

The Well Crafted Word

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

www.thedelrayartisans.org

TC Williams HS Art Show Opens May 2nd

From the 2nd through the 18th of May, you are cordially invited to discover the emerging talents of the TC Williams HS National Honor Society Members. This is the 11th annual student exhibition at DRA, and the 2nd year featuring National Honor Society Members. 30 TCW Juniors and Senior will show their work. A sneak peek at a few works is enough to tell you this is some show. Please join us for another amazing exhibit.

DRA Designs Float!

On Saturday, May the 3rd the Town of Potomac Centennial Parade will wind its way down Commonwealth Avenue. The parade will include marching, music, celebrities, and of course, what would a parade be without one, a float. When Carol Bailey and Gayle Reuter, the Co-chairs for the parade, needed a crack team to design the float they called on the Del Ray Artisans. Ellyn Ferguson, the DRA representative to the Centennial Committee asked for volunteers and Marlin Lord, Kate Graham, Charlotte Corcoran, Juli Branson, Jen Chappell and Teresa Kulstand took the challenge. Over dinner at Los Tios, the team joined by Ellyn Ferguson and Christina Richardson, designed a float that will astonish and amaze the hundreds of parade goers lining Commonwealth Ave. Be sure to be there at 10:00am on Saturday the third of May.

June is THINKING Green!

Thinking Green is a hot topic everywhere and in June the Del Ray Artisans will showcase some of the areas hottest eco-thinking artists as they interpret THINK Green! in their own art. Think about Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Rethink.

Eco-artist Alison Sigethy will juror this show which truly fits her green lifestyle & "art" style. Alison uses recycled glass inspired by the environment and her love of the water connected with her gold metal kayaker world travels. This summer she will be part of the Arctic Voice Expedition Team, kayaking to remote settlements in the arctic region and documenting the stories of the Inuit people and how the climate change has effected their lives. Visit www.arcticvoice.org.

For this juried show there will be no entry fee for work entered. Only if your work is accepted will you be asked for a participation fee for each accepted piece of artwork.

The THINK Green! exhibit runs June 5- June 29, 2008. See DRA newsletter for Call for Entry or www.TheDelRayArtisans.org Curator Karen Schmitz schmityk@yahoo.com/703-317-9340 will also conduct a workshop called: Junk Mail Collage on June 22.

Spring Outdoor Art Sale - Saturday May 3rd

Your opportunity to see and purchase a wide array of artwork and fine craft items from Del Ray Artisans members is at the Spring Outdoor Art Sale on Saturday, May 3, from 10 am - 4pm. Featured will be over twenty artists, displaying original works in a variety of 2D and 3D media on the grounds adjacent to the DRA Gallery. The timing of the sale will afford art buyers a chance to purchase unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for Mother's Day. The Spring Outdoor Art Sale is part of the Town of Potomac Centennial festivities, which includes an old-fashioned parade up Commonwealth Avenue in the morning. For more information about the Spring Art Sale, contact Rob Rudick at 301.270.2323.

2009 Call for Show Proposals

It's time to start planning our 2009 calendar. Every year DRA strives to offer exhibits that reach a broad and diverse audience, encourage artistic development, and represent a wide variety of art forms. If you have an idea for a show that supports these goals, please consider submitting a show proposal. All proposals will be reviewed by the show proposal committee who will make recommendations to the Board for final approval.

The proposal form is available on our website www.thedelrayartisans.org and the deadline for submission is August 1, 2008.

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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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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.

General Membership Meeting - May 20th, 7:30 - 9 :30 pm

Our theme for May is "The Art of the Appetizer". Allow your creativity to spill over into the kitchen and prepare your favorite appetizer to share with fellow DRA members at our May general membership meeting. With a little imagination, transform a simple, easy-to-prepare dish into a work of art. We will have a panel of judges select winners in the following categories: most original; best use of color; and best in show. Prizes will be awarded! Don't have time to prepare something? Don't let that stop you from coming out and enjoying the evening with your fellow Del Ray Artisans as we sample the culinary art and catch up on DRA events and activities. We look forward to seeing you there.

Curator Corner: Gallery Exhibit News

Our March show, "Spirit of Del Ray," was a great success, thanks to curator Seana Gallagher. Several artworks sold at the opening reception; more during the month. Many thanks to all who contributed to its success.

April's show, "Art Music" had a grand opening, thanks to curator Jamee Telford. Well over 100 pieces of art were submitted, and it was impossible to fit everything in, in part due to a greater than usual number of larger 2D works. This month's theme clearly inspired you all!

"Think Green" for our June show. Curated by Karen Schmitz with Jen Chappell, it challenges artists to interpret how we interact with and preserve our planet earth. Art can be a powerful medium for addressing important issues of our time. See further details in this this newsletter.

Our July show, "As We Are: The Enduring Nude" is seeking figurative works from area artists and will also feature the "regulars" at our Wednesday evening Life Drawing sessions. If you have not been attending over the past year, start coming regularly from now until the end of June in order to be considered for additional display of work created during these sessions. Details available soon at the sessions, online or from curators Michele Reday Cook and Joan Ulrich.

Curator Corner: Presentation of Artwork

We are in the process of establishing some consistency in DRA's standards for artwork submitted to our gallery. While individual curators have some leeway and flexibility in their shows, we want artists to know ahead of time if their work is presented appropriately for our gallery. Basic standards of presentation will remain consistent from show to show.

- * 2D work should be framed, or the sides of the canvas should be finished, painted, and/or integrated into the overall design of the artwork. 2D works (like watercolor, pencil, or pastel) on paper should always be matted, framed and under glass.

- * Works should be ready to hang, with wire firmly affixed to the frame, preferably with screw eyes. Sawtooth hangers are OK only with the smallest (6x8), lightest pieces, and not with works under glass.

- * 3D works (sculpture, multimedia, and other installations and assemblages) are unique and special handling/display instructions can be discussed with the curator, preferably ahead of time (written instructions are great) to make sure we can show your piece safely and effectively in our gallery.

- * DRA is committed to supporting new artists and we can help you learn how to show your work to its best advantage. Our Sunday afternoon critique sessions include presentation advice from professional framer, Karen Schmitz (next one in May). Curator Coordinators Michele and Jeanne are available to answer individual questions about art. Of course, the curator for the show you are entering has the final say, but do check ahead, as receiving for a new show is a very busy time and the curator will likely not be able to give undivided attention to you or your work then.

- * Read each call for entries carefully for information on requirements that apply to all shows, as well as learn about any special requirements for certain shows.

Why all these rules? Safety and Professionalism: to prevent damage to artwork (yours and others) or worse, injury to visitors; and to present DRA as a high-quality art gallery.

www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

E-Mail Announcements and a New Feature Added to DRA Web Site

If you hadn't read the first DRA weekly e-mail we sent, then you may not know about recent changes we announced with regard to sending you e-mail announcements and a new feature added to the DRA Web site.

With regard to e-mail announcements, you told us, and we listened. As everyone receives many e-mails these days, which at times appear to be overwhelming, we implemented a new process earlier this month to keep you informed and limit the number of e-mails you receive from DRA.

Our plan is to send you announcements and information we receive that may be of importance and interest to you on a weekly basis rather than sending you e-mails as we receive such information. If we don't receive information during the week, then no e-mail will be sent. Of course, there may be an exception in which you receive more than one e-mail from DRA; however, we think doing this weekly will be beneficial for everyone.

The inaugural weekly e-mail was sent April 3 to all DRA members for whom we have e-mail addresses.

Another exciting change and value added benefit to DRA members recently implemented is the new feature added to the DRA Web site. As artists, we're all interested in knowing about exhibition opportunities to display our artwork. To help you with this, we added a feature on our Web site called, **Other Exhibition Opportunities**.

This is where we will put calls-for-entry that we receive from art groups, organizations, galleries, etc., outside of DRA. We believe this feature will be of great value to not only DRA artist members but also to our non-artist members. For our non-artist members, this feature can be used to find exciting upcoming art shows where DRA artist members may be exhibiting.

We also a link on our Web site specifically for DRA's art shows called, **DRA Call-for-Entries**. Both of these features can be found at the top of the home page.

If you receive any such calls-for-entry, please pass them onto us at info@thedelrayartists.org

Members Help Needed for DRA Adopt-a-Park Program

DRA has been in the **Adopt a Park** program for approximately 10 years. The many DRA members who have earned hours towards their 10 required volunteer hours per year were rewarded with the honor of helping raise funds for DRA, improving the environment, and enjoying fresh air and sunshine. Those DRA members will be honored at the upcoming volunteer recognition party. DRA looks forward to 2008 and earning all of the 96 points!

It is a very simple way for DRA to gain some needed funds, improve the environment, help beautify the city, and get a little fresh air as well. We earned \$910 for our efforts in 2007. We can earn up to \$960, so we didn't lose too many points last year. With the new season starting, we need your help again. The first sign up dates start on April 5 or 6 and continue each weekend through the end of November.

DRA has adopted the Colasanto Park, next to the gallery/center. It is the parkland from the center/pool fence north to the intersection of Commonwealth and Mt. Vernon Avenues. City inspections take place on Monday mornings, so it is best to pick up the litter on Sundays, although Saturdays will work if that is what you can manage. We pick up from the tennis court and swimming pool fences north to the intersection, curb to curb. One point is taken off for each can, bottle, item or piece of glass, paper or other litter which the inspectors find. Since the gallery is normally open weekends until 4 PM, we recommend that you take a trash bag from the kitchen (boxes on the open shelves) or you can bring a bag with you. We pick up around the bus stop and the gallery but we are not scored on those areas. The trash bags are then to be placed around the back of the gallery in the trash cans. The entire effort takes approximately 20 minutes to one half hour. This is a perfect way to fulfill some of your 10 hours of DRA volunteer commitment. We consider it an hour of volunteering toward your commitment.

Spring Garden Cleanup

Our Spring Garden Cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, April 27th from 9AM till noon. We are slated to be on the Del Ray House and Garden Tour again this year in May. That is quite an achievement and we really want the garden to shine. Contact Jordan Wright if you can help out: 703 549-1548 or Jordan.Wright@comcast.net

Making Time for Art

When was the last time you worked on your art? We have a million reasons (we're tired, busy, need to get supplies, etc.) and distractions (the computer, TV, social commitments, etc.) that keep us from our creative work. They are all real. They all sound reasonable. BUT these reasons are really just excuses for avoiding sitting down and creating on a regular basis. Excuses can be a way of covering up our fears, uncertainty or self-doubt. What's really going on when we say we just don't have time to get to our creative work? If we can figure that out, then we're less likely to push our creative work to the sidelines of our lives. It's said that we make – not find – but make time for the people and activities that are important to us. How important is doing your creative work to you? -

Lynn Wyvill

Art Camp Needs Kids & You!

Kids get creative this summer with the 2008 art camp happening July 28-August 1, starting with making their own journals & sketchbooks showcasing their own drawings, painting, fiber fun and other camp projects. This year's weeklong arts adventure for young artists ages 8-12 (9am-4pm) is \$250, which includes: artist instructors, all supplies, healthy lunches and more. Register on line at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

Art Camp Coordinator Karen Schmitz is looking for enthusiastic volunteers and helpers to make this summer experience a fun-derful time for all. "This a great opportunity for members to fulfill their volunteer hours and learn a few new techniques all while giving to our future Picasso's and Frida's."

Contact: Karen Schmitz at schmityk@yahoo.com/703-317-9340

Master Thesis -Syncretism: Paintings of Del Ray and Arlandria May 23 - June 1

Working full-time at Library of Congress, Jennifer Lea Hall learned of Virginia Commonwealth University's off-campus graduate art program from a professor at Corcoran College of Art, where she had taken most of the evening and weekend classes. "VCU makes it possible to earn a master's part-time in studio art," she explains, now at a non-profit representing newspaper First Amendment interests. It was a challenge transitioning. "At the Corcoran, one works from a model or still life twice a week for three hours except breaks. At VCU, classes are after hours in area high schools, with music from CDs and no model or still life."

Working with VCU adjuncts Margaret Boozer and John Figura, chair of Catholic University's art department, she quickly discovered what interested her: "the loss and recollection of symbols, layered over time and place, of successive immigrations and generations" evident in the Del Ray and Arlandria neighborhood where she lives. "From a family of secular Europeans who immigrated here a generation ago, I look at religious symbols of people sharing this community to see how symbols of art share their role. I find echoes in the area's diversity of exoticism of earlier modernist and symbolist painting traditions, and explore how they are present in real, contemporary American life around us."

Through paintings of Botanica San Elias in Del Ray, she learned of "syncretism," a form of assimilation she began to notice in her neighborhood. "The syncretic process results in a new synthesis, like layers of a pearl. From what I gathered, San Elias was a 12th century Carmelite prophet. But in Dominican Vodou, he is the spirit responsible for the dead, who likes gin and cigars and was invoked in ceremonies involving sacrifice or induced trances of horses."

With associations of communication with the unknown and sublime, it reminded her of synthetism, used to reference theories of the School of Pont Aven, a circle of artists in Brittany that included Paul Serusier (1863-1927) and Emile Bernard (1868-1941). "As in Baudelaire's poem Correspondences, I realized we wander among these hidden symbols like dwindling echoes gathered far away." Just as these painters sought cultures they sensed disappearing in an increasingly industrial age, "the exoticisms I encountered in Del Ray represented a resistance to materialism of our time, and excuse to paint something of the 19th century symbolic quality to which I was drawn, yet their presence in my neighborhood grounded them as contemporary realism."

DRA President Linda Elliff and longtime member Karen Schmitz invited Jennifer to exhibit as part of the Centennial celebrating 100 years of Del Ray.

Ultimately, Jennifer believes the work becomes about postcolonialism explored by Martin Puryear to Ansel Krut. "People associate exoticisms with the decorative and unfamiliar," Jennifer says. "But their resilience and mystery contain something potent and urgent beyond opulence. Practices layered beneath ours, represent an intuitive means of understanding beyond analytical reason that is syncretic and accessible by subjective experience."

Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter

☐ Renewal

☐ New Member

Title _____ Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____

Additional Name _____

Organization/Corporation Name _____

Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____
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;

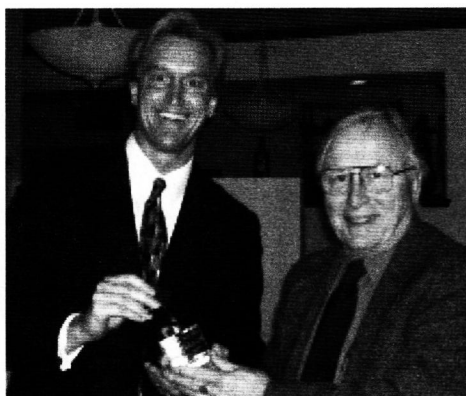
☐ anything DRA needs.

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

Congratulations !.

Marlin Lord was presented with the Potomac West Business Association STAR 2007 award by Kevin Reilly.



Kathryn Brown Honored

Kathryn A. Brown, DRA Assistant Treasurer, has received another high honor, being named the recipient of the Alexandria Commission for Women's Cultural Affairs Award. This award recognizes a woman for artistic achievement, or for facilitating the expression of artistic talent, or for broadening the accessibility of cultural and artistic experiences in the City. The award was presented to Kathryn at the 28th Annual "Salute to Women" Awards Banquet on March 31. Congratulations to Kathryn on this well-deserved award.

Welcome New Members

• **Gus Duda**
• **Stacey Knight**
jewelry, painting/drawing, sculpture

• **Cherie M. Redlinger**
collage, mixed media,
painting/ drawing, printmaking

• **Jack House**
Photographer

• **Berenice F. Meadows**

May Workshops

A two day decoupage workshop led by Beverly Hansen.

Dates: May 17 and 18 (Saturday and Sunday)

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Cost: DRA Members \$175.00

Non-Members \$190.00

(cost includes supplies used in the workshop)

A one day workshop

"What is your relationship with your art?"

Date: May 31st

Time: 1-4pm

Cost: DRA Members \$50.00

Non-Members \$65.00

More information on these workshops is found on the DRA Website at www.thedelrayartisans.org





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 also open during all events and performances.

Contributors this month include: Linda Elliff, Jamee Telford, Kathryn Brown, Rob Rudick, Lynn Wyvill, Karen Schmitz, Jamee Telford, Marlin Lord, Jennifer Lea Hall, David Kosar, Tina Richardson, LeAnn Pittman,

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month
preceding publication .

Editor: DRAeditor@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2008

2 - 18		TC Williams Student Show, TC Students
3	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Spring Art and Craft Sale
3	10 a.m.	Town of Potomac Centennial Parade
3-4		Weekend Intensive : Intermediate Photoshop Concepts & Techniques: Sat 9:30am - 12:30pm, 2:00-5:00pm; Sun 10:30am-12:30pm, 2:00-4:00pm
11	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Peer Critique
13	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
14	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing
17	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Del Ray House and Garden Tour
17-18	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Decoupage Workshop
20	7:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting
23- June 1		Syncretism: Paintings of Del Ray and Arlandria Jennifer Lea Hall
28	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing
31	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Workshop: Your Relationship with Your Art

JUNE 2008

1	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Volunteer "Thank You" reception
5	6p.m. - 9 p.m.	First Thursday Del Ray
6-29		Think Green, Karen Schmitz
10	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
11	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing
21	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.	DRA Yard Sale
22	12 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Workshop: Junk Mail Collage
25	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing

JULY 2008

3 - 20		"As We Are: The Enduring Nude" - Michele Cook Joan Ulrich
3	6p.m. - 9 p.m.	First Thursday Del Ray
8	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
9	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing
July 28 - August 1		Art Camp

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Mark your calendars for the first-ever **DRA Yard Sale on June 21 from 8am - 2pm**. All proceeds will go to DRA. How can you help? Thank you for asking - there are many ways for you to help this fun event!

1) Donate items that will easily sell at the Yard Sale

Yard Sale Drop-Off dates: Sunday, June 15, from 3-5pm and Monday, June 16, from 6-9pm

2) Help out at the Pricing Party on Wednesday, June 18, from 6-9pm (please RSVP to Tracy)

3) Volunteer at the Yard Sale on Saturday, June 21 - we need helpers from 6:30am-3pm - help out for an hour or however you can stay!

4) Tell all your friends about our Yard Sale and help increase the traffic to our sale

5) Stop by and shop at our Yard Sale yourself!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the Pricing Party or volunteering at the Yard Sale, please call or email Tracy at 703-567-3436 or tlideas@comcast.net.