



The Well Crafted Word

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

www.thedelrayartisans.org

Spring All Member Show Opens April 13 Special Events, Activities Will Rock

In addition to encouraging our members to explore the suggested theme of "words" in their artwork, *Words, Art, and Poetry*, the spring DRA all member show, is featuring several special activities that rock both the right and left sides of the brain, including a visit from Bwana Papyrus. But before we tell you about those, here are a few important dates.

Receiving dates for submissions for the spring show are:
Friday, April 6, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Submit up to three pieces of which

at least one will be exhibited. Works not included must be picked up on **Sunday, April 9 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.** Unless notified that ALL your works were accepted, you must pick up unselected work.

Show dates are April 13-29. The opening reception is Friday, April 14, 7-10 p.m. Cash awards will be presented by juror and local artist Jean Schwartz. Schwartz has a BA degree in fine art from Upsala College and a certificate from L'Ecole du Louvre in art history, specializing in 19th century French painting and architecture and sculpture of the Middle Ages. She studied drawing at L'Academie de La Grande Chaumiere also in Paris, and earned a certificate in landscape design from George

Washington University. She worked as a landscape designer for 12 years. Schwartz has had solo shows in Paris, upstate New York, North Carolina, and in the Washington, DC area.

Her work can be seen at the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory. Recently, she was in the Vision Show for Falls Church Arts and had works ex-

hibited at the Dega Gallery in McLean.

Visit her Web site at www.jeanschwartz-paintings.com.

The success of our show is dependent on

you, our members, who provide invaluable support. Sign up sheets to help on this show will be available on the receiving days. Help is needed in the areas of gallery sitting (participating artists are required to sign up for gallery sitting times), hanging, providing food for the opening reception, etc. Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization, and besides, it's fun.

In keeping with the "words" theme and the fact that April is Library Month, DRA and the Friends of the Duncan Library formed a collaboration for this year's spring show.

First up is an on-going, fundraising book sale in the gallery. Book donations are accepted at the gallery on the receiving dates or regular gallery hours.

Donate Your Used Books

Clear out those bookshelves and donate used books to our book sale during the April all-member show. Proceeds benefit both DRA and the Friends of Duncan Library. Bring your books to art receiving or drop them off during regular gallery hours. Unsold books will be donated to the library. Contact Candace Clifford at jclifford@earthlink.net.

Message from DRA President, Linda Elliff

The Del Ray Artisans is a vibrant organization, with many fantastic activities and events taking place. I am pleased to help continue these programs by taking over as President from Susan Slattery, who contributed amazing leadership.

From national outreach for Mississippi artists to showcasing our own members' talents and skills, we are completing outstanding projects at DRA, and we need the help of each of you to continue these successes. This is an all volunteer organization and we are calling on all members.

I am continually impressed with all that DRA accomplishes. Thanks go to the dedicated Board Members, past and present, who spend countless hours making this organization so effective. Their commitment and achievements are incredible, and you witness the results every time you come to an opening or attend a workshop or other event. Read the Newsletter and check the Web site to find many opportunities to get involved with Del Ray Artisans. It's an exciting time for us!

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Many thanks to **Royce Flowers**, our monthly sponsor, for the lovely arrangements seen at every opening.

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The Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a non-profit community arts group whose mission is to foster a community of artists and art supporters who are a viable source for the development, teaching, and furtherance of appreciation of the arts through exhibits and events for members and the diverse populations in the City of Alexandria, the communities of Northern Virginia, and the greater Washington metropolitan area.

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Thanks to the

Alexandria Commission for the Arts
for its continued support.

Please respect the copyrights of each artist.
No use may be made of any artwork without the express,
verifiable permission of the originating artist.

Featured

Submitted by Karen Schmitz

Five Art Starts for a Creative You!

1. **Take a art class or workshop...** This automatically locks in time for creating **YOUR OWN art!** And, there are several opportunities during the month of April.
2. **Visit the newly renovated National Portrait Gallery** and be inspired!
3. **Purchase or subscribe to a new art magazine** such as *Somerset Studio*, www.somersetstudio.com, which is chock full of inspirational wonders.
4. **Visit your local library or bookstore** for some creative mo-j-o in book form. A great read or re-read is Paul Dorrell's *Living the Artist's Life: A Guide to Growing, Persevering, and Succeeding in the Art World*
5. **Volunteer at DRA** for events, shows and a cluster of other activities all while meeting and mingling with artists, lovers of art, and new friends. A REAL win/win!

If you have an idea for the Featured Five, please send it to the editor at DRAeditor@gmail.com.

Words continued from page 1

If you're interested in learning calligraphy, now's your chance. Sign up for Jenny Nicholson's calligraphy workshop, to be held on **Saturday, April 14, starting at 1:30 p.m.** The workshop is open to adults and children (ages 8 and up). There is a \$10 supply fee, and you can register on-line through the DRA Web site: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Bwana Papyrus, as he is known in villages throughout the Nile River valley in Africa, is making an appearance at the gallery on **April 28, from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.** Who is Bwana Papyrus? He is fiction writer and local resident John Gaudet, one of the country's preeminent authorities on papyrus paper making.

A Fulbright scholar to India and Malaya, author, and lecturer, Gaudet is bringing to DRA his exciting workshop, *Papyrus and the Origin of Bookmaking*, and his latest novel, *The Iron Snake*. And, you will not only get to make papyrus paper, but as a special treat, Gaudet will demonstrate proof of a fatal flaw in the widely, acclaimed thriller novel, *The DaVinci Code*. Hint: the flaw concerns the papyrus paper map leading to the Holy Grail that's inside

the marble cryptex. However, to discover what the fatal flaw is, as well as exploring the reedy plant and papyrus paper making, you must come to the workshop. The workshop is free but you must register on-line at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

The spring show's special events culminate on **April 28, from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.**, when the gallery becomes a performance art setting for the **Yockadot! Poetic Theatre Festival**. The evening starts at 8 p.m., with entertaining performances by **Rodrigo Toscano and his Collapsible Poetics Theatre**. At 9 p.m., you will be treated to performances by **Ffrummsbo!, who offer ingenious, "text-based performance and performing writers, toward an aesthetic of grotesque lo-brow transcendentalism."**

The Yockadot Poetic Theatre Festival is the first of its kind in our area, and DRA is pleased to be a part of this four-day event, which is being held in Alexandria, Arlington, and Baltimore. Additional information about the Yockadot festival may be obtained at www.yptfest.org.

Curators for the spring show are Candace Clifford and David A. Kosar.

Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Title _____ Name(s) _____
First Middle Initial Last

Corporation Name _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Home _____ Work _____
Phone (____) _____ Phone (____) _____ e-Mail _____

Artist ☐ Media _____

Unless contributing as a Corporate entity or Friend of DRA, I understand that as a DRA Active Artist member I will contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours annually. These are hours non-related to the requirements of an exhibiting artist in a DRA show, as all exhibit participants are required to gallery sit or assist with other aspects of an exhibit in which they participate. Please indicate below your areas of interest:

COMMUNICATIONS: ☐ Mailings ☐ Newsletter ☐ Public Relations; **FACILITY:** ☐ Gallery Maintenance
☐ Gardening; **FINANCE:** ☐ Grants; **FUNDRAISING:** ☐ Solicitation ☐ Special Events;
GALLERY: ☐ Curating/Co-curating ☐ Hanging Shows; **HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST:** ☐ Photograph Albums/
Scrapbooks; **MEMBERSHIP:** ☐ Data Input ☐ Sponsor/Corporate Solicitation; **OUTREACH:** ☐ Community
Events/Activities; **PROGRAMS:** ☐ Art Camp ☐ Class Instructor ☐ Member Events;
VOLUNTEER: ☐ Telephoning; ☐ JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Dues: ☐ \$500 Gold Corporate; ☐ \$250 Silver Corporate; ☐ \$35 Friend of DRA; ☐ \$35 Active Artist;
☐ \$50 Household; ☐ \$10 Student/Senior/Disabled

Dues payable to DEL RAY ARTISANS and mail with this form to:
Del Ray Artisans, Attn. Membership, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301

This Art is for the Birds Thesis Show, May 18 - 27

Springtime has the birds chirping and Virginia Commonwealth University Master Thesis in Art student Shawn Heller has the birds to prove it!

DRA hosts, **This Art Is For The Birds** featuring Heller's brightly colored sculptures of herons, peacocks, woodpeckers and roadrunners. His "feathered friends" are made with a sense of humor created from an interesting array of found objects including watering cans, funnels, or just about anything he can get his creative hands on.

The opening reception for is Friday, May 18 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Wish You Were Here— Travel & Artists' Journals

The June show, **Wish You Were Here—Travel & Artists' Journals**, opens June 8 with a reception from 7 to 10 p.m. and runs through July 8. See the Call for Entries in this newsletter.

**NOTICE: The DRA Spring Art Sale
is Saturday, May 5 (not
May 12 as originally scheduled).**

Thanks to All Who Kept Southern Surge Afloat

A huge surge of thanks to these dedicated members who got **Southern Surge** afloat: Charlotte Corcoran, Karen Schmitz, Monica Wise, Gail Parnell, Jamee Telford, Barbara Robinson, Joan Ulrich, Kathryn Brown, Marlin Lord, Susan Slattery, John Kulstad, Schonda Sweeney, Karolyn Polite, Cathy and John Messina; the many volunteers who helped at the opening reception; our housing hosts Harriet McGuire, Leslie Wilder, and David Kosar, Embassy Suites, Sheraton Suites; our reception sponsors Natural Abundance, RT's Restaurant, Catfish Friday's, Schweeney Graphics, Harris Teeter, Royce Flowers; and donor Cypress Communications.

Welcome New Members

- **Sarah Berry & household**
drawing, sketching, painting, writing
- **Suzi Peetros**
oil, acrylic
- **Katalin Witorsch**
jewelry
- **Nihal Kecici**
acrylic on canvas
- **Alexandra S. Nutbohm**
acrylic on canvas
- **Marie-Helene Grabman**
paper

Art Students Take Charge

The 2007 **Del Ray Artisans Student Show** focuses on 28 talented 11th and 12th grade art students who are members of the T.C. Williams High School Chapter of the National Art Honor Society.

The students will help with show hanging, display, and gallery sitting—in preparation for the First Thursday Preview, May 3 and the Opening Reception, May 4. The show runs May 4-13, 2007. Your help is needed to lead these "take charge" young artists for show set up and more. Please contact DRA Show Curator, Vicki Walchak at 703.823.0430 or vwalchak@yahoo.com.

Assistant Coordinator for Art Camp Needed

The 2007 **Art Camp for Kids** is July 23-27. DRA dynamo Karen Schmitz is serving as Art Camp Coordinator and seeks an energetic Assistant Camp Coordinator/Teacher to help develop and execute this special week-long program for 8-12 year olds. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact: Karen Schmitz at schmityk@yahoo.com or 703.317.9340.

Gallery Hours

Saturday: noon - 4 p.m. • Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The gallery is open during all events and performances.

Contributors this month include: Kathryn Brown, Candice Clifford, Linda Elliff, David Kosar, Rob Rudick, Karen Schmitz, and Daniel Wise.

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month
preceding publication (5/5/07 for the June issue).
Editor: DRAeditor@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

6	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Receiving for Words (All Member Show)
7	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Receiving for Words (All Member Show)
8	4 - 6 p.m.	Pick up of work not selected for All Member Show
10	7 p.m.	DRA Board Meeting
13-29		Words, Art & Poetry (All Member Show)
13	7 - 10 p.m.	Opening Reception, All Member Show
14	1:30 p.m.	Calligraphy Workshop
15	5 - 7:30 p.m.	Peer Critique
18-Sept. 14		Art in City Hall III
28	2:00 p.m.	Papyrus Workshop
28	8:00 p.m.	Yockadot Poetry Festival
29	4 - 6 p.m.	Pick up work from All Member Show

MAY

3	6 - 9 p.m.	First Thursday Preview
4-13		Student Art Show
5	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Spring Arts & Crafts Sale
15	7:30 p.m.	General Meeting
18-27		Master's Thesis One-artist show (Shawn Heller)
19	8 - 10 p.m.	Cinema Del Ray & DRCA House & Garden Tour

JUNE

7	6 - 9 p.m.	First Thursday Preview
8-July 8		Wish You Were Here—Travel & Artists' Journals Juried Exhibition
16		Cinema Del Ray

JULY

5	6 - 9 p.m.	First Thursday Dance Performances
23-27		Art Camp

The Surge of Success!

Southern Surge had quite a successful opening weekend, with a large attendance at the reception, lines waiting to make purchases, twelve Mississippi artists visiting, and compliments on the quality of the artworks pouring forth. The spirit of extending a helping hand was evident in every aspect.

And the Gulf Coast artists gave back to us. Energetic and talented

Lori Gordon and Mary Pat Forrest led a dynamic two day workshop in Collage Making, which was so well received that the students were begging them to return soon so others might benefit from their expertise. Painter of Music Liz Schafer presented a fascinating account of the development of her art, prompting numerous questions from the intrigued audience. Liz demonstrated her paint-

ing of music to the accompaniment of "Hurricane Howie" Feintstein, a most talented Jazz musician from our area.

And the Surge keeps rolling. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts will hold their March meeting at the DRA Gallery amidst the show. At an invitation from the Mississippi State Society, we will take some MS artwork to the U.S. Capitol for an evening reception for their members.