

MAY 2022



The **Great Art Heist** tickets are going fast (only one-half remain) so get yours **TODAY!**

This May we are offering many new **classes and workshops**. Signup now and learn how to make a **painted fabric messenger bag**, enjoy **plein air painting** along the banks of the beautiful **Rappahannock River**, or make jewelry from **Art Clay Silver!**

Please visit the gallery and see the work of **May's Gallery Window Artists Maggie Gilman and Brenda Sylvia** and enjoy our **Some Kind of Wonderful** exhibit.

"We would take the ribbons in hand, extend them straight like spokes on a wheel, and parade in a circle, earths of humanity orbiting our maypole sun."
From the *Saturday Evening Post*

Upcoming Events

Art in Transit Exhibit Opens with Great Success

The 2nd Annual Art in Transit exhibit and competition opened on April 20th with **40 beautiful entries** covering a variety of media and subject matter. Artwork from as far as Richmond are included in this beautiful show.

"We were so excited to see the increase in entries for 2022 and could not be happier with the quality and depth of work," stated Doug Mock, RAL Executive Director.

This year, with the incredible help of Mike Norvell the Bay Transit Marketing and Public Relations Director, we received significant exposure and financial sponsorships from across the region.

Mark your calendars for the 2022 Art in Transit award celebration being held Friday, May 20th from 5 to 7pm. During this night, we will honor our sponsors, celebrate the artists who created for this exhibit, announce the 2022 winners and see the winning artwork displayed on the side of a Bay Transit bus.

Please visit the gallery during our business hours, Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm and see all of the beautiful artwork on display.



Preparations for the 15th Annual Great Art Heist are Underway!



Preparations for the 15th annual Great Art Heist is in full swing and we are looking forward to a fantastic evening of fine art, exquisite food and, as always, great fun.

This year we are only selling 100 participant tickets. As of April 30th we have sold half of those tickets. Please buy your ticket as soon as possible to insure you are able to join in the fun. Everyone holding a participant ticket is guaranteed to go home that evening with a fine piece of art.

The Heist Reception will be held on Saturday, June 25th from 4 – 5pm, participants will have one last chance to view all of the artwork available and finalize their “wish list.” At 5pm RAL will auction off to the highest bidder the 1st pick of the art of their choice. Following this auction we will begin the lottery-style drawing of tickets. When your ticket is drawn and your name is called, you will then choose the piece of art that is highest on your wish list.

New this year, if your name is drawn late in the lottery and there is no remaining artwork to your liking, we will gladly provide you with a donation form for tax purposes. Also new, we will be selling tickets to guests to enjoy the open bar and dinner buffet.

The artwork for the Great Art Heist will be on display in the RAL Exhibit Room from June 1 thru June 25th. RAL will have “wish lists” available for the entire month so you can prepare yours early. Proxy voters will be available the night of the Heist for all participant ticket holders who are not able to be present for the event.

Purchase your participant or guest ticket(s) by visiting the gallery, calling us at 804-436-9309 or visiting our website at www.ralartcenter.com.

Come join the fun! Tickets will sell out so reserve yours today!

THE GREAT ART HEIST STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Dear Artists, Members & Friends ~

For those of you who have already delivered or committed to donating art for the Great Art Heist we send our *sincere thanks!* Without your help our largest fundraiser would not be possible.

BUT WE STILL NEED HELP...we are ONLY half-way to our goal! Please support the Great Art Heist by donating a piece of original art: either your own or one from your personal collection. Works can include any of the following: painting, photography, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fiber, basketry, needlework, furniture, etc. Donated art must be valued at or above \$175. If your contribution is a painting or photograph, it must be framed. Any work going on a wall must meet the RAL Art Center standards for exhibition with wire (no sawtooth) hangers.



The deadline for delivery of your donation(s) to the RAL Art Center is NO LATER than May 20, 2022. You can donate before this date if necessary.

If you are able to donate, please contact Christine Mason, The Great Art Heist Chair, by email at ralartheist@gmail.com or by calling her directly at 804-577-7757. Thank you in advance for supporting the RAL Art Center and this fast-paced and exciting fundraiser!



Announcing... RAL's First Artist Commission Raffle!

Three notable RAL artists to participate in first-ever commission art raffle

RAL is excited to announce that **Brenda Sylvia, Carol Vaughn and Doug Mock** have generously agreed to offer commission paintings in the form of a raffle which will be conducted in conjunction with the Great Art Heist.



Brenda Sylvia will raffle a **landscape painting**, Carol Vaughn will raffle a **boat/vessel painting** and Doug Mock will raffle a **portrait (human or pet) painting**.

Tickets will go on sale May 1st and will continue to be on sale thru the month of June with the winners being drawn the night of the Heist. Tickets are priced at one for \$25 and five for \$100. The value of these commissions is \$1,800.

More details can be found on the RAL website or by visiting the gallery. Tickets can be purchased at RAL. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.



Visiting Artist ~Tami Topalu~

Tami Topalu has a knack for touching on personal moments in life with her work and being a great storyteller. From lovable animals to memorable landmarks, her watercolors offer a variety of subject matter done with a deft, light touch that feels warm and welcoming.

Topalu continues to enrich her talent by taking art workshops in Ireland, Italy, and Nova Scotia – which has resulted in her work finding a home on multiple continents.

“I find painting and drawing to be a meditative process...it’s cathartic and relaxing. I hope that the images I put on display bring that kind of release for those who choose to put my art in their homes. I hope that the viewer is able to create their own informative and personal story as they experience my work.”

Tami’s art will be exhibited at the RAL Art Center during the month of May. Please join her during first Friday on May 6 from 5 – 7pm.

OUR NEWEST CO-OP ARTIST ~Robert J. Schuler~



Robert J. Schuler is the most recent addition to our family of co-op artists. He has painted in acrylics, oils, and watercolors for over 40 years, but for 30 years has focused on watercolors. Favorite subjects are Watermen, their workboats, and the rural environment and landscapes of which they’re a part.

Bob loves painting the funky, the crooked, and the rusty, painting in a realistic style with great attention to detail. He also enjoys painting portraits of cherished homes and beloved pets.

Welcome, Bob!

Tonging for Oysters by Robert Schuler

Paint Night, Try It Tuesday and Classes

For more information, including, if applicable, supply lists, go to:

www.ralartcenter.com/classofferings or call

804.436.9309



ADULT PAINT NIGHT

May Flowers

Date: Thursday, May 26

Time: 6 to 8pm

Artist/Instructor: Juli Schuszler

Join us for an evening of fun painting a whimsical still life. This class will be completed using acrylic paint on an 11" x 14" stretched canvas. Create an expressive painting of shiny rain boots filled with tulips.

All levels of experience are welcome, from beginner to experienced. You will receive step-by-step instruction, printed directions, and a reference image. Special instruction will be available to those needing help mixing shades and tones. Feel free to bring your favorite beverages and snacks to make the evening even more special. Bring a friend, neighbor, relative, or spouse for this fun and engaging class.

All art supplies will be included.
Class size limit 10 plus instructor.

Register online at
www.ralartcenter.com/paintnight or by
calling 804-436-9309.

Member fee: \$35
Non-member fee: \$40



TRY IT TUESDAY

Fabric Painted

Canvas Messenger Bag

Date: Tuesday, May 10

Time: 6 to 8pm

Artist/Instructor: Martha Gilbert

Join us for some fun and have a great bag for the summer months! In this class you will paint a 10"x12" canvas messenger bag with 4" gusset. You will have several bright and cheerful summer images to choose from to paint on your individual bag. Acrylic fabric paints will be used.

The class fee includes your messenger bag! All levels of experience are welcome; ages 18 and older. All supplies included. *Class size limit 10 plus instructor.*

Register online at
www.ralartcenter.com/classofferings or
by calling 804-436-9309.

Member fee: \$45
Non-member fee: \$50

OPEN STUDIO

Dates: Wednesdays
Time: 6 to 8:30pm
Instructor: Brenda Sylvia

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. Bring your own materials and refreshments. Tabletop easels will be provided. RAL artist Brenda Sylvia will be available for instruction, encouragement, and demonstrations. Come join us to have fun with



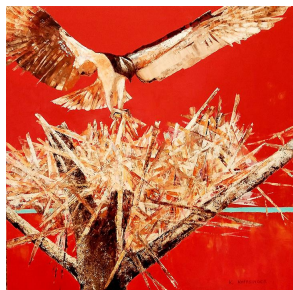
your art in a nourishing, supportive environment. Please sign up in advance – restricted to 8 artists per session.

Supplies: Bring your own materials.

Member fee: \$20 per night

Non-Member fee: \$25 per night

Maximum: 8 Students



**Class: Abstracting the Landscape of My Mind – Flora and Fauna
An Oil and Cold Wax Workshop**

Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

Date: Tuesday & Wednesday, May 3 and 4

Time: 10am to 3pm (each day)

This “creativity” workshop is a painting and design class for artists who would like to “loosen up” and escape the confines of detailed painting and drawing by working with oil paint mixed with cold wax medium. The focus of instruction will be

“deconstructing” shapes and colors to create expressive impressionist and somewhat “abstracted” paintings.

For more information or to register, go to www.ralartcenter.com/abstracting-the-landscape

Member fee: \$225

Non-member fee: \$259

**Class: Plein Air Adventures with
Thomas Bradshaw**

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, May 14 & 15

Time: 10am to 4pm each day

Plein Air artist and award-winner Thomas Bradshaw will show you his techniques for creating and using color value and temperature to emphasize and impact your design. He will also emphasize the use of strong edges, both hard and soft, to enliven your composition and bring great eye appeal.



Spend a day along the shores of the Rappahannock River and on a tucked in inlet that has a working marina and a graveyard of old boats...both offering some interesting and powerful compositions.

Materials: Supply list available at RAL Art Center

Member fee: \$230

Non-member fee: \$269

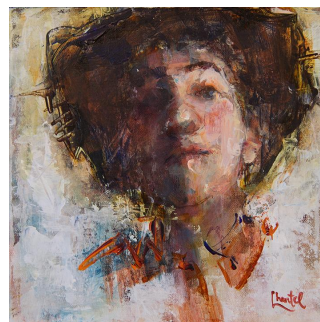
**Class: Guest Artist Workshop: The
Expressive Portrait**

Instructor: Chantel Barber

Dates: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday; June 3 – 5

Time: 9am to 4pm with a break for lunch

Don't miss out on this fabulous workshop! Chantel's gentle teaching style will enrich the painting skills of beginners and advanced artists alike, as she demonstrates painting the portrait from reference photos without losing the energy and vitality of working from life.



Students will learn about essential materials and how to use them, what photographs make the best references for portrait painting, editing, color mixing tips, and how to recognize and use value patterns. Chantel will demonstrate in acrylics but oil painters are also welcome.

To register go to www.ralartcenter.com/portraitworkshop

Member fee: \$400

Non-member fee: \$460



Class: Intermediate Jewelry Techniques in Art Clay Silver

Instructor: Cynthia Quesenberry

Date: Saturday, June 4

Time: 10am to 4pm

Location: RAPPAHANNOCK WESTMINSTER-CANTERBURY ART CLASSROOM, 132 Lancaster Dr., Irvington, VA 22480

This intermediate class is an adventure in working with precious metal clay. Art Clay Silver is a great product especially formulated for objects that can be created and fired in the same day with outstanding results. It is soft

and easy to work with simple tools.

The techniques covered in this class include how to manipulate the clay, techniques to make attachments, using a variety of textures and molds, finishing, sanding techniques, how to set gemstones and pearls, how to create raised textures with silver paste and how to make simple repairs.

Materials: All materials provided and included in price of class

Skill level: Intermediate

Age of participants: 14 years and older

Member fee: \$130

Non-member fee: \$150

Exhibit Awards

April 2022 ~ Flora and Fauna and Art and Flowers



Flora and Fauna and Art and Flowers Bring Beauty to the RAL Art Center

On April 1 and 2, the RAL Art Center kicked off their monthly exhibit entitled *Flora and Fauna* with a special exhibit of floral interpretations of art. Nineteen designers selected artwork from the gallery to interpret.

The highlight of the exhibit was the First Friday celebration in which the public selected their favorite. **The winner of the People's Choice Award was RAL Artist, Laurie Breakwell. Breakwell interpreted artwork by RAL Artist, Ron Taylor, entitled *Hanging in the Balance*.**

The designers included members from several garden clubs, RAL Artists and a local florist.

- Designers from **Chesapeake Garden Club** included Carol Cole, Debbie Gwaltney, Sharon Lempke, Sharon Stieber and Kathie Truxall.
- Designers from the **Garden Club of the Northern Neck** included Dale Coburn, Fran King, Lois Spencer and Sue Ramsey.
- Designers from **Kilmarnock Garden Club** included Genny Chase and Jane Denton.
- Designers from **Rappahannock Garden Club** included Debbie Burgess, Carol Clark, Cathie Elliott and Margie Redlin.
- **RAL members** included Laurie Breakwell, Sharon Stone and Sarah Soderlund and Florist Cathi Carr, owner of Cathi's Gardens in Irvington also participated.

RAL Executive Director Doug Mock presented Award Certificates to all participants and stated, *"This event was truly outstanding! We were very happy to have had such an impressive turnout from the regions garden clubs. Each floral interpretation of a chosen work of art by RAL artists was superb. We look forward to future collaborations with these talented floral professionals!"*

FLORA AND FAUNA ~Exhibit Winners~

Kay Van Dyke, architect, artist, and founder of Arts on Main judged the Flora and Fauna exhibit, and awards



were presented April 1 at the First Friday Reception. Van Dyke awarded **First Place to *Before the Storm*, an acrylic by Brenda Sylvia.**

Second Place went to *Unexpected Grace*, cold wax and oil by Kathleen Noffsinger. Third Place was awarded to *On Patrol*, photograph by Bob Sutherland.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: *Springs Sprung*, mosaic glass on glass by Laurie Breakwell, *Loving Life*, water media by Joan

Willoughby, *Pale Pink Geranium* pastel by Mel Neale, *Soul of Salt Spring Island*, acrylic by Bob Casazza, and *Color Riot*, acrylic by Karen Kingsley.

Before the Storm, by Brenda Sylvia

Upcoming Exhibits



May 2022 ~ Some Kind of Wonderful

Artists are known for bringing to life, through their chosen medium, works that tell a story for their viewer. Often times these stories are an extension of the things, objects, and moments that the artist finds wonderful and endearing.

In the month of May, RAL artists will share with you all that is beautiful and wonderful to them. Color, pattern and texture, design, contrast, and drama will bring the exhibition room to life.

What kind of wonderful do you share with our artists? We are certain you'll connect with one or more of our talented artists as you view the show.

Receiving Date: Monday, May 2: 10am – 12pm
Exhibit Dates: Wednesday, May 4 – Saturday, May 28
Reception: Friday, May 6: 5–7pm

RAL is now open Wednesday thru Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Northern Neck Wonderful by Debbie Bull



July 2022 ~ Land and Sea

A diverse selection of artwork depicting an artists' love of land and sea will be on display at the the RAL Art Center during the month of July.

From moody skies high above the Chesapeake Bay to calming and serene pools along the banks of our many creeks, from mountains to valleys, from azure blue skies to glorious colors of early morning or the late evening sun, this exhibit promises to be a visual

delight.

Art will include of a wide range of art media and subject matter, inspired by our artists love of nature.

Receiving Date: Monday, June 27th: 10am to 12pm
Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, June 28 – Saturday, July 30
Reception: Friday, July 1: 5–7pm

Low Country Marsh by Sarah Marshall Elliott



July 2022 ~ Small Works

One of our most popular exhibits of the year, Small Works, will be held during the month of July. This exhibit presents all of our visitors with the opportunity to purchase fine art as a gift or adornment for those small spaces in their home.

Art in this show will NOT exceed 144 square inches which includes mat and frame. For three-dimensional art, works should be less than 144 square inches when multiplying the two longest sides.

We look forward to your visit and are sure you'll find something you'll love!

Receiving Date: Monday, June 27: 10am to 12pm

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, June 28 – Saturday, July 30.

Reception: Friday, July 1: 5–7pm

Geraniums by Mel Neale

2022 Upcoming Exhibit Schedule

June ~ Great Art Heist

July ~ Land & Sea and Small Works

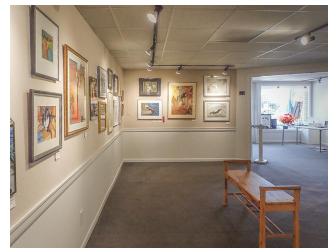
August ~ Fins, Feathers & Fur

September ~ 61st Labor Day Show

October ~ Abandoned: What Remains and Farm to Table

November ~ Anything Goes and Lancaster High School Art Show

December ~ Holiday Shop and Photography Show



May Gallery Window Artists

The RAL Art Center Windows will embrace the artwork of both painting and photography in May, with the paintings of Brenda Sylvia and the photography of Maggie Gilman.

A full article about these artists, written by Ellen Huddy, will appear in the *Rappahannock Record* and on the RAL Art Center website at www.ralartcenter.com/blog. Be sure to check it out!

Top right: *New Year* by Brenda Sylvia

Bottom right: *RM in Time* by Maggie Gilman



RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

Serving our community through art



**Little Budding Artists and
CreARTive Kids Programs
Continue**

&

**RAL Summer Camps To Be
Announced Soon**

The RAL Youth Arts Program is gearing up for our popular Summer Art Camps. We are currently in the process of putting together a fun and exciting calendar for area youth (and



visitors to the area) to continue their interest in the arts during the summer months.

The free 'Little Budding Artist' and 'creARTive kids' classes continue and the kids certainly seem to have a good time. Following are photos of the fun Easter projects they created!

To volunteer or otherwise support our youth programs, please contact Karen Williams at larkarfish@mail.com, 540-406-1321 or call the gallery at 804-436-9309.



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 2022

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



Executive Director: Doug Mock

Gallery Manager: Sharon Stone

ral@ralartcenter.com

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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