



# The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the **Del Ray Artisans...** since 1992 [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

## Creative Challenge Again — Opens February 8th

**T**rapped on a deserted island, the artist is challenged to create art using only a boxful of found objects. It is Survivor: artist-style, pitting thirty talented individuals against each other, the box, and their own-mindset to think and create differently.

That is the premise of the Del Ray Artisans Creative Challenge Art Exhibit on view from Feb. 8 through March 2, 2008. The Opening Reception will be from 7:00 p.m. -9:30 p.m. on Friday February 8th. A Peer Critique Session will be held on Sunday the 10th, from 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Back in October, show curator Linda Silk distributed boxes, wrapped to conceal their contents, to thirty participants of the challenge. Following the rules of the

challenge, each was to refrain from using any of their normal art supplies and fashion the necessary tools and supplies from the contents of their box. The only thing they could add beyond their own creative juices was water.

There are three versions of “the Box”, with ten identical boxes of each version; thus, ten artists of each version are equally challenged; yet the end results are spectacularly diverse.

This exhibit showcasing creative thinking outside the box (ha ha) also has a judging component, with the winner selected by Mark Ward, Deputy Director of the acclaimed American Visionary Art Museum.

## Rejected/Accepted Show Opens

**T**he Rejected/ Accepted show opened on Friday, January 11, with an enthusiastic crowd that included the vice-mayor of Alexandria, Dell Pepper. With over 40 artists participating and over 80 works of art on display, the gallery was a visual treat. Some good wine, some delicious snacks, a goodish number of sales and cooperating weather contributed to a very successful opening of the show. If you have not been to see it, it will remain open on the usual gallery schedule until Sunday, February 3. (Pictured below: Lynn Wyvill, Vice Mayor Del Pepper, Richard Wyvill.)



## Announcing!

### Announcing DRA's new Gallery hours

**T**he DRA Gallery will now be open on Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., when you will find Gallery Assistant Tracy Wilkerson busy at work. Volunteers will continue to staff the Gallery on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.

### Reminder:

### Card-making party Jan 26 & 27

**I**t's a card-marking weekend! Join us for the card-making party on Saturday or Sunday, January 26 and 27, from noon to 4:00p.m. Techniques and helpful hints will be presented each day from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. A small donation is accepted for materials. Come make your own Valentines!

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

## The Well Crafted Word

A Publication of The Del Ray Artisans

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

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# Featured

## Five Fun Art Facts

1. Marc Chagall only ever used one model - his bride and soulmate, Bella.
2. John James Audubon painted 435 watercolours of birds in his life time.
3. The Louvre was originally constructed as the fortress of Philippe Auguste in 1190.
4. The longest drawing measured 14,790 ft and was created by 2,160 participants from the Elite Charitable Trust in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, on August 16, 2007.
5. The World's largest work of art was created by an Australian artist named Ando. He used the landscape as his canvas, and his "painting" covers over five million square yards. It is called Mundi Man, or Eldee Man, and is located on Mundi Mundi Plains, NSW.

## Join in Open Life Drawing and Critique

Artists who have joined our life drawing groups already know this, but for those of you who have yet to come down to the gallery on a Wednesday evening, you are missing out on a great opportunity to improve your skills and grow as an artist.

Think of figure drawing the way a musician thinks of scales: you have to do it--practice, practice, practice! As artists, we need to work from life--from observation, from the three-dimensional world around us. DRA is offering us the opportunity to observe and to draw from a live, unclothed model in a secure, collegial setting a couple of times each month. Most of us lack the funds and the facilities to hire and set up our own models, while classes and open life sessions (like the Art League) are large and impersonal. At our gallery, we can do our own set-ups, and the professional models are scheduled for us, thanks to our efficient Programs people! And, all for the low fee of \$8 per session. (\$10 for non-DRA members) Just show up with your supplies two Wednesdays a month. We guarantee you will become a better artist regardless of your medium or subject matter!

Really hate figurative work? OK, so come to our peer critique group on a Sunday evening once a month. Don't you have a landscape or an abstract or a photograph that you feel has not yet met its full potential?

We can all benefit from having other artists look at our work at some point, perhaps a work in

progress, or we're not sure where to go with something, or maybe its finished and we need the encouragement to put it in an upcoming show. Our topics are wide-ranging. For example, "can this painting be saved?" to "stop already, you have a finished work," to discussions on presentation and framing, and venues for exhibiting. It really depends on who shows up and what people bring in and want to talk about.

All media are welcome and everyone has something to offer to one another. Our group is hosted by Daniel Wise, Karen Schmitz and Michele Reday Cook, who take turns facilitating our discussions, with the occasional guest critique. We are kind, collegial, and want our participants to come away feeling that they've learned something helpful. There are probably artists out there who think their work is so perfect and special that they don't want any critique from "lesser" artists, but for the rest of us, we welcome the opportunity to share our work with others to learn and grow as artists. This is no charge for this group--a free member benefit from DRA.

Check your newsletter calendar for dates and times of these great programs. A special thanks to Jamee Telford, Barbara Robinson and DRA Board for doing the organizing so we don't have to!

Come and join us. Become a better artist...We guarantee it!

www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

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



Thank you to the  
Alexandria Commission  
for the Arts for its  
continued support

## Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter

☐ Renewal☐ New MemberTitle \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Corporation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZipPhone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Artist ☐ Media \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

#### Patron

☐ \$1,000 Platinum☐ \$500 Gold☐ \$250 Silver

Patrons are considered Active Members and have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.

#### Active Member

☐ \$75 Household☐ \$50 Individual☐ \$25 Senior (62 and over)/Student/Disabled (circle one)

All Active Members enjoy privileges of exhibiting in shows and are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours per year. This does not include volunteer commitments for exhibiting in shows.

#### Friend

☐ \$35 Friend of☐ Del Ray Artisans

Friends may participate in workshops, classes, and programs as members. Friends do not have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.

All membership levels above receive DRA mailings, including the newsletter.

I would like to receive DRA mailings: ☐ electronically ☐ via regular mail ☐ both ways

I would like to make an additional donation to Del Ray Artisans in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to make an additional donation to the Del Ray Artisans Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please indicate committees you are willing to serve on, to meet your 10 hour volunteer commitment:

☐ Communications; ☐ Newsletter; ☐ Website; ☐ Publicity; ☐ Archives; ☐ Administrative; ☐ Financial;☐ Fundraising; ☐ Grants; ☐ Facilities; ☐ Gardening; ☐ Volunteers; ☐ Outreach; ☐ Shows; ☐ Programs;☐ anything DRA needs.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: DEL RAY ARTISANS. Mail to: Del Ray Artisans, Membership, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301 or pay online at [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

## Welcome New Members

### ■ Kofi Dofour

painting, drawing

### ■ Patricia Everett

painting, drawing, photography

And thanks to all our members who renewed prior to the end of 2007 – we are looking forward to a great and artfully exciting 2008 at DEL RAY ARTISANS!

## T-shirt Contest Teaser

**W**atch for the upcoming announcement about DRA's 2008 T-shirt contest. Entry forms will be available at the General Members Meeting on Tuesday, February 19.

## Popular Art Swap Returns

**O**ne of DRA's most popular events is coming this month -- the Art Swap will be the featured activity at the Tuesday, February 19, General Membership Meeting. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. All you have to do is bring some art supplies of your own to contribute to the fabulous array, and then you will be eligible to participate and select a wondrous item for yourself. Rare treasures have been known to appear in the pile of goodies, so you'll want to be sure to be there!

Supper will be served, and you will be able to catch up on news with old friends and have the opportunity to meet new members. See you there!



Linda Elliff, Vice Mayor Del Pepper, David Kosar at the Rejected/Accepted Opening





Nicholas A. Colasanto Center  
2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301

703.838.4827 | www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

### Gallery Hours

Thursday and Friday Noon - 4 p.m.

Saturday: 10a.m - 4 p.m. • Sunday: Noon. - 4 p.m.

The gallery is open during all events and performances.

Contributors this month include: Linda Elliff, Barbara Boehm, LeAnn Pittman, Kathryn Brown, Linda Silk, Richard Wyvill

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication (2/5/08 for the March issue).

Editor: DRAeditor@gmail.com

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 2008

26 - 27	noon - 4 p.m.	Card Weekend, Make Your Own Valentines
30	7 - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing

### FEBRUARY 2008

8 - March 2		Creative Challenge - Again!, Linda Silk
10	5 - 7 p.m.	Peer Critique
12	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
13	5 - 7 p.m.	Life Drawing
19	7:30 p.m.	General Member Meeting & Art Swap
27	7 - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing

### MARCH 2008

7 - 30		Del Ray Spirit, Seana Gallagher
11	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
12	7 - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing
26	7 - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing

### APRIL 2008

4 - 27		All Member Show: Art Music, Jamee Telford
8	7 pm	Board Meeting
9	7 - 10 pm	Life Drawing
20	noon - 4 pm	Card Party
23	7 - 10 pm	Life Drawing

### MAY 1 - 15, 2008

6 - 9 pm		First Thursday Del Ray
2 - 18		T C Williams Student Show, T C Students
10	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Spring Sale
11	5 - 7 p.m.	Peer Critique
13	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
14	7 - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing

## Member News

Alexandria Vice Mayor and long time DRA member, Redella S. "Del" Pepper was recently elected by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) membership as its Corporate President. Vice Mayor Pepper was first elected to the Alexandria City Council in 1985, and has been an avid supporter of DRA. Congratulations to Del Pepper on her latest achievement!

## WOW Pat! What a Year!

Everyone knows Pat "Where does she find the time?" Miller as a tireless advocate for the arts in Alexandria. The spotlight fell on this long-time DRA member several times in 2007 and we would like to congratulate Pat on the awards she received:

- Marian Van Landingham Volunteer of the Year Award from the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau,
- Award of Harmony from the Alexandria Harmonizers, and
- Virginia's 2007 Retailer of the Year (along with co-owner of A Show of Hands, Maria Wasowski)

Congratulations Pat! We can't wait to see what 2008 will bring!