



Celebrating the Art of Making . . .

September 2026

The Well-Crafted Word

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

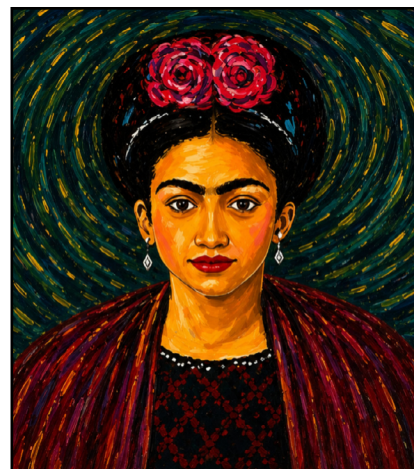
DelRayArtisans.org

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals Art Exhibition September 4 - 26

Exhibit Reception: Friday, September 4, 7-9pm

The *Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals* exhibition celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the rich culture, traditions, resilience, and artistic contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Through a diverse range of media and perspectives, the exhibit explores themes such as heritage, migration, family, cultural pride, and transformation. Each work contributes to a visual dialogue that connects past and present while highlighting the evolving narratives of Hispanic communities.

Cuban-American artist, F. Lennox Campello, will be selecting the artist awards for this exhibition. Mr. Campello is a well-known artist, curator, critic and prominent voice in the DMV art scene. Join us for the opening reception on Friday, September 4 between 7-9pm to meet curator Laura Ramirez-Drain and the exhibiting artists.



"Frida Kahlo: Guardian of Heritage"
by Laura Ramirez Drain

Volunteer in the Gardens

On Saturday, September 19 from 9-11am (and Saturday, October 17, 9-11am) give some TLC to Del Ray Artisans' gardens! Join the Gardens Committee to spruce up the landscaping around the gallery. Bring gloves, knee pads (if desired), and laughter. Even if you don't know what a weed is, we can teach you. Volunteer for 1 hour or the whole 2 hours. If you have any questions, please email Jenny at Gardens@DelRayArtisans.org.

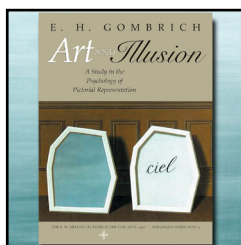
Creative Book Club

Saturday, October 10, 10am-12pm

"Art and Illusion: A Study in the Psychology of Pictorial Representation" by E. H. Gombrich

The club is free and open to all who are interested in keeping their creative muse flowing and connecting with other creative people.

Details at delrayartisans.org/programs/book-club/



HalloWEIRD Art Market

Come to the 5th annual HalloWEIRD outdoor art market on **Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 10am-4pm** to browse Halloween-inspired creations that are spooky, creepy, crawly, and goth. Maybe you like the upbeat, fun side of the season, like costumes, hot cider, hay rides, autumn colors. You can see art celebrating that too! The market offers diverse, original handcrafted artwork from talented local artists in a wide range of media, including ceramics, fiber, jewelry, mixed media, paper, photography, and more.



This is an outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event in the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields adjoining Del Ray Artisans gallery. The market is FREE to browse and open to the public.

Welcome New Members

Amy Cherrett	Sallie Hess	Jose Quinonez
Daniela Eckert	Amul Madan	Tracy White
Gary Hacker	Randy McCracken	Stephanie Willer

Colasanto Center Improvements

The City of Alexandria has replaced the roof and siding of the gallery and anticipates opening the Colasanto Spray Park soon. Read about the outdoor public art plans: alexandriava.gov/public-art/colasanto-spray-park-public-art

CALLS FOR ENTRY

Entry forms at DelRayArtisans.org/cfe

Del Ray Artisans' 2027 Wall Calendar

Open to Del Ray Artisans Members

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, September 9 by Midnight

Members: Submit your best work to the 14th annual Del Ray Artisans' wall calendar!

The Calendar Selection Committee will choose approximately 50-60 pieces of art from Del Ray Artisans members to be included in the 2027 Wall Calendar. This calendar is a fundraiser to benefit Del Ray Artisans, but also a fun way to show your support for our arts organization and share your talent with the community.



Carnival of Curiosities

Open to Area Artists

October 2-31

Entry Deadline: Thursday, September 10 by Midnight

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!

Holiday Market 2026

Open to Area Artists

December 4-20

Entry Deadline: Saturday, September 12 by Midnight

Applications for exhibitors in Del Ray Artisans' 31st annual Holiday Market are now open. Different artists from a variety of media categories will be selected for each weekend. Preference is given to Del Ray Artisans members.

The market will be the first three weekends of December (Dec 4-6, 11-13, and 18-20) and will be open each Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, and Sunday 11am-5pm.

Alcove Giftshop

Open to Del Ray Artisans Members

October 2-November 29

Entry Deadline: Monday, September 14 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.

The work will be displayed for two months, and as pieces are sold they can be replaced with similar work for no additional fee.

\$125 and Under

Open to Del Ray Artisans Members

November 6-29

Entry Deadline: Saturday, October 10 by Midnight

Del Ray Artisans invites members to submit their best work priced at \$125 or less for this popular cash-and-carry exhibit. All media and all themes are welcome. Plus this year there is no entry fee!

GALLERY WITHOUT WALLS

Details at DelRayArtisans.org/gww

Come see Del Ray Artisans art exhibits hosted outside our gallery.

Flora, Fauna, Fantastica at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital ends September 5

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.

Paws and Kinship at VCA Old Town Animal Hospital

The *Paws and Kinship* exhibit features 2D artwork by Del Ray Artisans members at VCA Old Town Animal Hospital.



This exhibit explores the emotional bond between ourselves and animals. VCA Old Town Animal Hospital is located at 425 N Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 and is open Monday-Friday 7:30am-7pm, Saturday 8am-3pm. Come see the exhibit June 8, 2026 through May 29, 2027 in the lobby and hallway.

"Opal" by Rod Whyte

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Register at DelRayArtisans.org/workshops



Layered Landscapes: Creating Place Through Paper Collage -

Saturday, September 5, 6-9pm

Learn foundational collage techniques and create a layered paper landscape inspired by nature, memory, or imagination. Beginner-friendly.

Instructor: Abby Huston; \$60 Del Ray Artisans member / \$70 Non-member; plus \$30 supply fee; Register ASAP.



Fairy Bookshelf - Wednesday, September 9, 7-9pm

Using a variety of materials, you'll create a unique 1:12 scale Fairy Bookshelf that can be a stand-alone art piece in your home or in a dollhouse.

Instructor: Mallory Rose Henig; \$30 Del Ray Artisans member / \$40 Non-member; plus \$15 supply fee; Register ASAP.



Create Your Own Piñata (Ages 12+) - Sunday, September 13, 10am-12pm

Learn the history and cultural importance of piñatas in Hispanic traditions while creating your own colorful mini piñata to take home. Choose to make a pig or a star piñata.

Instructor: Laura Ramirez-Drain; \$15 Child / \$25 Del Ray Artisans member / \$35 Non-member; plus \$5 supply fee; Register by September 9

Mirror & Clay Mosaic Art - Sunday, September 13, 6-8pm

Beginners and artists alike will be taken from a blank board to a polished varnished mosaic masterpiece. *Instructor: Khushi Bhansali; \$20 Del Ray Artisans member / \$30 Non-member; plus \$30 supply fee; Register by September 9*

Social Media for Artists - Wednesday, September 16, 6-9pm

Learn simple and effective ways to promote your artwork and creative business online. The class focuses on building confidence, improving visibility, and creating engaging content. *Instructor: Laura Ramirez Drain; \$60 Del Ray Artisans member / \$70 Non-member; Register by September 13*

Junk Journaling Workshop - Saturday, August 19, 10am-1pm

In this workshop, you'll learn practical techniques for collage, layering, and composition, and receive guidance on using found paper, packaging, tags, embellishments, and everyday "junk" to create layered, expressive journal pages. *Instructor: Azita R. Houshiar; \$40 Del Ray Artisans member / \$50 Non-member; plus a \$10 supply fee; Register by September 15.*

Bead & Wire Jewelry Workshop - Saturday, September 19, 6-8pm

Learn the basics of jewelry design, including types of wire, how to form metal, and assembling a wearable piece such as earrings and necklaces. *Instructor: Lisette Bez; \$60 Del Ray Artisans member / \$70 Non-member; plus \$15 supply fee; Register by September 16*

Flowers, Identity & Art: A Frida Kahlo-Inspired Headband (Ages 10+) -

Sunday, September 20, 6-8pm

Inspired by the iconic style and artistic spirit of Frida Kahlo, participants will create their own colorful floral headband while learning about Kahlo's influence on art, culture, identity, and self-expression. *Instructor: Laura Ramirez-Drain; \$15 Child / \$25 Del Ray Artisans member / \$35 Non-member; plus \$10 supply fee; Register by September 16*

Colors of Latin America: Hispanic Folk Art (Ages 12+) -

Wednesday, September 23, 6-8pm

Explore the vibrant colors, symbols, patterns, and traditions of Latin American folk art while creating your own small artwork inspired by them.

Instructor: Laura Ramirez-Drain; \$15 Child / \$25 Del Ray Artisans member / \$35 Non-member; plus \$6 supply fee; Register by September 19

Persian Mulberry Sweets: A No-Bake Confectionery Class -

Saturday, September 26, 10am-12pm

Learn how to make a classic Persian treat called Tut in this simple no-bake recipe. *Instructor: Azita R. Houshiar; \$40 Del Ray Artisans member / \$50 Non-member; plus \$10 supply fee; Register by September 22*

RECURRING PROGRAMS

DelRayArtisans.org/programs

Life Drawing

Gesture and Short Pose

September 10 & 22, 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.

Del Ray Urban Sketchers

Sunday, September 13, 1-3pm

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).

Partners in Art (RSVP)

Monday, September 14, 2-4pm &

Tuesday, September 15, 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.

Radical Sewing Club - ALX

Sunday, September 20, 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 stitch together a world based on care and solidarity.

Live From Your Studio (RSVP)

Sunday, September 20, 2-3:30pm

Join the online gathering where Del Ray Artisans members meet with each other from their art-making space. Make art and connections at the same time!

Nature Journaling Club

Saturday, September 29, 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 the gallery.

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 September 27)

Top row, l. to r.:
"Carl's Corner" - Rod Whyte;
"Shells at the Shore" - Diana Manchak;
"House, Car, Canoe" - Margaret
Guryan;
Bottom row, l:
"Changes" - Morgan Parr



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
- Kathryn Brown, Archives
Archives@DelRayArtisans.org
 - Christian Melgar, Communications
Communications@DelRayArtisans.org
 - Amy Kitchin Hower, Curating
Curating@DelRayArtisans.org
 - Kurt Peterson, Facilities
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 - (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

September 2026

- 4-26 **EXHIBIT: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals**
curator: Laura Ramirez-Drain
- 4 Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: Voices Through Visuals Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 5 Last day of Flora, Fauna, Fantastica Art Exhibit at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital
- 5 Layered Landscapes Paper Collage Workshop, 6-9pm
- 8 Board Meeting, online, 7-9pm
- 9 Fairy Bookshelf Workshop, 7-9pm
- 9 2027 Wall Calendar Call for Entry Deadline
- 10 Life Drawing Session, 7-9pm
- 10 Carnival of Curiosities entry deadline
- 12 **HalloWEIRD Art Market, 10am-4pm**
- 12 Holiday Market 2026 Applications Due
- 13 Create Your Own Piñata Workshop, 10am-12pm
- 13 Del Ray Urban Sketchers @ St. Elmo's, 1-3pm
- 13 Mirror & Clay Mosaic Workshop, 6-8pm
- 14 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 2-4pm
- 14 Alcove Gift Shop Call for Artists Deadline
- 15 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 7-9pm
- 16 Social Media for Artists Workshop, 6-9pm
- 19 Volunteer in the Gardens, 9-11am
- 19 Junk Journaling Workshop, 10am-1pm
- 19 Bead & Wire Jewelry Workshop, 6-8pm
- 20 Radical Sewing Club-ALX, 10am-12pm
- 20 Live From Your Studio, 2-3:30pm

More information at: DelRayArtisans.org/calendar

- 20 Frida Kahlo-Inspired Headband Workshop, 6-8pm
- 22 Life Drawing Session, 7-9pm
- 23 Hispanic Folk Art Workshop, 6-8pm
- 26 Nature Journaling Club, 10am-12pm
- 26 Persian Mulberry Sweets: A No-Bake Confectionery Class, 10am-12pm
- 27-30 Gallery Closed to the Public

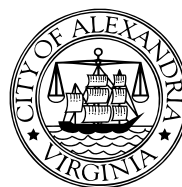
October 2026

- 2-31 **EXHIBIT: Carnival of Curiosities**
curators Tiara Safic-Martin and Morgan Parr
- 2 Carnival of Curiosities Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 3 **Art on the Avenue, 10am-6pm**
- 3 STEAM-tastic: Scratchboard Art during Art on the Avenue, 10am-3pm
- 5 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 2-4pm
- 5 Playing with Resin Workshop, 6-9pm
- 6 Life Drawing Session, 7-9pm
- 10 Creative Book Club, 10am-12pm
- 10 \$125 and Under Call for Entry Deadline
- 11 Girl Scout "Art and Design" Brownie Badge Workshop, 10am-12pm
- 11 Paws in the Park in Oronoco Bay Park, 11am-4pm
- 11 Del Ray Urban Sketchers @ St. Elmos, 1-3pm
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting, online 7-9pm
- 17 Volunteer in the Gardens, 9-11am
- 17 STEAM-tastic: DIY Masquerade Masks, 10am-12pm

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



Del Ray Artisans' Art Exhibitions are supported in part by the City of Alexandria's FY2027 Annual Arts Program. Special thanks to the City of Alexandria and Virginia Commission for the Arts for their continued support of Del Ray Artisans, a 501(c)(3) organization.



Celebrating the Art of Making

A 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote art for the benefit of artists and the community
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue • Alexandria, VA 22301 • 703-838-4827 • www.DelRayArtisans.org

2026 Exhibit Schedule

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

Updated 6/1/2026. 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

Curator: Suzan Ok 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.

New Date!

HalloWEIRD Art Market (Outdoors - Saturday, Sept 12, 10am-4pm)

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

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

Artist

- ☐ \$ 60 Individual
☐ \$ 90 Dual
☐ \$ 110 Family
☐ \$ 45 Senior
☐ \$ 30 Student

Supporter

- ☐ \$ 40

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:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Administrative | ☐ Gardening | ☐ Shows |
| ☐ Archives | ☐ Grants | ☐ Volunteers |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Newsletter | ☐ Website |
| ☐ Facilities | ☐ Outreach | ☐ Anything DRA needs |
| ☐ Financial | ☐ Programs | ☐ Other, special talents: _____ |
| ☐ Fundraising | ☐ 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

		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
Membership Categories		Cost	Membership Benefits								
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