



Celebrating the Art of Making . . .

October 2026

The Well-Crafted Word

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

DelRayArtisans.org

Carnival of Curiosities Art Exhibition October 2 - 31

Exhibit Reception: Friday, October 2, 7-9pm

Welcome one and all to the *Carnival of Curiosities* art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans where we'll explore all things carnival and circus related, from fun foods and silly games to quirky costumes, haunted attractions, terrifying oddities, and magical sleights of hand! Step right up! But beware, not everything is as it seems.

Join us for the opening reception on Friday, October 2 between 7-9pm to meet curators Tiara Safic-Martin and Morgan Parr and the exhibiting artists.

Also enjoy a masquerade evening at Del Ray Artisans on Friday, October 30 from 7-9pm for one last night among the curiosities. Masks required — the more elaborate, the better. We'll announce the People's Choice Award, raise a glass, and send the *Carnival of Curiosities* art exhibit off in style.



"Killer Clown Quartet" by Tiana Safic-Martin

Volunteer in the Gardens

Join us on Saturday, October 17 from 9-11am for the last Garden Committee gathering of 2026 to spruce up the landscaping around the gallery and prepare the beds for winter. Bring gloves, knee pads (if desired), and laughter. Volunteer for one or two hours. If you have any questions, please email Jenny at Gardens@DelRayArtisans.org.

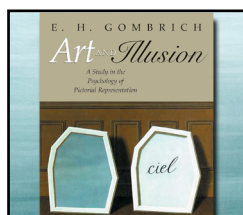


Creative Book Club

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/



Art on the Avenue

Saturday, October 3,
10am-6pm

Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating our community's diversity through the arts all along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. There will be entertainment for all ages, art activities, food, and 300+ artists displaying and selling their work. Be sure to visit the artwork booths of DRA members and our STEAM-tastic: Scratchboard Art activity in the Kids Art Corner. Directly in front of the gallery, Del Ray Artisans will be selling artwork and past exhibit banners made into tote bags to support our nonprofit organization. Art on the Avenue is sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association (Del Ray Artisans is a member). Details at delrayartisans.org/event/art-on-the-avenue-2026/



Welcome New Members

Miriam Cutelis	Miriam Messina-	Christopher Pelzer
Carolyn Dew	Gutierrez	Doree Robinson
Molly E. Kellam	Sarah Muse	

Colasanto Park Interactive Fountain

The City of Alexandria opened the interactive fountain (next to the gallery) on September 10. The fountain runs daily from 10am-8pm until mid-October, then shutdown until Memorial Day weekend. Park info: alexandriava.gov/parks/location/nicholas-a-colasanto-park

2026 Annual Member Meeting

Sunday, October 25, 6-8pm

All members are encouraged to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25 from 6-8pm at Del Ray Artisans gallery. We have a full agenda planned! Del Ray Artisans' President Dawn Wyse Hurto will speak about the organization; the membership will vote on the slate to elect the 2027 Board of Directors; and this will be your opportunity to hear information about all the exhibits and programs planned for 2027. More information to follow via email on the voting procedures.



From the Archives: Curating Director Amy Kitchen Hower addresses the membership at the 2024 Annual Meeting

Volunteer Opportunities

We need you! Del Ray Artisans is a volunteer-run organization, and Artist Level members are expected to contribute a minimum of 12 volunteer hours per year. Currently opportunities include:

- **10/3 - Art on the Avenue** - Volunteers to set up tents (8-9am), staff DRA's artwork booth (shifts: 11am-2pm and 5-7pm), assist in DRA's Kids Art Corner booth (shifts: 9:30am-12:30pm and 12:30-3:30pm), and gallery host (9am-12pm, 3-6pm)
- **10/17 - Spooky Mad Science Expo at Patrick Henry Recreation Center** - Volunteers to help set up (12-2:30pm) and support the kids activity booths (2:30-5pm and 5-7:30pm)
- **2027 Board: Treasurer** - Establish and track yearly budget, support grant reporting, and work with bookkeeper, accountant, and office manager to responsibly manage funds. (ASAP to join the slate)
- **2027 Board: Communications Director** - Proof and guide monthly newsletter and Weekly eNews email, issue press releases, place advertising, and approve other public-facing communications (ASAP to join the slate)
- **2027 Board: Volunteers Director** - Recruit, organize, and schedule volunteers; coordinate appreciation, recognition, and perks; maintain list with areas of interest (ASAP to join the slate)
- **Curating Support Team** - Seeking volunteers to support our 2027 curators with a variety of tasks, including postcard design, ABC licensing, hosting procedures, exhibition hanging, and more.
- **Garden Committee** - The committee meets the third Saturday of the month from March-October to work on the garden. Join us on 10/17, 9-11am
- **Grant Writing Committee** - Help craft proposals for general operating grants and seek out other funding opportunities. (Next deadline is early 2027)
- **Outdoor Markets Committee** - Help support the Spring Art Market (5/8) and HalloWEIRD (9/11) Art Market in 2027.
- **Programs Support Team** - Help instructors set up and support youth or adult workshops.
- **35th Anniversary Committee** - Help plan events and activities to celebrate this milestone in 2027!

For more info or to sign up, contact Morgan at volunteers@delrayartisans.org. Check delrayartisans.org/volunteer for new opportunities and complete the volunteers interest form so that the Volunteers Director can connect you with opportunities that match your interests.

Movie Nite

Saturday, October 24,
Goosebumps (starts 7:30pm)
and Something Wicked This Way Comes (starts 9:40pm)

Come to our movie marathon! Goosebumps is geared towards kids (but fun for adults too), while Something Wicked This Way Comes is more suited for adults only. Free; donations appreciated. Bring your own drink and popcorn, as well as a small something to share. Register to save your seat: movie-nite-2026-10.eventbrite.com



STEAM-tastic Activities @ the Spooky Mad Science Expo

Saturday, October 17, 3-7pm at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center

Explore the history and science of animation by making low-tech animation devices such as thaumatropes, flip books, and stop motion gifs at the Del Ray Artisans' activity booths at the Spooky Mad Science Expo! The activities are led by Steve Botts and Viki Walchak. Info at delrayartisans.org/spooky-mad-science-expo

Calendars to Benefit Del Ray Artisans Nonprofit

DRA's 2027 wall calendar featuring artwork by members is available for pre-order until October 10 at just \$18/calendar (regularly \$22 each). Shipping is \$8/order; pick up is free! Purchasers will be notified when the calendars arrive (between Oct 20 – Nov 15). Thank you to our calendar sponsors: Daniela Spigai - Realtor® / ADVISORY at Compass, Let's Meat on the Avenue, Los Tios Grill, Taqueria Poblano, The Zebra Press, and McD Mateos Community Partners! Plus thank you to all the artists. Order at delrayartisans.org/2027-calendar-preorder-deadline

Slate for the 2027 Board

The 2027 Board of Directors slate is in progress and will be emailed with the proxy voting procedures. If you are interested in running, contact nominations@delrayartisans.org ASAP. The election is at the Annual Meeting, and the one-year term runs January 1-December 31. Read about the positions: delrayartisans.org/positions

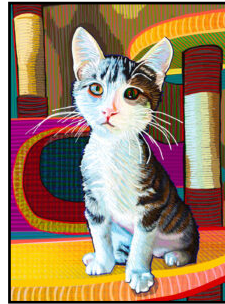
GALLERY WITHOUT WALLS

Details at DelRayArtisans.org/gww

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

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 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

For the Love of Virginia at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital

Join us for Del Ray Artisans' 29th art exhibit at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital. *For the Love of Virginia* opened on September 14, 2026 and runs through September 4, 2027 at VCA Alexandria (2660 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314). The exhibit features 2D artwork by Del Ray Artisans members in a variety of media and styles, from the traditional to the surreal, showcasing the beauty of Virginia from the Blue Ridge mountains to the beaches of the Eastern Shore; its rural areas and cities; and local flora and fauna. 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.



"Dangerfield Island Marina" by Victoria Barnes

Tranquil Nature at Alexandria Myotherapy

Alexandria Myotherapy, Inc. is our newest Gallery Without Walls partner. Come see the first exhibit, *Tranquil Nature*, featuring artwork by Del Ray Artisans members in their new location at 2850 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314. The exhibit runs August 20, 2026 through August 7, 2027. The massage therapy center is open Monday-Friday from 9am-7pm and Saturday-Sunday from 10am-6pm. Visitors must let the front desk know they are there to view the art exhibit.



"Orange Mountains" by Stephanie M Willer

CALLS FOR ENTRY

Entry forms at DelRayArtisans.org/cfe

\$125 and Under

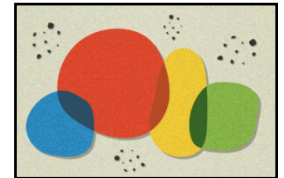
**Open to Del Ray Artisans Members
November 6-29**

**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!



"Study 18" by Dale Spivey

Blue

**Open to all area artists
January 8-30, 2027**

**Entry Deadline: Sunday,
December 13**

Explore the color BLUE. Blue should be the primary focus; black and white can be incorporated but no other colors. Call for entry coming soon.

Creative Card Swap (Ongoing)

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

Rolling Deadlines

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.

Details at delrayartisans.org/card-swap.



CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Register at DelRayArtisans.org/workshops



Intro to Block Printing (Age 12+) - Sunday, October 4, 10am-12pm

Participants will explore introductory printmaking, focusing on pattern-making, symbolism, and visual storytelling. You will leave with original prints and a deeper understanding of the printmaking process. *Instructor: Morgan Parr; \$15 Child / \$25 Del Ray Artisans member / \$35 Non-member; plus \$5 supply fee; Register ASAP.*



Playing with Resin - Monday, October 5, 6-9pm

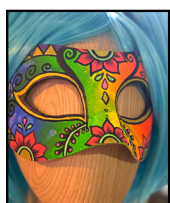
Learn the ins and outs of prepping for and mixing resin, and how to use it as an adhesive, a covering, or the main medium.

Instructor: Tracy Wilkerson; \$40 Del Ray Artisans member / \$50 Non-member; plus a \$10 supply fee; Register ASAP.



Girl Scout "Art and Design" Brownie Badge Workshop - Sunday, October 11, 10am-12pm

Brownies who attend this workshop will complete all of the steps needed for their Art and Design badge. All art supplies provided. The actual badge is not provided. *Instructor: Sandra Alami; \$30 Child; Register ASAP.*



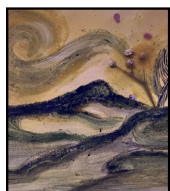
STEAM-tastic: DIY Masquerade Masks (Ages 8+) - Saturday, October 17, 10am-12pm

Decorate your own masquerade mask using supplies like mod podge and glitter, feathers, markers and more. *Instructor: Morgan Parr; \$20 Child / \$30 Del Ray Artisans member / \$40 Non-member; plus \$10 supply fee; Register by October 13*



Mindful Acrylic Pour: A Creative Practice in Letting Go - Sunday, October 18, 6-8pm

In this relaxing, hands-on workshop, participants will be introduced to mindfulness, meditation, & flow, then invited to experience mindfulness through the flowing art of acrylic pour painting. *Instructor: Yvette Trapani; \$45 Del Ray Artisans member / \$55 Non-member; plus \$20 supply fee; Register by October 14.*



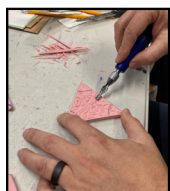
Painting With Natural Pigments - Sunday, October 25, 10am-12pm

Learn how to paint with nature, using pigments from spirulina and other natural resources that come from the ancient lake Texcoco. *Instructor: Alexandra Marshall; \$20 Del Ray Artisans member / \$30 Non-member; plus a \$5 supply fee; Register by October 21.*



Fairy Bookshelf (Ages 16+) - Wednesday, October 28, 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 by October 24.*



Linocuts & Block Print Greeting Cards - Monday, November 9, 7-9pm

Learn the technique of linocutting to create rubber stamps for block printing and make unique and personalized greeting cards. *Instructor: Mallory Rose Henig; \$45 Del Ray Artisans member / \$55 Non-member; Register by November 5.*

RECURRING PROGRAMS

DelRayArtisans.org/programs

Partners in Art (RSVP)

Monday, October 5, 2-4pm & Tuesday, October 20, 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

Tuesday, October 6 & 27, 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. Drop-in; all skill levels welcome.



Watercolor by Linda Lowery

Live From Your Studio (RSVP) Sunday, October 18, 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!

Radical Sewing Club - ALX Saturday, October 24, 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.

Nature Journaling Club Saturday, October 31, 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. This is the last session of the year.



Drawing of Bee Balm by Meredith D'Amore



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

Top row, l to r.:
"Blink of an Eye" - Walter Gordon;
"Bat Cat" - Guy Jones;
Bottom row, l to r.:
"A Light in the Dark" - Karen Feeley;
"Television Fanatics" - Gordon Thomas
Frank



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
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

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
- 4 Intro to Block Printing, 10am-12pm
- 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
- 18 Live From Your Studio, online. 2-3:30pm
- 20 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 7-9pm
- 24 Radical Sewing Club - ALX, 10am-12pm
- 24 STEAM-tastic Activities @ the Spooky Mad Science Expo, 3-7pm
- 24 Movie Nite, 7:30-11:59pm
- 25 Painting With Natural Pigments Workshop, 10am-12pm

More information at: DelRayArtisans.org/calendar

- 26 2026 Annual Member Meeting & 2027 Board of Directors Election, 6-8pm
- 27 Life Drawing Session, 7-9pm
- 28 Fairy Bookshelf Workshop, 7-9pm
- 31 Nature Journaling Club, 10am-12pm

November 2026

- 1-4 Gallery Closed to the Public
- 6-29 **EXHIBIT: \$125 and Under**
curators Dale Spivey and Liz Martinez
- 6 *\$125 and Under* Opening Reception, 7-9pm
- 8 Del Ray Urban Sketchers @ St. Elmo's, 1-3pm
- 8 Playing with Resin Workshop, 6-9pm
- 9 Partners in Art (RSVP in Advance), 2-4pm
- 9 Linocuts & Block Print Greeting Cards, 7-9pm
- 10 Board of Directors Meeting, online, 7-9pm
- 12 Life Drawing Session, 7-9pm
- 15 Live From Your Studio, online, 2-3:30pm
- 15 Mirror & Clay Mosaic Art Workshop, 6-8pm
- 17 Partners in Art Evening (RSVP in Advance), 7-9pm
- 21 Radical Sewing Club - ALX, 10am-12pm
- 24 Life Drawing Session, 7-9pm
- 25 Gallery Open, 12-6pm
- 26 Thanksgiving (Gallery Closed)

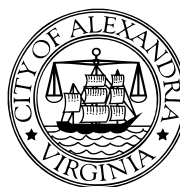
December 2026

- 1 Life Drawing, 7-9pm
- 4-20 **Holiday Market: open Fridays 6-9pm, Saturdays 9am-5pm, Sundays 11am-5pm**
- 15 Life Drawing, 7-9pm

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



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.



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