



Celebrating 25 Years of Making Art . . .

March 2017

The Well-Crafted Word

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

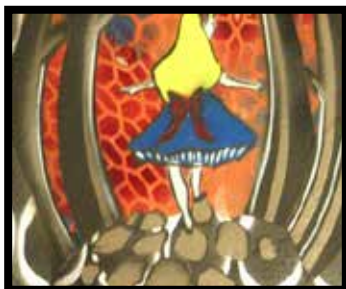
www.DelRayArtisans.org

Through the Looking Glass March 3-26, 2017

Opening reception: Friday, March 3,
7-9pm

Del Ray Artisans welcomes the strange, odd, and out of perspective: fish eye lens, mirror images, strange colors, impossible structures, pigs that fly, animals that dance. *Through the Looking Glass* is an ode to the childhood cult classic with a personal twist. Artists bring their personal story of tumbling down the rabbit hole and the journey traveled. Summoned forth are the most elegant and colorful Jabberwockies, chess pieces fighting to the death, and wild toothy grins. An exclusive smattering of unique, awe-inspiring artwork, that knocks the socks off mundane, commonplace images.

Through the Looking Glass is a collection of art from local artists that captures the beautifully bizarre inner workings of the mind. Together we revisit childhood nightmarish fantasies, laced with peculiar characters, and perplexing backgrounds. The exhibit runs March 3-26, 2017. Join us for the opening reception on Friday, March 3 from 7-9pm at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301.



Welcome, New Members!

- Jennifer Chriss
- Marie Francoise Dickson
- Brittany Gabel
- Diane Hoppmann
- Donalynn Lefever (Acrylic, oil, clay, pen & ink, pencil, photography)
- Ariel Matz
- David McClure (Photography, videography, & woodcarving)
- William Moffett
- Kendra Robinson
- Vy Tran
- Meena Wakede
- Ellen Sherfey

Silver Thank You

A giant Silver "Thank You" to these volunteers helping to make the 25th Anniversary Year a success: Nancy Flores, Brandy Lellou, David Kosar, Liz Martinez, Joe Franklin, and Dawn Wyse Hurto.

DRA's 25th Anniversary Silver Reception: *Reflecting on our Future* - Sunday, March 19, 5-7pm

DRA is hosting a reception on March 19 in honor of our 25th year of creating and making opportunities through art. Our past and current membership and all our art supporters are invited to help us celebrate. It's also our opportunity to thank city, state, and community leadership for their support over the past 25 years. Refreshments will feature treats from our new *Del Ray Artisans Cookbook*. Entertainment will include reminiscences from founding members and plans for DRA of the future. A video specially created for our anniversary with images of past exhibits, events, and artists will be on view during the reception.

This reception is the first of several special 2017 events. But DRA's 25th anniversary is not just for celebrating. It's also a time for giving back—so, we will donate funds to local schools for art books for their classrooms. We believe that introducing children to the visual arts enhances creativity and learning in all subjects.

City leadership, elected officials, staff, community organizations, and art supporters everywhere, including our own membership, are cordially invited to join us on Sunday, March 19 at 5pm for our Silver Anniversary reception in our gallery at the Nicholas Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA 22301. For more information or to volunteer contact Programs@DelRayArtisans.org

Our 2017 Corporate Silver Sponsors

- Affordable Signs & Banners
- Bobi Bomar's Homes of Alexandria 
- Del Ray Smiles
- The Goodhart Group, Sue & Allison Goodhart
- Rosemont Landscaping & Lawncare, LLC
- Stomping Ground
- Forum One

Become a Silver Star

While local businesses have the opportunity to support Del Ray Artisans' endeavors as Corporate Silver Supporters, we are asking our individual members and friends to also contribute in this 25th Anniversary Year. Become a "Silver Star" by donating \$25, or a multiple of \$25, to ensure that Del Ray Artisans' programs and activities continue throughout the community. A portion of all donations received will be used to distribute art-related books to selected elementary schools in Alexandria. A silver star will be hung in the gallery foyer with your name on it to recognize your donation. Donations may be made in person at the gallery, by mail, or online at <http://delrayartisans.org/silver-star/>

Call for Proposals: 2018 Art Exhibits at Del Ray Artisans

Proposals due: Thursday, June 1 by midnight. DRA is currently soliciting show proposals for 2018. DRA strives to offer exhibits that reach a broad and diverse audience, encourage artistic development, and represent a wide variety of art forms. The show proposal committee will review all proposals and make recommendations to the Board for final approval. Please email questions to Kathy Turner, Director of Curating, at Curating@DelRayArtisans.org. Proposal form is located at <http://DelRayArtisans.org/cfe>

Facebook Join us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/DelRayArtisans>. Click the "Like" button at the top of the page to add our posts to your Facebook News Feed. "Like" and "Share" our posts with your network to encourage arts appreciation followers. Members: Be sure to join the "Del Ray Artisans' Artists Forum" Facebook Group to share information with other artists! See <http://facebook/groups/DelRayArtisans>

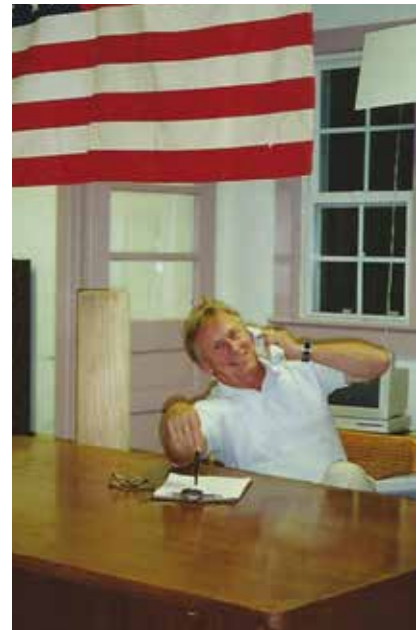
The Desk

In twenty-five years, DRA has accumulated a lot of memories - some stressed, some fun - but it's all good. One constant for DRA has been our desk. It has survived many attempts to get rid of it, upgrade it, recreate it, and yet it has survived. Some have thought of it as an albatross or an anchor - but others prefer to think of it as a solid foundation, DRA's Rock of Gibraltar. Through DRA's multiple locations where we share our artists' creations, that desk has followed (or led) us around. It has been a love/hate relationship - but whenever there is an attempt to abandon it or replace it with more attractive storage capability - the desk has always won! Visualize transporting that heavy desk manually up and down the Avenue to find a better home. It could be thought of as DRA's longest living member. It has witnessed many wonderful Presidents and gallery hosts and receptions. It is time to reflect on the history of the desk.

In 1996, when DRA was in Dennis Reeder's building at 2003 Mt. Vernon Avenue, the former Del Ray Hardware, the desk was stashed in the back storage area. It was donated to us vagabonds (in our 3rd space already) by John Mennell, and we brought it out into the light - where it has been ever since. That space is now Executive Lock & Key. We moved (with the desk) to 2310 Mt. Vernon Avenue, which until recently housed the Dairy Godmother - for a month! The desk then followed us like a puppy to 2213, space donated to DRA by Gary and Sally Christian, where Bean Creative is now. Transportation was by brute force—carried by a small army along the street! It finally led us to our space in the Colasanto Center. It was no easy feat to lift it up into the back of a truck to move it, but that was probably accomplished by founding members Bob Larson, Nick Bayus, and former Co-President Martin Angebrannt.

While it is heavy, it is solid and strong and lasting like DRA. The storage capability has been beneficial over the years. Receptions, a DRA hallmark, centered around the desk. Food was well displayed whenever the top was cleared and served in that capacity. It has also served as the display for our bake sales, benefitting those less fortunate, during our Holiday Markets. It remains a source for display and distribution of our newsletter, *The Well-Crafted Word*, fliers and postcards. And, any of you who have gallery hosted have sat behind its vast surface, where every inch is needed and used! And now you know - it houses quite a lively bit of DRA history!

-By founding members Marlin Lord and Kathryn Brown



Marlin Lord at a much newer version of "the desk" in earlier years.

Surprise at Art Swap!

There are indeed rewards for wearing your 25th Anniversary t-shirt. An unannounced drawing was held at the Art Swap for all those wearing their DRA 2017 t-shirt at the event. Winner Liz Martinez is looking forward to visiting the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore with her two complimentary admission tickets. Enjoy the museum visit, Liz, and congratulations!

Get your own 25th Anniversary t-shirt and wear it. You might be the next surprise winner!

Breaking the Glass Ceiling – The Sky's the Limit

- Call for entry due: Sunday, March 19, 2017 by Midnight
- Opening Reception: Friday, March 31, 2017, 7-9pm with special Opening Speaker
- Film Screening with Alexandria Film Festival: Friday, April 14, 7-9pm
- Closing Reception: Saturday, April 29, 2017, 7-9pm with special artists presentations



What does “breaking the glass ceiling”, pushing through a tough, not quite invisible barrier mean to you? What invisible barriers have you faced, especially as an artist, that keep you from reaching your goals, dreams and full potential. Breaking glass, breaking barriers, reaching beyond traditional boundaries, stretching beyond one’s own and society’s current limits, only accepting the limits of an endless sky have been a theme for many artists over time and reflect a very current theme. As Del Ray Artisans celebrates 25 years of supporting visual artists, providing equal access to all has always been at the center of its mission. All area artists are invited to tell their stories of barriers faced, challenged and hopefully overcome through their art.

See <http://DelRayArtisans.org/cfe> for additional details.

Curators: Heike Gramckow (heikegramckow@yahoo.com) and Rachel Grodsky (rgrodsky@yahoo.com)

February Lovers Wrapup

The *Lovers* show had a lively opening night on February 3. The art provided a display of the diverse feelings and images we conjure up at the mention of love. I'm glad this show warmed us up throughout the cold month of February. I'd like to thank all the artists for making this event possible. A special thanks to Sherry Holden, Joe Franklin, Michele Reday Cook, and Millie Mateu for the time they put in helping me hang the show. And much thanks to Karen Schmitz for the card workshop and display.

-Bonnie Holmberg

Sweet Treats & Poetry

The Valentine's Day Poetry Night at DRA was an event not to have missed. Members and guests, including Wendi Kaplan, Poet Laureate of Alexandria, gathered to share love poems both original or by admired poets. The readings ranged from haiku to sonnets to a bawdy limerick. There was even a lullaby. Special thanks for the “sweet treats” to Kathy Turner, Chic Kelly, Jenn Kukorlo, Rusty Lynn, Susan Ramos & Geri D'Arco.

Newsletter Editor Wanted!

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer? Do you enjoy writing? Editing? Formatting? *The Well-Crafted Word* is published on-line and in print monthly, with input from curators, members, and Board directors. Editing and publishing the newsletter is a great way to stay in touch with what's happening at DRA! The newsletter editor should have basic Microsoft Word and InDesign skills and a good sense of sentence structure and basic design. The editor works closely with the Communications and Technology directors but also alerts the Board at the beginning of every month that it's time to start thinking about the NEXT month's entries. Interested? Contact Newsletter@DelRayArtisans.org.



DEL RAY ARTISANS

Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301-1124

703.838.4827
TheDelRayArtisans.org

Gallery Hours:

Thursday: noon-6 pm
First Thursday:
(April-Sept.) noon-9 pm
Friday: noon-9 pm
Saturday: noon-9 pm
Sunday: noon-6 pm

Submission Deadline: 15th of the month
Editor: Newsletter@DelRayArtisans.org

Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote art for the benefit of artists and the community.

2017 Board of Directors

- **President, Kim S. Joy**
President@DelRayArtisans.org
- **John Bordner, Vice President**
VP@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Stephen Lally, Treasurer**
Treasurer@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Nancy Kline, Assistant Treasurer**
ATTR@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Kathryn A. Brown, Secretary**
Secretary@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Michele Reday Cook, Past President (Advisory)**
PastPresident@DelRayArtisans.org

Directors

- **Sean Crumley, Archives**
Archives@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Rita Schooley, Communications**
Communications@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Marlin Lord, Community**
Community@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Kathy Turner, Curating**
Curating@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Kurt Peterson, Facilities**
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- **Joe Franklin, Fundraising Events**
Fundraising@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Cheryl Lavoie, Grants & Sponsorship**
Grants@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Drew Cariaso, Membership**
Membership@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Outreach (Open Position)**
Outreach@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Michele Reday Cook, Programs**
Programs@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Dale Spivey, Technology**
Technology@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Joshua Oliveira, Volunteers**
Volunteers@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Lydia Walter, Youth Programs**
Youth@DelRayArtisans.org

Calendar

March 2017

- 3-26 **SHOW: *Through the Looking Glass***
curator: Josh Oliveira
- 3 Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 5 Life Drawing, 9:30-11:30am, Gesture (clothed)
- 6 Partners in Art, 2-4pm
- 8 Life Drawing, 2-5pm, Short/Long
- 8 Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30pm, Long
- 14 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 19 "Reflecting on our Future" Silver Anniversary Reception
- 19 *Breaking the Glass Ceiling-The Sky's the Limit* entries due
- 22 Life Drawing, 2-5pm, Short/Long
- 22 Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30pm, Long
- 26 *Through the Looking Glass* artwork pick up
- 26-27 *Breaking the Glass Ceiling-The Sky's the Limit* accepted artwork drop off
- 31-Apr 30 **SHOW: *Breaking the Glass Ceiling-The Sky's the Limit*** curators: Heike Gramckow & Rachel Grodsky
- 31 Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 2 Life Drawing, 9:30-11:30am, Gesture
- 3 Partners in Art, 2-4pm

More information at: DelRayArtisans.org/calendar/

April 2017, cont.

- 5 Life Drawing, 2-5pm, Short/Long (clothed)
- 5 Spring2ACTion fundraising event
- 6 First Thursday (Hats Along The Avenue), open until 9pm
- 11 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 19 Life Drawing, 2-5pm, Short/Long
- 19 Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30pm, Long
- 30 *Breaking the Glass Ceiling* artwork pick up
- 30-May 1 *Speak Your Mind* accepted artwork drop off
- 4 First Thursday (Dog Days in Del Ray), open until 9pm
- 5-28 **SHOW: *Speak Your Mind***
curators: Becky Barnes & Kath Gayle
- 5 Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 6 Spring Art Market, 10am-4pm
- 7 Life Drawing, 9:30-11:30am, Gesture (clothed)
- 8 Partners in Art, 2-4pm
- 9 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 10 Life Drawing, 2-5pm, Short/Long
- 10 Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30pm, Long
- 23 Member Meeting/Benefit Program, 7-9pm

Join or renew your Del Ray Artisans membership today!

Visit DelRayArtisans.org/membership/ for details.

Other Key Contacts

- **Betsy Mead, Office Manager**
Gallery@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Eileen O'Brien, GWW Curator**
GWW@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Betsy Mead, Newsletter Editor**
Newsletter@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Dawn Wyse Hurto, Web Curator**
WebCurator@DelRayArtisans.org

Visit ArtsEventsAlexandria.com for performing and visual arts happenings in Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans is a member of Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association and Alexandria Arts Forum, who make possible this website.

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

