it includes announcements of upcoming DRA events; calls for entries to DRA shows; calls for volunteers as well as calls for entries in other local, regional and national shows?

[www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)





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

703.838.4827  
TheDelRayArtisans.org

**GALLERY HOURS:**

Thurs: noon-4pm  
Fri: noon-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

### APRIL

- 2-25 **WHAT'S YOUR BAG?**  
*Theresa Kulstad,*  
*Karen Schmitz, curators,*  
*tkulstad@verizon.net,*  
*schmitzk@yahoo.com*
- 7 Life Drawing, 11 am – 1 pm  
gesture
- 7 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long pose
- 9 ATC (Artist Trading Cards)  
Swap theme: "Part Bag", 7-9 pm
- 11 WORKSHOP  
Creativity – Thinking In & Out  
of the Bag, 1– 3 pm
- 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 16 Bag Swap! 7 pm – 9 pm
- 17 WORKSHOP  
Art Theory and Developing the  
Artistic Identity, 10 am–noon
- 21 Life Drawing, 11 am – 1 pm,  
gesture
- 21 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm,  
short/long pose
- 21 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm,  
long pose
- 25 Closing Reception / Mystery  
Bag Games, 3– 6 pm

### MAY

- 1 **SPRING ART SALE,**  
Rob Rudick,  
*DRA.SpringArtSale@gmail.com*
- 6 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 7-16 **TCW STUDENT SHOW**
- 11 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 12 Life Drawing, 11 am – 2 pm  
gestures
- 12 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 21-30 **MASTER THESIS,**  
**AMANDA WRIGHT**
- 26 Life Drawing, 11 am – 1 pm  
gestures
- 26 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses

### JUNE

- 3 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 4-27 **UNDECIDED: A DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN ARTIST  
AND VIEWER**  
(All-Member Show)  
*Betty Plummer curator*  
*plummer.betty@epa.gov*  
*with Michele Reday Cook*
- 5 Alexandria Art Market,  
Kimberley Bush,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@  
gmail.com*
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 9 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 13 General Member Meeting,  
time TBD
- 23 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm

### JULY

- 1 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 2-18 **GLOBAL RHYTHM**  
*Matthew Tito Cuenca curator*  
*matthewcuenca@gmail.com*
- 3 Outdoor Market
- 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 14 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 21 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 26-30 **ART CAMP,** Jen Athanas  
*DRA.ArtCamp@gmail.com*

### AUGUST

- 5 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 6-22 **GATHERING OF THE LEGENDS**  
*Nina Tisara Project Director*  
*gecko@tisaraphoto.com*
- 7 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@  
gmail.com*
- 10 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 11 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 25 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 3-19 **BOARD SHOWCASE**  
*curator tbd*
- 4 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@  
gmail.com*
- 8 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 22 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 25 Yard Sale, outside
- 26 Card Making Party, time TBD

### OCTOBER

- 1-24 **ONCE UPON A TIME**  
*Christina Richardson and*  
*Laura Bell curators*  
*christina@figaroconsulting.com*  
*bellineart@aol.com*
- 2 **COMMUNITY ART ON  
THE AVENUE**
- 6 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 12 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 20 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
Annual Member Meeting &  
Elections, date and time TBD

### NOVEMBER

- 5-21 **BLUE: AN INTERPRETATION**  
(All-Member Show)  
*Betsy Mead curator*  
*betsymead31@starpower.net*
- 6 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@  
gmail.com*
- 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 14 Card Making Party, time TBD
- 24 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 30 WORKSHOP Mosaic 7 – 9 pm

### DECEMBER

- 1 WORKSHOP Mosaic 7 – 9 pm
- 3-5 **HOLIDAY MARKET**  
*DRA.HolidayMarket@gmail.com*
- 8 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 15 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm

## 2010

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vacant  
*DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com*

**SPECIAL THANKS...**

to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria for their continued support of Del Ray Artisans, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Many thanks to Royce Flow-  
ers for providing such  
spectacular arrangements for  
our opening receptions.

