

Celebrating the Art of Making . . .

February 2026

The Well-Crafted Word

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

DelRayArtisans.org

Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse Exhibition February 6 - 28

Exhibit Reception: Friday, February 6, 7-9pm

Celebrate the Lunar New Year by exploring its traditions, stories, and cultural significance—including the dynamic symbolism of the horse in the zodiac—at Del Ray Artisans' *Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse* art exhibit. Representing courage, vitality, speed, and independence, the horse inspires artworks that capture energy, movement, mythology, and heritage. This exhibition also reflects Del Ray Artisans' commitment to cultural sensitivity, showcasing works that honor the origins of the Lunar New Year with respect and authenticity.

Join us for the opening reception on Friday, February 6 between 7-9pm to meet curators Morgan Parr and Annemarie Kuhns and the artists.



*"Lunar Fire" by
Morgan Parr*

Kudos to the Adopt-A-Park Volunteers

Del Ray Artisans' volunteers who pick up litter in Colasanto Park raised the maximum award (\$1,152) through their efforts during the City of Alexandria's 2025 Adopt-A-Park season. DRA uses these funds to maintain and improve the garden and facility.

Thank you to Joyce Wagner for managing DRA's Adopt-A-Park program and to all the volunteers who made this award possible: Sheila Bailey, Lynn Chadwick, Betsy Jones, Rusty Lynn, Derrick Wagner, Lois Whyte, and Rod Whyte. The season runs from April through November. Contact Joyce at AdoptAPark@DelRayArtisans.org to support the program this year.

Live From Your Studio

Sunday, February 15, 2-3:30pm



Live From Your Studio is a free, members-only, virtual gathering where Del Ray Artisans members can connect from their art-making space. This virtual event will take place monthly on the third Sunday of the month over Zoom. Artists are encouraged (but not required) to join from their studios and make art during the session. These events will allow members to paint and create art together, and forge deeper connections to other members. Register via Eventbrite at least a week before the gathering. Details at delrayartisans.org/event/live-from-your-studio-2026.

Member Meeting & Art Supplies Swap Sunday, February 22, 6-8pm

Save the date for the first member meeting of 2026. Bring the supplies you no longer need and be ready to find a treasure in other's discards! To help things run smoothly, we kindly ask that you limit the number of boxes you bring and drop off your treasures at the start of the art supply swap. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept any treasures after 6:15pm.



Art Supplies Swap, August 2024

We'll begin with a short meeting, and then select "new to you" art supplies. Looking forward to seeing you at the gallery!

To volunteer to help set up, contribute refreshments, or distribute leftovers elsewhere, please contact the Membership Director, Kara Macek, at Membership@DelRayArtisans.org.

Welcome New Members

Daniella Ferraro
Lisa Gunther
Scarlett Gutierrez
Faith Halter

Ken Heyman
Aaron Reese
Alfa Tate-o'neill
Kala Wright

CALLS FOR ENTRY

Entry forms at DelRayArtisans.org/cfe

Assembly: Together We Grow

Open to Del Ray Artisans Members

March 6 - 28

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, February 10 by Midnight

Submit works that explore the fundamental human act of gathering as a catalyst for growth and belonging, whether expressed through ritual, resistance, celebration, community, ecology, cultural tradition, or something else entirely.



*"Hear the Call" by
Haddy Kreie*

Alcove Gift Shop at Del Ray Artisans

Open to Del Ray Artisans Members

March 6 - April 25

Entry Deadline: Sunday, February 15 by Midnight

Del Ray Artisans' Alcove is a gift shop within the gallery, where members (who apply and are accepted) display and sell their work. Unframed 2-D works are available in bins alongside jewelry, fiber art, wood craft, ceramics, and other smaller 3-D items.

Fast and Fabulous

Open to Area Artists

April 3-25

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, March 10 by Midnight

From the first blueprints for the Model T to Warhol and Dali to the Ferrari 250, legally a work of art in Italy, cars have inspired and embodied art. Enter your car-inspired work—your "car-twork", as it will be known. Be it Ford, Ferrari, or futuristic wheels, your interpretations of motorcycles, trucks, and other fast/fabulous forms of surface transportation are welcome.



*"Fast and Fabulous"
by Scott MacConomy*

Creative Card Swap (Ongoing)

Open to All Artists with a U.S. Domestic (or Equivalent) Mailing Address

The card swap is an ongoing activity with rolling deadlines each time 4 artists enter.

This is a handcrafted, artful card swap between artists. A swap group is formed each time 4 artists enter, then swapping begins immediately for that group.

Originally established in April 2020 as a platform for artists to share their creative expression during the pandemic months when we could not gather in person, the Creative Card Swap became a popular activity for both Del Ray Artisans members and non-members.

Creative Programs (Call for Instructors)

Seeking proposals for creative classes & workshops at Del Ray Artisans to be held in 2026. In-person and online, demonstrations, speaking engagements, free and fee-based programs, hands-on art classes, and more are all welcome. The event may be for all ages (family-friendly), only for adults, or only for children. Especially seeking STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) topics for children or all ages.

GALLERY WITHOUT WALLS

Details at DelRayArtisans.org/gww
Come see Del Ray Artisans art exhibits
hosted outside our gallery.

Energy of the Season at VCA Old Town Animal Hospital

Come see 2D artwork by Del Ray Artisans members exemplifying the spirit, passion, exuberance, and pizzazz of each season in the lobby and hallway at VCA Old Town



*"Grand Canyon" by
Emily Atkinson*

Animal Hospital (425 N Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314). The animal hospital is open Monday-Friday 7:30am-7pm, and Saturday 8am-3pm. Visitors must let the front desk know they are there to view the art exhibit. The exhibit runs through May 30, 2026.

Flora, Fauna, Fantastica at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital



*"First Catch" by
Monjari Gillian*

Del Ray Artisans' 28th art exhibit, *Flora, Fauna, Fantastica*, at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital

(2660 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314) opened on September 22, 2025 and runs through September 5, 2026. The exhibit features 2D artwork in a variety of media and styles, from the traditional to the surreal, showcasing nature by Del Ray Artisans members. The animal hospital is open Monday-Friday 8am-7pm, Saturday 8am-6pm. Due to client needs, some areas may not be available for immediate viewing. Visitors must let the front desk know they are there to view the art exhibit.

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Register at DelRayArtisans.org/workshops

Playing with Resin Workshop - Sunday, February 8, 6-9pm

Learn the ins and outs of prepping for and mixing resin, and how to use it as an adhesive, a covering, or the main medium. *Instructor: Tracy Wilkerson; Sold Out.*



Stretchy Chainmail Bracelet Workshop - Monday, February 9, 6-8pm

The class walks through the building of a bracelet step-by-step using the "Helm" chainmail weave. The bracelet includes a mix of metal and rubber rings to create a unique piece with stretch, so a clasp is not needed. *Instructor: Janna Marks; \$40 Del Ray Artisans member / \$50 Non-member; plus a \$10 Supply Fee; Register ASAP.*



Dime Store Alchemy: Make a Found Object Poetry Box - Wednesday, February 11, 6-9pm

In the spirit of Joseph Cornell, a 20th century artist inspired by the poetry of found objects rearranged into evocative tableaux, participants will craft small inventive shadow boxes. *Instructor: Viki Walchak; \$55 Del Ray Artisans member / \$65 Non-member; plus a \$10 Supply Fee; Register ASAP.*



Creating Monotypes with Gelatin Plates - Sunday, February 15, 6-9pm

The instructor will guide you through the creation of your own acrylic paint monotypes on cardstock using gel plates of various sizes. *Instructor: Allie Lundquist; \$30 Del Ray Artisans member / \$40 Non-member; plus a \$20 Supply Fee; Register by February 11.*



Lunar New Year Block Printing Workshop - Tuesday, February 17, 4-6pm

Participants will design and carve soft foam printing plates inspired by zodiac horse imagery and celestial constellations, then ink and hand-print their designs using brayers and water-based inks. *Instructor: Morgan Parr; \$10 Child* / \$20 Del Ray Artisans member / \$30 Non-member; plus a \$5 Supply Fee; Register by February 13.*



Tiny Lunar New Year Altars - Wednesday, February 18, 7-9pm

Create a tiny altar assemblage and learn some tips in working in miniature and upcycled art. *Instructor: Mallory Henig; \$30 Del Ray Artisans member / \$40 Non-member; plus a \$10 Supply Fee; Register by February 14.*



Laurel Burch Inspired Horses Workshop - Sunday, February 22, 10am-12pm

Create a stylized horse using bold color, repeated patterns, strong outlines, and metallic accents inspired by the decorative style of artist Laurel Burch. *Instructor: Morgan Parr; \$10 Child* / \$20 Del Ray Artisans member / \$30 Non-member; plus a \$10 Supply Fee; Register by February 18.*

* The discount ticket price for children is made possible with support from the City of Alexandria through the FY2026 Annual Arts Program Grant.

RECURRING PROGRAMS

DelRayArtisans.org/programs

Del Ray Urban Sketchers Sunday, February 8, 1-3pm & Thursday, February 19, 7-9pm

Bring your supplies and join us outside to produce still life, figure, or architecture subjects in your sketchbook. Meet outside at St. Elmo's (2300 Mt Vernon Ave) on Feb 8 and at Del Ray Pizzeria (2218 Mt Vernon Ave) on Feb 19.

Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance) Monday, February 9, 2-4pm & Tuesday, February 17, 7-9pm

Calling fellow artists, beginners to professionals, you are invited to join our art-support group, to share artistic goals, techniques, and one or two artworks, any medium, in any stage, for advice and feedback

Life Drawing Gesture and Short Pose Thursday, February 12 & Tuesday, February 24, 7-9pm

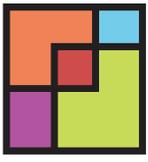
Bring your supplies and join us at the gallery to draw or paint our nude model. Traditional drawing media, pastels, watercolor and ink are permissible. Do not bring acrylics or oil paints. Drop-in; all skill levels welcome.

Radical Sewing Club - ALX Saturday, February 21, 10am-noon

Learn about clothing repair, hand and machine sewing, or bring your own project to work on with the community. This club is a space to reimagine craft outside of capitalism, to resist exploitation and oppression, and to stitch together a world based on care and solidarity.

Nature Journaling Club Saturday, February 28, 10am-noon

Nature journaling refines our powers of observation, appreciation for nature, drawing skills, and mindful presence. Open to all experience levels as we meet to sketch, connect, and learn together! Meet at 10am in front of Del Ray Artisans.



DEL RAY ARTISANS

Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301-1124
703.838.4827 DelRayArtisans.org

Submission Deadline:

15th of the month
KC Hodge, Newsletter Editor
Newsletter@DelRayArtisans.org

Gallery Hours:

Thursday 12–6pm
Friday 12–9pm
Saturday 12–6pm
Sunday 12–6pm
Closed February 1 & March 1

Top row, l. to r.:
"Kunitachi Ginkgo" - Emily Atkinson;
"Love Warrior" - Ginny Loving;
"Mrs. Lavery's Flowers" - Ellen Frances
Rosenthal
Bottom row, r.:
"Chrystalis Peace" - Karen Schmitz



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

2026 Board of Directors

- **Dawn Wyse Hurto, President**
President@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Sean Crumley, Vice President**
VP@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Rita Schooley, Treasurer**
Treasurer@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Stephen Lally, Assistant Treasurer**
ATTR@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Margaret Slipek, Secretary**
Secretary@DelRayArtisans.org

Directors

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Archives@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Christian Melgar, Communications**
Communications@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Amy Kitchin Hower, Curating**
Curating@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Kurt Peterson, Facilities**
Facilities@DelRayArtisans.org
- **(Vacant), Fundraising Events**
Fundraising@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Kara Macek, Membership**
Membership@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Kelly M. MacConomy, Outreach**
Outreach@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Tracy Wilkerson, Programs**
Programs@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Dina Wise, Technology**
Technology@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Morgan Parr, Volunteers**
Volunteers@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Victoria Walchak, Youth Programs**
Youth@DelRayArtisans.org

Calendar

February

- 1 Gallery closed to the Public, Artist Appointments Only
- 6–28 **EXHIBIT: Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse**
curators: Morgan Parr and Annemarie Kuhns
- 6 *Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse* Exhibit Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 8 Del Ray Urban Sketchers, 1-3pm at St. Elmo's
- 8 Playing with Resin Workshop, 6-9pm
- 9 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 2-4pm
- 9 Stretchy Chainmail Bracelet Workshop, 6-8pm
- 10 Board of Directors, online, 7-9pm
- 10 *Assembly: Together We Grow* Call for Entry Deadline
- 11 Dime Store Alchemy Workshop, 6-9pm
- 12 Life Drawing, 7-9pm
- 15 Live From Your Studio, online, 2-3:30pm
- 15 Creating Monotypes with Gelatin Plates, 6-9pm
- 15 Alcove Gift Shop Call for Artists Deadline
- 16 Reserved for Outside Group, 1-3pm
- 17 Lunar New Year Block Printing Workshop, 4-6pm
- 17 Partners in Art Evening (RSVP in Advance), 7-9pm
- 18 Tiny Lunar New Year Altars, 7-9pm
- 19 Del Ray Urban Sketchers, 7-9pm at Del Ray Pizzeria
- 21 Radical Sewing Club - ALX, 10am-12pm
- 22 Laurel Burch Inspired Horses Workshop, 10am-12pm

More information at: DelRayArtisans.org/calendar

- 22 Member Meeting & Art Supplies Swap, 6-8pm
- 24 Life Drawing, 7-9pm
- 28 Nature Journaling Club, 10am-12pm

March

- 1 Gallery closed to the Public, Artist Appointments Only
- 6–28 **MEMBER EXHIBIT: Assembly: Together We Grow**, curator: Haddy Kreie
- 6 *Assembly: Together We Grow* Exhibit Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 7 Paper Maché Pal Workshop, 10am-12pm
- 7 Partnered Paint Workshop, 7-9pm
- 8 Del Ray Urban Sketchers, 1-3pm at St. Elmo's
- 9 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 2-4pm
- 10 Board of Directors, online, 7-9pm
- 10 *Fast and Fabulous* Call for Entry Deadline
- 11 Acting is Connecting Workshop, 7-8:30pm
- 12 Life Drawing, 7-9pm
- 14 Paper Maché Pal Workshop, 10am-12pm
- 14 DIY Ukulele Workshop, 6-8pm
- 15 Live From Your Studio, online, 2-3:30pm
- 17 Partners in Art Evening (RSVP in Advance), 7-9pm
- 18 Round Robin Paint Party, 7-9pm
- 19 Del Ray Urban Sketchers, 4-6pm
- 21 Radical Sewing Club - ALX, 10am-12pm
- 21 Needle-Felt Your Own Pet Portrait Workshop, 6-8:30pm
- 23 Playing with Resin Workshop, 6-9pm

Join or renew your Del Ray Artisans membership today!
Visit DelRayArtisans.org/membership for details.

Other Key Contacts

- **Anna Sherlock, Office Manager**
Gallery@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Liz Martinez, GWW Curator**
GWW@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Gardens Committee**
Gardens@DelRayArtisans.org
- **Sunshine Committee**
Sunshine@DelRayArtisans.org

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.





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2026 Exhibit Schedule

Call for Entry details (once available) are at DelRayArtisans.org/cfe

Updated 1/6/2026. Dates subject to change. Check the calendar for updates: DelRayArtisans.org/calendar

Toy Stories (January 2–31, 2026)

Entry deadline Sunday, December 14, 2025; Receiving Sunday, December 28 by appointment

Curator: Gordon Thomas Frank

Open to all area artists. Rejoice in the toys you cherished as a child or the ones you always wished for, through artistic expressions that capture the playful, nostalgic spirit of toys.

Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse (February 6–28, 2026)

Entry deadline Saturday, January 10, 2026; Receiving Sunday, February 1 by appointment

Curators: Morgan Parr and Annemarie Kuhns

Open to all area artists. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a special focus on the Year of the Horse, through contemporary, traditional, symbolic, and personal interpretations that explore horse imagery, zodiac mythologies, and cultural rituals.

Assembly: Together We Grow (March 6–28, 2026)

Entry deadline Tuesday, February 10; Receiving Sunday, March 1 by appointment

Curator: Haddy Kreie

Only open to Del Ray Artisans members. Submit works that explore the fundamental human act of gathering as a catalyst for growth and belonging, whether expressed through ritual, resistance, celebration, community, ecology, cultural tradition, or something else entirely.

Fast and Fabulous (April 3–25, 2026)

Entry deadline Tuesday, March 10; Receiving Sunday, March 29 by appointment

Curators: Kelly MacConomy and Scott MacConomy

Open to all area artists. Motor enthusiasts unite!—whether you're a grease monkey, gear head, motorhead, or simply a lover of transportation, this show invites you to share the vehicles that bring you joy, from dream machines to your very first car.

ACHS 2026 Titan Student Art Exhibition (May 1–23, 2026)

Receiving Sunday, April 26 by appointment

Curators: ACHS Teachers and Youth Programs Director

Only open to Alexandria City High School art, photography, and graphics students. Details TBD.

Spring Art Market (Outdoors - Saturday, May 9, 9am-3pm)



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2026 Exhibit Schedule

Call for Entry details (once available) are at DelRayArtisans.org/cfe

Updated 1/6/2026. Dates subject to change. Check the calendar for updates: DelRayArtisans.org/calendar

USA at 250 (June 5–28, 2026)

Entry deadline Sunday, May 10; Receiving Sunday, May 31 by appointment

Curators: TJ Feeley and Karen Feeley

Open to all area artists. Capture the spirit of our nation: its past, present, and its promise for the future.

Summer Art Market (Indoors - July 11–12, 10am-4pm both days)

ChronoScape: Artistic Explorations of Time Travel (August 7–29)

Entry deadline Friday, July 10; Receiving Sunday, August 2 by appointment

Curators: Suzan Ok Shumate and Sue Shumate

Open to all area artists. *ChronoScape* is a curated visual arts exhibition inviting artists to explore the human fascination with time travel—real or imagined—through works that traverse ancient civilizations, speculative futures, science fiction, memory, mythology, and the unknown.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals (Sept 4-26)

Entry deadline Monday, August 10; Receiving Sunday, August 30 by appointment

Curator: Laura Ramirez Drain

Open to all area artists. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15), honor the rich culture, traditions, resilience, and artistic contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities through a diverse collection of works by emerging and established artists across various mediums.

HalloWEIRD Art Market (Outdoors - Saturday, Sept 19, 9am-2pm)

Carnival of Curiosities (October 2–31, 2026)

Entry deadline Thursday, September 10; Receiving Sunday, September 27 by appointment

Curators: Tiara Safic-Martin and Morgan Parr

Open to all area artists. Step right up and enter a carnival of curiosities where all manner of carnival-themed art – silly or dark, from food and lights to games, rides, music, costumes, and more - is welcome to dazzle, delight, and maybe even bite!

\$125 and Under (November 6–29, 2026)

Entry deadline Saturday, October 10; Receiving Sunday, November 1 by appointment

Curators: Dale Spivey and Liz Martinez

Only open to Del Ray Artisans members. Open thematically, but all artwork is priced at \$125 or less.

31st Annual Holiday Market (Indoors - December 4–20, 2026)



Membership Form

Renewal New Member

Name _____
Title First M.I. Last

Additional Household Members _____

Business/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____
 Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email Address(es) _____

List artist media (optional) _____

Referred by (optional) _____

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Patron | Artist | Supporter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 Silver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 90 Dual | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1,000 Platinum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 110 Family | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 45 Senior | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30 Student | |

Add a Donation

- Del Ray Artisans (DRA) \$ _____
- Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship \$ _____ John W. Hiller Photography & Film Scholarship \$ _____
- Youth Programs Including Art Camp \$ _____

Indicate committees on which you will serve to meet your 12-hour per year volunteer commitment:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Shows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Grants | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Anything DRA needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, special talents: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | |

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Checks payable to: Del Ray Artisans

Mail to: Del Ray Artisans, Membership, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

Or join online: www.DelRayArtisans.org/membership/

If you have any questions, please email the Membership Director at: Membership@DelRayArtisans.org

Membership Categories and Benefits											
Membership Categories	Cost	12-hour Volunteer requirement	Member-only programs and events	Reduced workshop, classes and program fees	Monthly online "The Well-Crafted Word" newsletter	Inclusion in 2 member shows annually	Reduced entry fees, inc. free Gallery Without Walls	No charge for entry into Members-only shows	No charge for entry into all shows (excl. markets)	Recognition in the Gallery	Appreciation Gift and Event
Artist											
Individual	\$ 60	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Dual (2 adults, same address)	\$ 90	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Family (2 adults, 4 children, same address)	\$ 110	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Senior (Age 62 and over)	\$ 45	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Student (Full-time status)	\$ 30	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Supporter											
Supporter	\$ 40		•	•	•						
Patron (Includes family membership)											
Silver (\$ 140 tax-deductible)	\$ 250		•	•	•	•	•			•	•
Gold (\$ 390 tax-deductible)	\$ 500		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Platinum (\$ 890 tax-deductible)	\$ 1,000		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Additional member benefits listed online