

JANUARY 2021

# ARTLINE

The newsletter of the RAL Art Center

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The RAL Art Center kicks off the new year (hooray!) with one of its most popular exhibits – ***You Be the Judge*** – where our members and visitors get to choose the winner! This year, January's **Gallery Windows** will be doing double duty and feature artist **Barbara Kershner's watercolors**, including some beautiful winter scenes, as well as a **collection of snowmen** from **Snowmagedden 2020**. **Looking for something creative and fun to do?** January is a great month to join friends and fellow artists for **Open Studio Nights** (every Wednesday night!) with instructor and RAL artist, Brenda Sylvia.



## 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

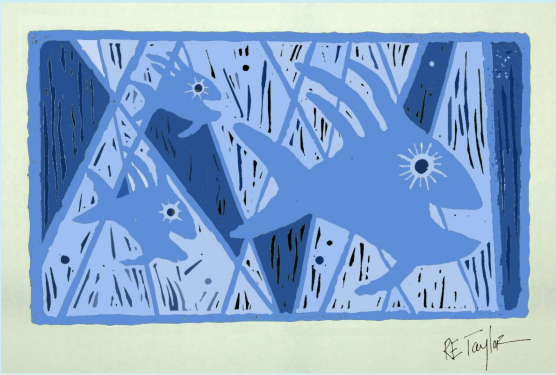
### February 2021 Exhibit ~ *A Touch of Red*

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

### April 2021 Exhibit ~ *Bloomin' Art*

Waiting for Spring is an annual ritual and RAL Art Center's Spring Show, *Bloomin' Art*, featuring gardens, plants and flowers is a Northern Neck tradition. Our artists create their visions of Spring – a garden coming to life; a flower starting to bloom; a landscape or water scene enhanced by nature's revival.

Mark your calendars now and join us for this uplifting exhibit!

**Receiving:** March 29, 2021 10AM to 12PM

**Exhibit Dates:** April 1 – May 1



## ~ SNOWMAGEDDON 2021 ~

Visit RAL Art Center during January to see the Snowmen and women created by our imaginative artists. Based on the children's book, *If Picasso Painted a Snowman*, our membership was invited to create a snowman of their own. Staged in the Art Center Gallery & featured in December and January Windows, participants and their inspiration are:

Kay Vincent – fiber art wall hanging imagined and created by Kay

Kay & Doug Mock – a ballerina inspired by Edgar Degas

Karen Williams – a French snowman inspired by Pablo Picasso

The Coburn Family – a snowgirl inspired by Sandro Botticelli's "Birth of Venus"

Carol Vaughn – a snowman mobile inspired by Alexander Calder

Christine Mason – a snowwoman inspired by Frida Kahlo

Ray & Kathy Dozois – a snowman inspired by Rene Magritte

Ron Taylor – a stylized snowman inspired by his wonderful imagination

Tuesday Watercolor Class – a snowman inspired by their instructor, Doug Mock



Candace Franco – a snowman inspired by Pierre Soulages  
Cate Kauffman – a snowman inspired by COVID & her new puppy

Art by Maggie Gilman

## January Gallery Windows

*Snowmageddon and Barbara Kershner*

By Ellen Huddy

The RAL Art Center Gallery Windows will have a split personality this month as we feature our window artist of the month and also the Gallery's "Snowmageddon" snowman competition.

"Snowmageddon" is the RAL Art Center's challenge to their member artists to create a snowman, or woman, in the style of a famous artist. How would Picasso interpret a snowman? Or Van Gogh, or Monet? There is a collection of amazing sculptures of different snowmen featured in the Gallery Windows as well as inside around the Gallery. Among them you can spot Botticelli's, "The Birth of Venus", a snow-woman created by Dale Coburn, one of RAL's managers, and her family. This creative sculpture was inspired by Dale, with her husband engineering the structure, the arms and hand-carved facial parts; assembled by Dale and her daughters. There is also a wire and metal mobile of a snowman, created by Carol Vaughn, which she fashioned in the style of Alexander Calder, who is known for his original wire and metal sculptures that balance and move in space. And not unexpectedly, we have the COVID snowman, by Cate Kauffman, who is wearing his medical mask! The variety of these sculptures is surprising and sure to intrigue.

Barbara Kershner will be the featured artist in the other Gallery Window. An accomplished watercolorist, her style includes both realistic and impressionist elements, fine detail as well as loose brushwork. Barbara works almost exclusively from her own photographs, from which she takes and combines elements from several views of a subject to create a painting that expresses her own vision.



Barbara's display will include some snow scenes, in which she has included images from her camera, but also additions, to depict her grandchildren playing in the snow; her driveway through a snowy forest with the ever present deer looking on; a pine forest in a mountain snowstorm.

Barbara is a retired teacher and the current president of the RAL Art Center's Board of Directors. Although a life-long lover and dabbler in art, she began painting seriously when she joined the RAL Art Center in 2004. At first self-taught, she has since studied with excellent watercolor instructors through the many Art Center workshops. Barbara is a regular exhibitor in the Gallery, and over the years she has received numerous awards for her paintings.

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## JANUARY OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS

Open Studio at RAL Art Center, Pike  
Studio

*Instructor: Brenda Sylvia*  
*January 6,13,20,27 Wednesdays, 6:00pm - 8:30pm*

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 from which to work. 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**

## 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.

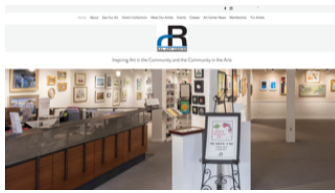
Moving forward, we will continue to communicate with potential 2021 instructors. The following classes are in the planning stage: three new VMFA sponsored classes, visiting artist instructors in oils and acrylics, and RAL Art Center artist instructors in jewelry, quilting, perspective, acrylics, watercolor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

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**Coming Soon... The New RAL Art Center Website**

RAL Art Center's new website will be ready soon. We'll send an ArtMail when it





has officially launched. Please check out our beautiful new site at [ralartcenter.com](http://ralartcenter.com).

## RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

*Serving our community through art*

# ART-4-KIDS

RAL Art Center  
19 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock

**1st Saturday 11 am to 3 pm**

A 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.



Visit the RAL Art Center on Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup> to pick up your FREE Art Kit!



### 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 2021

President: Barbara Kershner, Vice President: Julie Austin,  
Treasurer: Deirdra McLaughlin, Secretary: CarolAnne Taylor



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