

DECEMBER 2020

ARTLINE

The newsletter of the RAL Art Center

The RAL Art Center's holiday cheer is on full display this year starting with the **Gallery Windows** featuring Cheryl Milhills' beautiful, Christmas-themed, punch needle pieces and Sue Ramsey's wintry scenes in watercolor, cold wax and oil. Doug Mock will host **two paint nights** where participants can create holiday cards in pen and ink and a watercolor wash. And new this year, the RAL Art Center is participating in **Lancaster By The Bay's Reverse Christmas Parade** during which all visitors will be treated to a fun display of member-created, holiday themed artwork. Be sure a visit to the RAL Art Center is on *your* holiday calendar!



The Holiday Shop Opens December 3rd

Filled with exciting RAL member-created art and craft ideas, the RAL Art Center's Holiday Shop has something for *everyone* on your gift list. You'll find budget-friendly (most items are under \$100!) ornaments, cards, jewelry, hanging art, creative glass designs, basketry, knitwear and more! The gallery will be open Thursdays through Saturdays from 10:00AM to 4:00PM and closes at 1:00PM on Christmas Eve. We are closed on the 25th. Don't forget to bring your mask and practice safe social distancing.

~ UPCOMING EXHIBITS ~

January 2021 Exhibit ~ You Be the Judge

RAL Art Center artists are creating their entries for one of the best shows of each year. Members and visitors get to choose the winner of this exhibit. The show opens January 7, 2021 and runs through January 30, 2021. Paintings in every medium, photography, pottery, glass, fiber art, sculpture and jewelry will be represented. But be forewarned...you'll have so many favorites it will be hard to choose just one winner!

Receiving: January 4, 2021 10AM to 12PM

Exhibit Dates: January 7 – January 30

February 2021 Exhibit ~ A Touch of Red

Cerise, crimson, claret, coral, ruby or vermillion, all are shades of red and the color most associated with the month of February. So it is fitting *A Touch of Red* is the theme for our February member's show. Choose your red and let it dominate your art or, subtly slip it in where least expected. Just make sure it's there!

Receiving: February 1, 2021 10AM to 12PM

Exhibit Dates: February 4 – February 27

March 2021 Exhibit ~ Monochromatic Madness

Turn on your creative spirit and enter your one-of-a-kind piece(s) in this exciting, first-time exhibition. Anything goes for your subject matter but your masterpiece must be executed using a monochromatic color palette. Monochrome art presents the viewer with one predominant color mood, aura, or statement. It can be a "true" monochrome dependent on a single steady tone or on subtle tonal variation. Will your creation be in black and white? Will it be in varying tones of ONLY one color? We are excited to see your entry!

Receiving: March 1, 2021 10AM to 12PM

Exhibit Dates: March 4 – March 27

EXHIBIT WINNERS



ABSTRACT was the subject for November's Exhibit. This show was judged by inspirational expressionist healing artist, Dorothy Fagan. Fagan is known for transforming trauma into strokes of color while on her inspirational healing journeys through art. She developed her unique ColorME energized palette during residences in France and Italy. She also fulfills the healing mission of her artistry through poetry, live interactive painting demonstrations of the healing creative process, and through private consultations.

Fagan commented that an opportunity to experience the world through color, texture, space and form awaits the viewers in the prize-winning artist's paintings at the RAL Art Center's Abstract Show.

Peering through lush translucent veils of magenta, green, and lavender, one discovers nuances of yellow painted by Michael Stevens in his FIRST PLACE show-stopping work called "#23." Fagan explained that this five foot painting feels confident, yet exploratory. Stevens treats us to a portal of the world within by inviting the viewer to dive deep within to find themselves in a warp and weft of ebb and flow.

A diptych by Laura Edwards took SECOND PLACE engaging us in "Conversation" (name of artwork) with back and forth bold strokes, strong contrasts, and crisp lines. Fagan said we feel the urge to dance with her up tempo orchestration of lights, blues, and earth tones. A small pastel by Mel Neale called "Golden Hour" received a THIRD PLACE begging to be larger than the confines of its frame. Expressive bold color and energetic calligraphy makes the viewer feel magically alive and vibrant. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Sammy Anderson for "Window View", Kathryn Murray for "No Absolutes", Sue Ramsey for "Hello Moon", and Lella Lee Edwards for "Fish."

RAL ART CENTER GALLERY WINDOW ARTISTS

"Winter and the Holidays" is the theme of December's RAL Art Center Gallery Windows. Featuring talented artists, Cheryl Mihills and Sue Ramsey, their beautiful work is certain to bring you joy this holiday season.

New this year, the RAL Art Center is participating in Lancaster By The Bay's *"Reverse Christmas Parade"* and our windows will feature special decorations created by our members.

Be sure to take a look!

Gallery Window Artist ~ Cheryl Mihills

Cheryl Mihills creates mini-masterpieces with her punch needle designs. This ancient craft dates back to the 15th century and was used in medieval Europe primarily for decorating



religious vestments, but was also used for adorning traditional folk costumes. On a larger scale it was used to make wool-punched rugs which resemble hooked rugs.

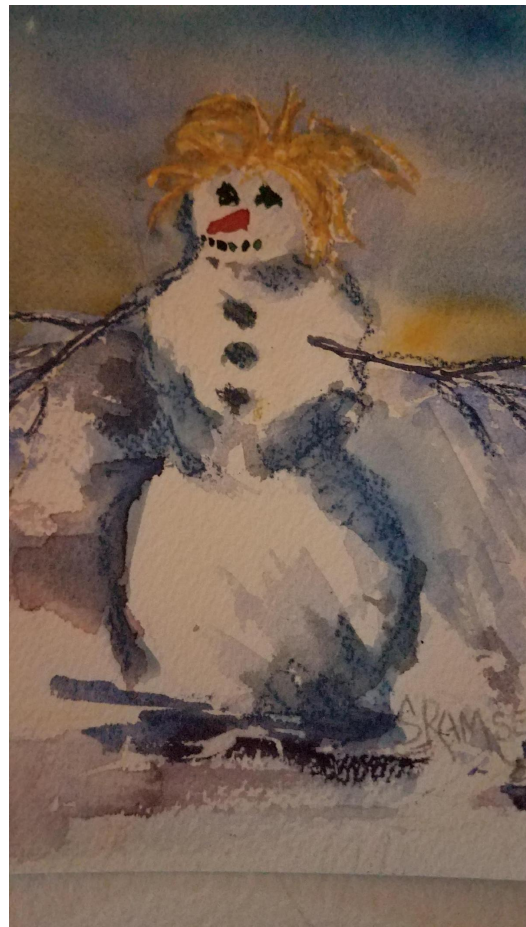
Cheryl has explored many creative art media since majoring in art and design at the Rochester Institute of Technology, but has focused on the punch needle fiber medium since discovering the technique over 40 years ago. Cheryl begins each new needlework with an idea and sometimes a sketch, and the artwork evolves as she continues to punch. It is like drawing and painting with the punch needle. Each original work is created with one strand of thread and a punch needle, using tiny loops and stitches on a fabric background. The punch needle pieces you will see in the Gallery

windows are about 3" x 3" and framed in a hand-painted, custom made frames. It takes many hours to complete just one square inch of these exquisite mini-masterpieces! Even so, Cheryl remains committed to this medium and is inspired to create new images and use new techniques. Her talent has earned her many awards as well as recognition as one of the top traditional craftsmen in the country by *Early American Life* magazine. Be sure to stop by and get up close to admire the artistry shown in each of these Christmas-themed gems.

Gallery Window Artist ~ Sue Ramsey

Artist Sue Ramsey is talented in many mediums from watercolors to acrylic, to cold wax and oil, as well as fiber arts – including knitting and felting. While majoring in elementary education in college she also studied art and experimented with various art and craft media. After ten years of teaching in the Richmond area, she opened a gift and accessory shop which she owned and managed for twenty years. Sue is now retired and lives in Sharps, on the banks of the Rappahannock River.

With an interest in photography and love of travel, when Sue began taking watercolor lessons she often painted the flowers of her garden and landscapes she'd photographed during her many trips. Those photos became much of her source material for her paintings. Sue has made many of her paintings into greeting and Christmas cards which are sold in the RAL Gallery and in shops in North Carolina. Come see some of Sue's variety of artistry in the Gallery Windows as she displays some wintry scenes done both in watercolor and the cold wax and oil technique.





Barbara Brecher is an award-winning fiber artist who has worked to develop a unique felting process that involves innovative dying and painting techniques. Her creative and wearable designs combine both silk and wool, displaying a lively range of vivid color and texture. Her creations include shawls and scarves, jackets, skirts, clutch purses, and even a stunning bride's dress that she exhibited in our recent Labor Day Art Show.

Laura Edwards has recently relocated to Irvington from Alexandria, VA, where for over 25 years she maintained a working artist studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Her abstract oil paintings are intuitive, having no concrete reference, but often evoke a familiar image. Her wet on wet technique produces images that are seamless fields of color. Laura's diptych "Conversation" took second place in the Art Center's November Abstract Show.

DECEMBER OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS

Open Studio

Instructor: Brenda Sylvia

December 2, 9, 16 Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Open to artists of all levels to work in any medium (except oils unless you are not using solvents with them). A still life will be set up, but you're welcome to bring your own objects or photographs to work from. Please bring your own materials and refreshments. Tabletop easels will be provided. RAL artist Brenda Sylvia will be monitoring, drawing, painting, and offering suggestions and encouragement. Come join us creating art in a fun, supportive environment.



Please register in advance!

RAL Members \$20/ Non-Members \$25 per evening

Maximum 6 students

DECEMBER PAINT NIGHTS

Holiday Cards *"Pen & Ink* *with Watercolor Washes"* *with instructor, Doug Mock*



Join Doug Mock for a night of creative holiday fun! Choose your night (or both if you'd like) and create up to 3 one-of-a-kind holiday cards using pen and ink with watercolor washes. Doug will have a variety of festive images from which to choose...from traditional holiday to fun nautical, there will even be something for the sailors and fishermen in class!

Be sure to invite your friends, family and neighbors to this fun event. The more the merrier as we prepare for the holiday season. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage(s) and snacks to make the evening even more special. ALL supplies are included.

Location: RAL Art Center Pike Studio Class Day: Thursday or Friday

Dates: December 3rd and 4th Class Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Ages: All ages welcome Tuition: Member \$30; Non-member price \$35

Classes will be held in the newly renovated Pike Studio...a great place to learn, grow and connect!

RAL Art Center Classes - 2021 Update



Since reopening in June, the RAL Art Center continues to focus on ensuring that class attendees, instructors and volunteers can appreciate the newly remodeled Pike Studio in a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment. It is encouraging to see the positive response to the implementation of best practices health cleaning guidelines, wearing face coverings, and practicing physical distancing to keep our community safe.

While the uncertainty of the pandemic has impacted potential instructors and students, Doug Mock has continued his watercolor series for previous students and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) has provided instructors for four successful classes. Brenda Sylvia's open studios, paint nights and the drawing group sessions have also returned this fall.

Due to the rapidly escalating COVID-19 metrics, availability of vaccines, holiday gatherings and possible restrictions on non-essential businesses demands, we will proceed cautiously with the 2021 class schedule. Understandably, instructors and students are reluctant to confirm in the current pandemic environment.

Moving forward, we will continue to communicate with potential 2021 instructors. The following classes are in the planning stage: three new VMFA sponsored classes, visiting artist instructors in oils and acrylics, and RAL Art Center artist instructors in jewelry, quilting, perspective, acrylics, watercolor and felting. We look forward to offering exciting new classes in 2021 and appreciate your suggestions. Please email cmihills@fiberarts.us with your suggestions for classes and instructors.

CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT OR REGISTER IN PERSON TODAY!

Coming this Month...A New RAL Art Center Website!

We are pleased to announce the RAL Art Center will complete its new website in December! You'll be able to reach us as you always have, at ralartcenter.com. The new site's focus is on our artists and their art, easy class sign-up (via an online form), membership renewals and new membership sign-up forms online, plus our RAL Art Center News. And remember...the Member Page can be accessed without any changes from our prior website.



This version 1 is the first step in this multi-phased project. Stay tuned for future enhancements.



RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

Serving our community through art

The RAL Art Center participated in the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce "Great Pumpkin" Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 31 at Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club. Thanks to the generosity of the River Counties Community Foundation, we assembled and distributed over 100 art kits to area kids, allowing them to be creative during this pandemic.

Thank you to our assembly team of Darryl Adams, Dale Coburn, Juli Schuszler, and Karen Williams, and our distribution team of Judy Ebner, Jones Felvey, Laurie and Scott McCord, and Karen Williams. We will continue to distribute art kits at the RAL Art Center on a monthly basis. If you are interested in participating, contact Karen Williams at larkarwilliams@gmail.com.

ART-4-KIDS

RAL Art Center
19 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock

1st Saturday of November & December
11 am to 3 pm

A **FREE** new kit will be available the 1st Saturday
of each month and will contain art supplies
and different projects each month

Age appropriate Art Projects for kids
from Pre-K to Grade 9



Visit RAL Art Center
and
pick up your
Art Kit!!

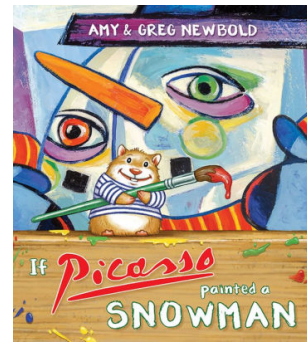
RAL Art Center thanks the River Counties
Community Foundation for providing the funds
for this project.



Snowmagedden Takes Over the RAL Art Center!

From crafters to quilters, from painters to mosaic artists, we unleashed our creative spirit and had fun! RAL artists broke out the felt, glitter, glue, paint, fabric, you name it, and created fun and colorful snowmen. These creations are a part of the Chamber of Commerce's window contest called "Reverse Christmas Parade". Merchants on Main Street have decorated their windows and prizes will be

awarded the week of December 6th. You'll find snowmen in the RAL Art Center Window and displayed throughout the Gallery. Inspired by the children's book *Picasso Painted a Snowman* our artists' creativity knows no bounds!



OUR MISSION

The mission of the RAL Art Center is to organize, sponsor and encourage educational and cultural activities in the visual arts and crafts. The RAL Art Center's activities are focused on the lower Northern Neck and Lower Middle Peninsula of Virginia. It is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. The RAL Art Center is a community partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is partially supported by grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the River Counties Community Foundation.

Officers 2020-2021

President: Barbara Kershner, **Vice President:** Julie Austin,
Secretary: CarolAnne Taylor, **Treasurer:** Chelle Lewis



Executive Director: Doug Mock

Customer Care Manager: Dale Coburn

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