



The Well Crafted Word

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

www.thedelrayartisans.org

Picture Me! Opens September 12

The deadline for entries is approaching! *Picture Me! The Artistic Self-Portrait in the 21st Century* exhibition opening reception is September 12th. Invite all your fellow artists and friends to come and see your work. You are planning to be a part of this exciting member only show, aren't you?

Self-portraits have been an artistic expression of self for centuries, in paint and sculpture and now new media are allowing artists to redefine the self-portrait as witnessed in the millions of pixilated images that are e-mailed, IM's, posted on Facebook and printed from the home computer everyday. How do you define self-portrait?

Picture Me! is your opportunity to portray yourself as your truly are, wish you were, or pray that you are not. You may submit works in any style or medium, up to three original works of art with a guarantee that one will be accepted and that you will be an exhibitor in this show. This show is an exciting way for members who have never exhibited before to submit original works of art and to see them displayed.

Every artistic endeavor you begin and complete becomes an image of how you view the world and in some sense is a self-portrait. Creating self-portraits is a way of digging deeper into yourself and using that new knowledge to break through obstacles and challenges in your chosen media of artistic expression.

Submit up to three (3) original works for the paltry entry fee of \$2.00 each from 12 - 4 pm on Sunday, Sept 7, or 6 - 8 pm on Monday, Sept 8, and then come to the opening reception and join the celebration of creating.

Card Pickings are Slim – Help Restock!

Our cards are being purchased by the handfuls! That's great, but our supply is getting low. Just in the nick of time come the card making superheroes leading the charge to restock the shelves. And what fun it will be! If you have participated in a card party before you already know what goes on – challenges, contests, helpful hints and tips, mini demonstrations and as always, yummy snacks. The inspiration is contagious. You learn while you create, and at the same time you contribute some volunteer hours to DRA. Don't miss out!

Join us on Sunday, September 21, noon to 4 pm for Del Ray Artisans' next Card Making Party, for however long you can stay. You never know, someone like Andrea Roane might just choose your card – yes, she did find a card she liked while at the Gallery to film the interview.

Lee-Fendall House and Del Ray Artisans Benefit

On October 19, Del Ray Artisans will tip our hats to the tradition of Oktoberfest by holding a joint beer tasting with Lee Fendall House. Craft Brewed Events will select 8 beers to sample, four different styles from Germany and their US counterparts, pair them with a light appetizer buffet, provide style and tasting notes, and finish off the day with a door prize drawing and raffle.

Tickets are \$40 and include a hand painted beer glass decorated by a Del Ray Artisan or Lee Fendall House member. Craft Brewed Events will provide staff to explain the beers. Tasting runs 2-5 PM on the grounds of Lee Fendall House. Profits from the beer tasting benefit the Del Ray Artisans and Lee Fendall House.

Join us on Tuesday, September 16, from 7 - 9 pm. at the Gallery to hand paint a beer glass that will be given away as a souvenir at the beer tasting. Beer glasses and other materials will be provided. Artists can also decorate the beer glasses at home and return them to the Gallery. Awards for the best beer glasses will be announced at the beer tasting on October 19. More details will follow in our weekly email announcements.

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

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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, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts for their continued support.

Art Camp a Blast!

Everyone at Art Camp 2008 can truly say they went out with a "bang!" The week was full of creative and challenging projects, as well as a lot of fun! A variety of projects were undertaken. Campers created personal journals in which to draw and document their artistic thoughts. We were invited to the Mt. Vernon Community School's gardens to sketch the botanicals and learn about different plant life, collect specimens to press, and later in the week make decoupage glass containers. We also created two large collaborative murals, which will be on display during the "Picture Me" show in September. We ended the art-filled week with storytelling by DRA member Dianna Diatz and 'bang up' drumming circle run by Mahiri Keita and Dan Petersen.

The Camp would not have been possible without the generosity of the following donors:

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille, Alexandria Hyundai, two Anonymous Donors, Community Partners for Children, Seana Gallagher, Judy Heffner, Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota, Terry McEnaney of Our Town, Pat Miller, Jim Wickman & Daniel Wise and Yacinski Design, LLC. These scholarships enabled many deserving campers to attend from such organizations as the Arlandria Health Center, Alexandria Court System, the Boys & Girls Club, the Carpenter's Shelter and from our very own DRA community. Bishwas Bhattacharai from Trader Joe's of Alexandria donated a goody bag of treats. Ann Beisel from Whole Foods of Alexandria donated a \$200 gift card, as well as 30 paper bags for the campers to tote all their projects home.

The talented Art Camp committee, made up of Jen Athanas, Theresa Kulstad, Vivienne Lukacs, Karen Schmitz and Joyce Wagner is completely indebted to the hard work of the following volunteers: Alicia Arevalo, Chad Brady, Kathryn Brown, Amoret Bunn, Megan Cook, Michele Reday Cook, Charlotte Cororan, Carol Davenport, Jane DeWeerd, Linda Elliff, Greta Gonzalez, Judy Heffner, Lucy Johnson, David Kosar, Linda Lukacs-Greer, Marlin Lord, Millie Mateau, Sara Merkin, Louise Potter, Stacy Rausch, Tina Richardson, Fred and Carrie Shilling, Wendy Sparrow, Peggy Tevis, Patricia Uchello, Tamara Wilkerson, Tracy Wilkerson, Daniel Wise, Celeste Zabowski and all others that contributed to this very successful Art Camp!



Featured

More Ways to THINK Green!

- 1) Sign up for Alexandria's E-news at <https://enews.alexandriava.gov>
- 2) Make ALL events biocompostable using :plates, cups, utensils, trash bags from www.worldcentric.org
- 3) Check Out THINK Green! juror Alison Sigethy's July-Sept Arctic Blog at www.ArcticVoice.org
- 4) Visit for free! The United States Botanic Garden "One Planet Ours!" www.usbg.gov 202-225-8333
- 5) Check out <http://earth911.org/> for a whole host of ideas on being Green!

Channel 9 Interviews DRA

The Del Ray Artisans Gallery was transformed into a mini TV studio when Channel 9 Newscaster Andrea Roane and her crew arrived to tape an interview on our Recovery Cover Project. Ms. Roane interviewed members Jane Deweerd and Theresa Kulstad who coordinate the project which makes cloth drainage bottle holders to give free to mastectomy patients as they recover. All stages of the process, from cutting the pattern to sewing the covers were demonstrated by Kay Graf, Linda Elliff, and Randy Scheessele.

Andrea Roane's blog on the Channel 9 website, www.wusa9.com/life/community/, already has a photo of the group and a preview announcement of the segment. And Channel 9 will be putting a link to the DRA website from their website for those looking for the pattern and instructions to start their own Recovery Cover projects. We will be sure to send out an email to let you know when to watch Channel 9 for these familiar faces. Special thanks to Jane for making all the arrangements! And even more special thanks to Andrea Roane and Channel 9 for promoting our worthwhile project!



Woodworkers Collaborate with DRA in October

Del Ray Artisans returns to its roots literally and figuratively this October with a collaborative exhibit of recent work by members of the Washington Woodworkers' Guild (WWG) and by DRA members. When Del Ray Artisans first opened its doors, the focus was primarily on "functional art" and displayed objects for the "built environment." And many of those early furniture shows won critical acclaim. In June 1992, **Into the Woods** opened, featuring selected works by members of the Washington Woodworkers' Guild. The curators were Nick Bayus and Patsieann Misiti, and that show was the very first of several which have connected the WWG with Del Ray Artisans.

Beginning in November 2003, the connection was reestablished. **Washington Wood 2003** and two years later, **Washington Wood 2005** were collaborative, juried exhibits. Both showcased the work of many talented woodworkers, their carvings, turnings and period furniture. In both of those years, complementary shows entitled **Still Life, Landscape and Other Perspectives** ran concurrently and featured a selection of wall mounted works by DRA members, giving the exhibits a homelike feel. In 2003, the shows were curated by Solon Candage and Martin Angebrannt. Sadly, Solon passed away in 2005, and Martin, a former President of DRA, assumed that challenging role for both groups.

The upcoming show will be curated by Ron Blank, himself a relic of the early days with DRA, and currently Secretary of the WWG: "The only difference between our October show and those most recent collaborations with WWG is the show's title, which we hope will add some punch to our marketing plans." Once again we expect the floor space to be filled with furniture and decorative objects crafted by the woodworkers and the walls to be graced with paintings, drawings and photographs, all interpreting this year's theme,

From our Trees ... Artistry is Revealed.

Do You Know..... Alice Kale?

Type of Art/ Medium: watercolor and oil

When I'm looking for artistic inspiration, I look in the garden, in the neighborhood, or turn to Jim, my ever-willing model.

My favorite artists are: What a tough question - it changes daily and ranges from Durer to Diebenkorn. I do have a favorite piece of art. On the ground floor of the National Gallery is a small room of drawings from the Armand Hammer collection. The most prized piece is Raphael's Madonna and Child with Saint John the Baptist. It is kept under low light, very fragile and faint, but so beautiful it stops your heart.

The coolest thing I've ever done with my art is to teach. For quite a few years, I've taught senior art at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center. My students are the greatest people you can imagine, and they are now friends, too. Every one of the steady class members has, at one time or another produced a real winner. When they enter shows or sell work, I think I'm more excited than they are.

The next thing that I would like to try with my art is: Well, I've been hacking away with oils. They don't come as easily to me as watercolor, but I really want to get to a place where they feel natural to me.

What I really enjoy the most about being an artist is that it takes me away from everyday worries and distractions. When I'm painting, everything else in life melts away.

Title _____ Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____
 Additional Name _____
 Organization/Corporation Name _____
 Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Work (____) _____
 e-mail _____
 Artist o Media _____

Membership Levels

Patron	Active Member	Friend
o \$1,000 Platinum	o \$75 Household	o \$35 Friend of
o \$500 Gold	o \$50 Individual	Del Ray Artisans
o \$250 Silver	o \$25 Senior (62 and over)/Student/Disabled (circle one)	Friends may participate in workshops, classes, and programs as members.
Patrons are considered Active Members and have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.	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.	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: o electronically o via regular mail o 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:

o Communications; o Newsletter; o Website; o Publicity; o Archives; o Administrative; o Financial;

o Fundraising; o Grants; o Facilities; o Gardening; o Volunteers; o Outreach; o Shows; o Programs;

o 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

Time to Get More Involved in DRA? Consider the Board!

The DRA Board needs your commitment and fresh ideas in the coming year. Are you considering getting more involved in the arts, your community, or DRA specifically? Consider taking on a DRA Board position. This would be a great opportunity to give back to the organization that has been supporting your artistic needs and fill in your volunteer commitment to the organization. Several positions are open, and some Board Directors could use a co-director. Please consider the openings below and contact Tara Hardiman (703-684-3297 or thardiman@prodigy.net) to discuss the options. The two positions in most need of nominations

are the leadership roles of President and Vice President. Directors needed are:

1) "Programs" (planning the general membership meeting, workshops, classes, and other programs) and 2) "Volunteers" (recruitment, coordination, and scheduling of volunteers)

The new Board will be elected at the October 21, 2008 meeting for the one-year CY2009 term. Current positions and nominees to date are as follows:

Executive Committee

President - open for nominations

Vice President - open for nominations

Secretary - Monica Wise

Treasurer - Marlin Lord

Assistant Treasurer -- Kathryn Brown

Directors

Communications - Carrie and Fred Schilling

Welcome New Members

•Kent D. Gay
pencil, charcoal, pastel

•Trudy Levy

•Linda Lowery
drawing, watercolor

•Mary E. Karstens

•Marnina & William Kammerzell
digital

•Stacy M. Rausch
beaded jewelry, painted picture frames, handmade books

•Roger Alberto Perdomo Cortes
photography

•Mercele Popal (as seen on the cover of July/August of OUR TOWN)
painting/drawing
and father David Popal
art and picture custom framing

•Leslie Duss
photography

•Lynette Schultz
mixed media with emphasis on fabric and decorative fiber

•Patricia A. Morton Hall
jewelry

Community Representative - Nora Partlow
Facilities - Donn Grover and Liz Martinez
Fundraising - Linda Elliff and Barbara Boehm

Historian - John Hiller

Membership - Christina Richardson

Curator Coordinators - Michele Reday-Cook and Jeanne Tiff

Outreach - Margaret Slipek and Randy Scheessele

Programs - Pat Oliver and Millie Mateu

Volunteers - open for nominations



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September Extended Hours

1st Thursday: Noon - 9 p.m.

Thursday: Noon - 4 p.m. • Friday: Noon - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.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, Tracy Wilkerson, Karen Schmitz, Jen Athanas, Christina Richardson, LeAnn Pittman, Kathryn Brown, Michele Reday Cook, Tara Hardiman, Randy Scheessele, Ron Blank

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month
preceding publication .

Editor: DRAeditor@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2008

4	6 p.m.- 9 p.m.	First Thursday Del Ray
12 - Oct 4		Picture Me! The Artistic Self Portrait in the 21st Century Daniel Wise and Christina Richardson, curators
12	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Opening Reception Picture Me!
16	7 p.m.- 9 p.m.	Beer Glass Painting Party
21	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Card Party
24	7 p.m.-10 p.m.	Life Drawing Session

OCTOBER 2008

1	7 p.m.-10 p.m.	Life Drawing Session
4	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Art on the Avenue
Oct 10 - Nov 2		From our Trees, a collaborative show with Washington Woodworkers' Guild, Ron Blank, curator
10	7 p.m.-10 p.m.	Opening Reception From our Trees
14	7 p.m.	DRA Board Meeting
19	2p.m. - 5 p.m.	DRA Fundraiser with Lee-Fendall House

OCTOBER 2008 CONT.

21	7:30 p.m.	DRA General Member Meeting & Election
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NOVEMBER 2008

7-30		Bead it! 3 a national show celebrating the art of bead making and beading, Boehm, Brecher, Elliff, curators
7	7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Opening Reception, Bead it! 3
8	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Workshop: Felt Jewelry, Barbara Brecher
9	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Card Making Party
11	7 p.m.	Board Meeting
12	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing
15	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Workshop: Easiest Beaded Bead, Paulette Baron
16	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Peer Critique
19	7 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Life Drawing

DECEMBER 2008

5-7		DRA Holiday Market
12 - January 4, 2009		The World through the Blade of Scissors ,Anne Leslie, curator

AS WE ARE: THE ENDURING NUDE Recap

Michele Reday Cook and Joan Ulrich, co-curators for the July show, *AS WE ARE: THE ENDURING NUDE*, want to thank everyone who helped to make this an outstanding exhibit of figurative art.

We received about 90 works of art, of which 42 two-dimensional artworks and eight sculptures were selected. Our juror was Tania Karpowitz, local figurative artist and teacher. Two \$50 awards were made (a juror's choice and a curators' choice), plus five honorable mentions, each for a free life drawing session. In addition to the juried art, members of DRA's "Life Drawing Regulars" showed works on paper, unframed.

The show opened Thursday, July 3rd, to coincide with "First Thursday" events on the Avenue. Curators Michele and Joan arranged for a model and did demonstrations for gallery visitors during the evening. A closing reception on July 26th, with an art auction, ended the show on a festive note. Musician John Corcoran provided wonderful guitar music for the enjoyment of all who attended.

Many thanks to the artists who submitted such beautiful work, to our hardworking hanging crew, our historian for photographing the work, Royce for the donation of flowers, and all the other DRA members who contributed their time, energy and talents to make this show a success.