

MAY 2021

# ARTLINE

The newsletter of the RAL Art Center

Nature's beauty is in full bloom on the Northern Neck and the RAL Art Center is no exception! Be sure to visit the gallery to admire (or create!) expressive, colorful and imaginative artwork. Start your visit with a look-see of the **Gallery Windows, featuring pastels by artist Mel Neale and Sarah Soderlund's work in acrylics and collage.** Inside you'll enjoy the popular **Still Life Exhibition** featuring artistic arrangements of inanimate objects. Ready to create yourself? **Join a class** and learn to paint your furry friend, make beautiful silk paper or scarves, paint like an Impressionist and more! Looking for a place to create AND have lots of fun? **Every Wednesday in May is Open Studio with Brenda Sylvia** so sign up today. And don't forget, **tickets are available for The Great Art Heist! Buy before May 6th** and you'll be automatically **entered into the new Early Bird Raffle!**

**NOTE: RAL Art Center will open in May from Wednesday – Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm and starting in June, Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm.**

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS



### May 2021 Exhibit – *Still Life*

A Still Life is an artwork depicting inanimate objects, either natural or manmade, in an artistic arrangement. Objects can be very personal to the artist, or they might be of a universal theme, with flowers in vases or fruit and vegetables.

For this month's show, try adding drama to your setups with strong lighting or background treatments, or mystery with unusual relationships among your objects. Or you might go cubist or surreal, or traditional if you wish--anything goes, as long as your subject is "Still Life."

**Receiving:** Monday, May 3 – 10AM to 12PM

**Exhibit Dates:** Wednesday, May 5 – Saturday, May 29

*Pastel by Mel Neale*

### June 2021 Exhibit – *The Great Art Heist is in Full Swing*

Fantastic works of art have been donated and many more are on the way! Ticket sales are strong with much excitement in the air about the chance of winning our first-ever Early Bird Raffle. And the Silent Auction is being organized and will include new and exciting items! We know everyone will find at least one auction item that they **MUST** have.

We are excited for the event and look forward to seeing you on June 26, 2021 at 4:00 pm for the RAL Great Art Heist! As a reminder, tickets cost \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members and will be on sale thru Saturday, June 26.

**The Heist Exhibit dates are Tuesday, June 1 thru Saturday, June 26.**

Please be sure to watch your email closely for any changes in logistics that might occur for the Heist as they relate to CDC/VDH Covid guidelines.

**To purchase or reserve your ticket call the RAL Art Center at 804.436.9309, visit the gallery, or send an email to [events@ralartcenter.com](mailto:events@ralartcenter.com).**





## July 2021 Exhibit – *Small Works*

July 2021 promises to be an exciting month in the Stouffer Exhibit Room as RAL unveils its *Small Works Exhibit*! This popular show is an art lovers' favorite for gift-giving and the small spaces in your home. The exhibit is comprised of original "small works" of art that are NO LARGER than 144 square inches (including mat and frame). For 3-dimensional entries the work should be less than 144 square inches when multiplying the two longest sides.

**Receiving:** Monday, June 28 – 10AM to 12PM

**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, June 29 – Saturday, July 31

*Art by Cheryl Mihills*

## FIRST EVER Virginia Watercolor Society Regional Member Show – July 2021 Exhibit

RAL Art Center is excited to host the VWS Middle Peninsula Regional Artists for the "Summer of Color" exhibit in partnership with Gloucester Arts on Main in Gloucester, Virginia and the Bay School Community Art Center in Mathews, Virginia.

RAL looks forward to exhibiting work in the following subject matter: **Still Life and Portraits & Figures**. VWS regional artists can enter up to 2 pieces in this curated show.

VWS regional artists can enter up to 2 pieces in each curated show. Deadline for verbal commitment is May 1 with an electronic submission of art deadline of May 29. The show will hang from July 1 thru July 29.

*Painting by Doug Mock*



## August 2021 Exhibition – *Call of the Wild*

The RAL Art Center is **wild** for art! This first-ever exhibit is open to RAL members who are inspired by the animal kingdom – local, regional and worldwide. Let your imagination run free as you plan for and execute your work in any medium. Fur, feathers, fins and more, we hope to see them all. From domestic pets, birds of the rainforest, creatures from the Serengeti, bring us your best! This exhibit is sure to be a hit with visitors of every age.

**Receiving:** Monday, August 2 – 10AM to 12PM

**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, August 3 – Saturday, August 28

*Painting by Don Presnell*

## *Bloomin' Art Exhibit Winners*



Judges Jane Denton and Cathie Elliott with First Place Winner "Southern Belle" by Linda Goldstein

Two judges had the task of picking the best flowers in the RAL Art Center April exhibit. Jane Denton, a member of the Kilmarnock Garden Club and Master Flower Show Judge, and Cathie Elliott, a member of the Rappahannock Garden Club and an accredited judge, together judged *Bloomin' Art*. Jane and Cathie commented that the talent, creativity and quality of this show was outstanding, and that every piece was a winner in some way.

The judges awarded first place to "Southern Belle," a watercolor by Linda Goldstein. Second place went to Mel Neale for her pastel, "Iris Glow". Third place was given to Karen Kingsley for her mixed media, "Color Up."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the following:

"Camellia Reticulata," watercolor by Doug Mock  
"First Spring," fused glass by Lynn Savarese  
"Spring Wrap," wool and silk felted by Barbara Brecher  
"Summer View," punch needle by Cheryl Mihills  
"Little Lady," acrylic by Ron Taylor  
"Azalea Summer," watercolor by Janice Manyak  
"Lovely Lily," photograph by CarolAnne Taylor  
"Magnolia Blossom," oil by Dave Hershiser

**Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to the participating artists  
for sharing their creativity with our patrons!**

## RAL MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### **RAL Art Center Membership** *Your Place... Your Passion... Your Friends*

The new RAL membership program is in full swing providing great options for everyone! The program offers a variety of levels with valuable benefits. Most importantly it gives RAL the opportunity to grow financially, giving us the ability to expand programs and events that are most valuable to our members and our community.

Whether you are a cooperative artist, an art lover, or a student artist who loves learning and participating in classes, this new program has something unique and special for everyone. As your membership approaches expiration, or if you are considering joining RAL for the very first time, please evaluate the new membership options and choose the one that best delivers the savings and benefits that are most valuable to you.

To learn more about the new RAL Art Center membership program please click [here](#). If you have questions or would like additional information please email [customer@ralartcenter.com](mailto:customer@ralartcenter.com) or call us directly at 804-436-9309.

### **New Member Orientation**

We are excited to announce that the RAL Art Center will once again begin its very popular and important New Member Orientation. These events will happen twice a year and will be open to any new members who have joined RAL in the previous six months.

Our next orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 from 12:00pm – 1:30pm. All those who joined the RAL Art Center on or after January 1, 2021 are invited to attend. We are so excited to share more about our 72-year-old organization, introduce you to some of our Board Members and Team Leaders, and give you a quick snapshot of the exciting things happening today and into the future for RAL. We will be serving a COVID-safe luncheon, observing all CDC/VDH guidelines as they relate to food service and safe gathering.

**We look forward to seeing you and celebrating RAL  
with all of our new members!**

## The May RAL Gallery Windows

by Ellen Huddy



The RAL Art Center Gallery windows will feature two very talented and diverse artists for the month of May. **Mel Neale** is a prolific artist who works in a variety of media including watercolor and pastels. The pieces she has displayed in the windows this month are done in soft pastels, although with their bold strokes of color you could mistake them for paintings. Her style incorporates realistic details but can also have a delightful impressionistic feeling as well. Mel's painting titled "**Blue Plated Persimmon**" is eye-catching with its bright colors and unusual perspective looking down at a plate of beautiful orange persimmons. Her other pieces on display in the windows are also Still Life paintings to go along with the theme of the May Member's show inside the Gallery.

**Sarah Soderlund**, our 2nd featured artist for May, works in acrylics and collage and is an abstract artist. Her paintings are inspired more by 'feeling' than by subject. Sarah first began painting much more realistic subject matter in watercolors but then was drawn towards the greater freedom of expression that an abstract work offers. Abstract painting requires the skillful use of color and line to create an interesting and compelling composition. The title of one of Sarah's displayed paintings is "**Just Wondering**", which leads the viewer to consider what that painting means to them. Stop by the Gallery Windows and discover what feeling *you* see in her paintings, something that may be uniquely yours!

The May RAL Art Center Windows offer a wonderful contrast between the works of two very different, very creative artists.

## Upcoming Art Classes



**EXPERIMENTAL PAINTING:**  
**Instructor: Kendra Wadsworth**  
**CLASS: Friday, April 30 | 10am – 4pm**

Participants will work with a variety of tools and techniques to create mini compositions from a variety of acrylic painting mediums and construction materials.

**Materials Included:** Acrylic paint, joint compound, glue, heavy gel medium, isopropyl alcohol, sand/pumice.

**Students Provide:** Art support material such as canvas panels and cardboard.

**Fee:** \$65  
**Maximum:** 8 Students



**PET PORTRAITS:**  
**Instructor: Kendra Wadsworth**  
**CLASS: Friday, May 28 | 10am – 4pm**

A drawing and painting class where participants will work from photographs of their own furry friends to create drawings and a large-scale acrylic painting.

Students will exercise contour and shading techniques on a smaller scale and then move on to color mixing and painterly texture techniques to create a large-scale portrait of their furry friends.

**All Materials Included**

**Fee:** \$65  
**Maximum:** 8 Students

*These programs have been organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
and are supported by the Paul Mellon Endowment and the Jean Stafford Camp Memorial Fund.*

## "Broken Color – Painting Like the Impressionists!"

All Mediums – Intermediate Level

**Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger**  
**2-Day Workshop**  
**Wednesdays, May 5 & May 19**  
**10am – 3pm**





Working with exaggerated brushwork, palette knives and scrapers suited to the painters' choice of medium Kathleen will focus on using both soft and bold broken color to paint in the impressionist style. Artists will work in their usual medium of watercolor, oil or acrylic.

This is not a "how-to" beginner class for each medium. Kathleen's demos will be in watercolor and oil/cold wax medium and show how an artist's paintings in one medium can inspire creativity in another. Using sound practices in color theory and composition, this workshop is designed to push painters toward new techniques for exciting results!

**Supplies:** Artists should bring their preferred supplies for their chosen medium plus sketching materials. Bring or

buy your lunch.

**Questions:** Please email Kathleen at [noffsingerart@gmail.com](mailto:noffsingerart@gmail.com)

**Members \$145 / Non-Members \$155**

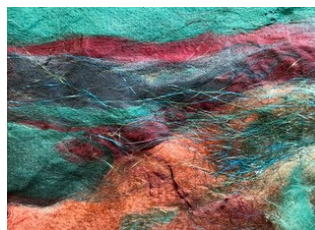
**Maximum: 8 Students**

### **SILK PAPER**

**Instructor: Barbara Brecher**

**Class: Saturday, May 15 or June 19  
10am – 12pm**

In this class, students will make silk paper using silk and wool. This is a simple process, much like felting, but without the rubbing and rolling! The easy step-by-step instructions enables anyone to make a beautiful piece of paper. All materials will be available at the workshop. Feel free to bring thread, leaves or other light flat materials to incorporate in your paper.



During the two-hour class, students will make two pieces of paper and mold a small bowl. This is a simple but messy process, so please dress appropriately. The work will remain wet when you take it home, so bring a couple of large plastic bags to keep your paper safe and your car clean!

**Materials Fee: \$15** – Payable to instructor

**Members \$50/ Non-members \$65**

**Maximum: 8 Students**



### **SUMPTUOUS SILK SCARF**

**Instructor: Lynette Reed**

**Class: Saturday, May 22 | 10am – 12pm**

Learn the magical process of dyeing silk in a **microwave oven!** Students will select their dye, steam their scarf and choose fabric paint or Paintstiks to add a surface design.

**Materials:** All materials will be supplied.

**Students:** Bring disposable gloves.

**Members \$85 / Non-members \$95**

**Maximum: 8 Students**

### **CREATING STRONG COMPOSITION & DESIGN**

**Instructor: Robin Caspari**

**Class Dates: Thursday & Friday, June 17 and 18 | 10am–4pm**

A strong composition is the foundation of every great painting. In this 2-day workshop you will dive into the principles and elements of design and learn simple methods to achieve a strong composition in our paintings. Enjoy a live demonstration every day, clear guidance, and a "game changer" gift from Robin.



Please join us with an open mind and a positive attitude! Oil preferred, but acrylic, pastel and watercolor welcome.

**Member \$260/Non-members \$280**

**All classes will be held in the newly renovated Pike Studio...**  
*a great place to learn, grow and connect.*  
**COVID-19 restrictions apply**

### Open Studio with Brenda Sylvia



**Instructor: Brenda Sylvia**  
**Wednesdays – May 5, 12, 19, 26**  
**6pm – 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 for working from life and you are welcome to bring your own objects or photographs to work from. Tabletop easels will be

provided. Brenda will be available for instruction, encouragement, and demonstrations. Please bring your own materials and refreshments.

Come join us to have fun with your art in a nourishing, supportive environment. **Please sign up in advance – restricted to 8 artists per session.**

**Supplies:** Bring your own materials.

**Members \$20 per night / Non-Members \$25 per night**  
**Maximum: 8 Students**

### RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

*Serving our community through art*



#### **RAL Creates with Irvington Baptist Church Youth**

RAL Executive Director and volunteers spent an evening creating with a fun and energetic group of youth from the Irvington Baptist Church as part of their Wednesday evening special events.

Twenty-five children ages 4 thru 18 completed a unique and one-of-a-kind Easter card using pen and ink with watercolor

washes. Hazel Farmer, Youth Coordinator stated, "I was so excited to see how engaged all of the children were during the two-hour class. We would love to have the RAL team return anytime to work with our youth."

Doug Mock, Executive Director, was thrilled to be part of this event and looks forward to doing more of this in the future. He states, "If anyone in the community would like to partner with RAL and our Youth Team, please feel free to call us to schedule a day, time and choose an activity."

RAL is in the process of developing a formal and far-reaching youth program with plans to conduct classes and events both in the Pike Studio as well as taking classes "on the road" to reach as many children as possible.

If you want to be a part of this fulfilling effort to bring art to our community please call 804.436.9309, or email [executivedirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:executivedirector@ralartcenter.com).



**Visit the RAL Art Center on the First Saturday of Each Month  
to Pick Up Your FREE Art Kit!**

***This month's pick up is Saturday, May 1st from 11am – 3pm  
at RAL Art Center.***



#### 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



**Executive Director: Doug Mock**

**Customer Care Manager: Dale Coburn**

[ral@ralartcenter.com](mailto:ral@ralartcenter.com)

[www.ralartcenter.com](http://www.ralartcenter.com)

**Wednesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm**

**Phone: 804.436.9309**



RAL Art Center | 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482-8501

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