

AUGUST 2021



Summer is in full swing so it's time for YOU to swing by the gallery. Be sure to admire the artwork of **well-known co-op artists, Johnny Hayes and Karen Williams, in the Gallery Windows.** Once inside, check out the **Call of the Wild Exhibit** and the exciting work of our **two new co-op artists, Tom Jones and Dave Hershisier.** And why not stop by the desk and **sign up for one (or more!) of RAL's many art classes?** Where else can you **learn to make jewelry and colorful silk scarves AND learn to paint like Van Gogh?** To sign up online, go to **www.ralartcenter.com/register-for-class.**

Happy Summer to our members, artists and patrons!

Labor Day Art Show News



The RAL Art Center is pleased to announce that the Art Center's major signature event, the **Annual Labor Day Art Show (LDAS)** **will be held Sept. 1 through Sept. 25** at 19 N. Main St., Kilmarnock, VA 22482. The Awards Ceremony and Reception **will be held Friday, September 3 from 5 to 7pm at the Art Center.** In addition to our usual Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 4pm days and hours, the show will be open Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend to accommodate visitors celebrating the end of summer.

The LDAS is widely recognized as **one of the longest-standing visual arts shows in Virginia.** Held in a variety of venues over its 60-year history, the show moved to RAL Art Center in 2014. Our attendance has increased to over 1,200 visitors.

ATTENTION ARTISTS: The LDAS is open to all RAL Art Center members in any medium. All work must be original. The Show is not juried, but ribbons and monetary prizes will be awarded by renowned judge, Robin Caspari (www.robincaspari.com).

Current Exhibiting Co-op Artists must remove their artwork from the main Gallery starting Tues. Aug. 24 and down by Sat. Aug. 28. These artists will be able to exhibit one piece in the Exhibit Room as the entire gallery area will be transformed into the Labor Day Art Show. This special Co-op Artists Exhibit takes place concurrently with the LDAS. Production of the LDAS requires the dedication of seasoned and new members both in orchestrating the event and creating prized pieces of art. Loyal sponsors are being solicited for their support and promotional material is being designed.

Key Dates:

- Entry Forms/Fees Due August 14 (no exceptions)
- LDAS Receiving - Sunday & Monday, August 29 & 30
- Awards Ceremony and Reception - Friday, Sept. 3, 5 to 7pm

The **Prospectus and Entry Form** are available through a link below, and will also be available at RAL Art Center and through our website

Mary Ellis & Barbara Kershner – Co-Chairs

Art by Patty Richards, "Best in Show" 2020 Labor Day Art Show

LDAS Prospectus & Entry Form

RAL Art Center Co-op Artists Special Exhibit



The Co-op Artists Special Exhibit takes place at the same time as the 60th Annual Labor Day Art Show, Sept. 1 through Sept. 25, and will be displayed in the Jane Stouffer Exhibit Room.

All co-op artists will remove their work from their walls and pedestals the week of Aug. 23 for wall repairs and to make room for the LDAS.

Each co-op artist has the opportunity to exhibit one piece in the Stouffer Exhibit

Room. Receiving for the Co-op Artists Exhibit is Sunday, August 29 and Monday, August 30, 10am to 12 noon.

Meet Our 60th Annual Labor Day Art Show Judge ~ Robin Caspari ~

This year's LDAS judge is Robin Caspari, an oil painter and instructor. Robin recently taught a very successful class in creating strong composition and design at RAL Art Center. She lives and works in Central Virginia.

Robin's paintings hang in prestigious private collections as well as individual collections. Her work has been included in many National Shows and Galleries, and she is an active member of the National Impressionist Society. She also enjoys raising funds through her art sales for multiple charities.



Robin has worked under the tutelage of many Masters including Scott Christensen, Derek Penix, Robert Johnson and Kevin Macpherson to develop a unique and informed style of painting. She uses a combination of traditional and abstract painting techniques to create each piece, as she strives to simply create beautiful paintings in an unrestrained, expressive style.

"As a painter, I strive to give the gift of expression and beauty. I love to enrich peoples' lives with my work. Overall, the process of making a great painting is very symbolic of life itself, packed full of thought and emotion, yet stunningly simple."

The 14th Annual Art Heist A Great Success!



For those who attended this year's Great Art Heist we hope your evening was both exciting and memorable.

Conducting our largest annual fundraiser requires an enormous team of enthusiastic and hard-working individuals, especially the Heist Chair. **Christine Mason accepted this challenge and did a wonderful job** of managing the many and varied tasks required to bring this event to fruition.

RAL Art Center sends a **sincere and heartfelt thanks to every sponsor, donor, advertiser, artist, member, ticket-holder, friend, guest and volunteer**. Each in their own special way played a significant part in making the 2021 Great Art Heist such a huge success.

**We look forward to seeing you at The Great Art Heist in 2022.
Save the date now, Saturday, June 25th!**

RAL Ribbons & Awards

RAL Art Center's July Exhibit was a BIG show with SMALL WORKS

Sandy Manning, a member of the Jury Team for exhibiting artists at the RAL Art Center and a local art educator, judged the Small Works Show.

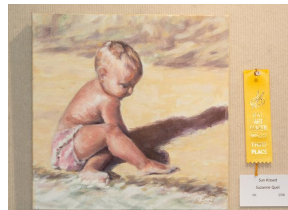
First place was awarded to **Dave Hershiser's** oil painting, *"Reedville Afternoon"*.

Second place was given to *"Small/Buttons,"* two small books by **Barbara Brecher**.

"Sunkissed," an oil by **Suzanne Quel**, received **third place**.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the following:

- *"Pocket of Possibilities"*, mixed media by Ron Taylor
- *"Soon to Be Slaw"*, watercolor by Linda Goldstein
- *"Stop Over"*, photograph by Mary Ellis
- *"The Rite of Spring I"*, digital art by Harold Burnley
- *"Bermuda Triangle"*, oil by Juli Schuszler
- *"Cycle of Life"*, digital art by CarolAnne Taylor



Mock wins Best in Show at the Virginia Watercolor Society's Regional Exhibition at RAL Art Center

The Virginia Watercolor Society's exhibition "Summer of Color" was on display during the month of July at the RAL Art Center. This first ever event was held in partnership with The Bay School in Mathews, Virginia and Arts on Main in Gloucester, Virginia. The theme at RAL is Portraits/Figures and Still Life.

Kay Van Dyke judged the RAL show and awarded artist Doug Mock's watercolor titled *"Before the Rush"* with top honors.

"The exhibit has so many extremely good submissions, my choice was very difficult." Van Dyke considered the composition, colors, meaning, technique and how the light was used to make her final decision. "The art I chose was outstanding."

Painting by Doug Mock



Upcoming Exhibitions

Attention Artists! Check out RAL Art Center's 2021 Exhibit Schedule

Bring us your best...we look forward to sharing your work with our patrons!

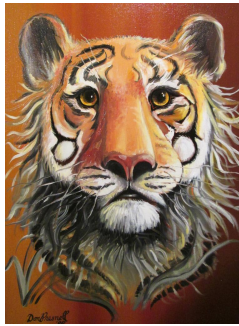


August ~ Call of the Wild
September ~ 60th Annual Labor Day Art Show
October ~ Whimsy, Funk & Fun and Art in Transit
November ~ Express Yourself
December ~ Annual Holiday Shop

For more details about upcoming shows, please go to www.ralartcenter.com/events2.

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.

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, August 3 – Saturday, August 28
Reception: August 6, 2021 5–7pm

Art by Don Presnell



October 2021 Contest & Judged Exhibit – *Art in Transit*

The RAL Art Center and Bay Transit are partnering to commemorate Bay Transit's 25th year in service. To acknowledge this milestone, we are sponsoring "Art in Transit", an art competition and exhibition that will benefit both the RAL Art Center and Bay Aging.

This show will hang at RAL during the **month of October** and will result in the top three judged works of art receiving monetary awards; 1st place receives \$700, 2nd place receives \$500 and 3rd place receives \$300. In addition, **the first-place winner will have their art installed on the side of a Bay Transit bus for six months.**

Entries MUST feature the **concept of motion or movement** and embrace each artists' creativity. Work must be non-digital paintings or drawings and must comply with an aspect ratio to fit 18.5" wide x 10" high (entries can be larger but should comply with this ratio).

Artists may enter up to 2 pieces with entry fees being \$20.00 per piece. The deadline for entering is August 31st with delivery being made to RAL on September 26th or 27th between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm. There will be a 30% commission retained for any artwork sold during the exhibit. RAL Art Center and Bay Aging will each receive fifty-percent of all entry fees and any commissions retained.

Doug Mock, RAL Executive Directors states, *"The collaboration with Bay Transit and Gander Design, owned and operated by RAL member Mike Stevens, has been wonderful. RAL is excited to share in the responsibility of bringing this contest and exhibit to our community. We know art has the amazing ability to enrich all of our lives, in this case it is even more powerful in that it will bring people together and in the end benefit those in need."*

To learn more or to enter Art in Transit please click [here](#) to download the flyer and entry form.

RAL Welcomes Two New Co-op Artists ~Tom Jones and Dave Hershiser ~



Water Lilies by Tom Jones

Tom Jones, aka T. Alan Jones, returned to his Virginia roots in 2020 after decades in commercial art in Washington, and later 25 creative years on St. Kitts. Since then, Tom has been painting in a unique format of canvases linked together to depict panoramic scenes of Chesapeake environs and wildlife. These linked acrylic canvases, vibrantly painted with brush or palette knife, and more than 6 feet wide in their entirety, can also be separated



Chesapeake Bay Sunrise by Dave Hershiser

Dave Hershiser has been studying and making art most of his life. Dave's subjects, executed in oils or acrylics, range from classically composed still life, to luminous landscapes and seascapes influenced by the paintings of the Hudson River School. Many of these paintings are of familiar and beloved Northern Neck scenes, from Hughlett Point beaches to the

and displayed as individual smaller paintings.

commercial fishing waterfront of Reedville.

Dave regularly enters RAL member shows, winning many awards over the years, including his recent blue ribbon in the "Small Works" show.

RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

Serving our community through art

Summer Art Camp for Kids at the RAL Art Center

Marilyn Sprouse, Lancaster Middle School Art Teacher, conducted 3 weeks of Summer Art Camp for Kids at RAL Art Center. There were two sessions each day, Monday through Friday, and **classes ranged from pet portraits, watercolor animal design, painted bandannas, painted backpacks to Tye Dye fabric processes and acrylic painting on wooden hearts.**

Marilyn advised that the **306 attendees in the 30 camp sessions** created amazing works of art. RAL Art Center artists contributed their expertise by meeting with the students. Sarah Soderlund explained abstract art and toured the gallery with the students showing them various styles of abstract art. Richard Shurtz explained digital art as he hung two new pieces of art in the Gallery.

Art Camps are an engaging experience that build art skills and artist interaction – a priceless experience at RAL Art Center.



CALLING ALL KID ENTHUSIASTS!

*"Help start budding
artists on their creative
journey."*

Do you like kids? Like to see their excitement when they experience something new? Have knowledge you would like to share with them?

The RAL Art Center is expanding our youth arts enrichment program and we need artists/instructors/assistants of all skill levels to be a part of this exciting new endeavor. Our program will include classes in basic art instruction, as well as fun, creative opportunities.

All media are welcome and participants should have an enthusiasm for teaching and/or sharing art experiences with kids of all ages and skill levels.

- What type of instruction could you offer?
- What age level would you feel comfortable working with (toddler/ pre-k, primary school, middle school, high school) ?
- What days/times/frequency you would be available?

We want to hear from anyone who may have an interest in joining the team – whether it is teaching a class in the visual arts, developing curriculum, leading a group in a creative activity, or just assisting another instructor. Research shows that involvement in the arts

promotes positive youth development and investing in children's art programs not only exposes students to the benefits of the arts, but also helps children succeed in all school subjects and in life.

Please contact Karen Williams, Youth Enrichment Coordinator, at larkarwillfish@gmail.com/804-435-1758, if you can assist, have any questions, or would like more information.



**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, August 7th
from 11am – 3pm.*

August's Gallery Windows



Somewhere Else by Johnny Hayes



Unbothered by Karen Williams

The August Windows at the RAL Art Center will feature two of the Gallery's well-known Co-Op Artists, **JOHNNY HAYES** and **KAREN WILLIAMS**. See the complete article written by Ellen Huddy on the website, www.ralartcenter.com and in *The Rappahannock Record*. Be sure to read the article and check the website for other examples of their work.

Upcoming Art Classes

www.ralartcenter.com/register-for-class



WILD ABOUT ART – Youth Art Classes

Instructor: Juli Schuszler

3-Day Class Dates: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday –
August 3, 4 & 5

9:30am – 12:30pm – Rising Grades 1–5

1:30pm – 4:30pm – Rising Grades 6–9

Students will create at least one artwork for each day of the class, including an 8 x 10 acrylic painting of an owl, a watercolor painting of wildflowers and butterflies, a crayon-resist underwater scene, a pastel portrait of a bear, a mixed-media floral still life and a mixed-media artwork with a subject of their own choice.

Every student will have a least one artwork completed during the class included in an exhibit with an opening reception to coincide with the RAL Art Center August exhibition, "Call of the Wild."

Please bring snacks. Some experience helpful but not entirely necessary. Materials provided by instructor.

Juli Schuszler, a member of the RAL Art Center, is a local painter and pastel artist. In 2020, she retired after a 22-year career from teaching Art and English in public schools, colleges and universities to focus her art. www.julischuszler.com.

Members \$95/Non-members \$100
Maximum: 10 Students

SUMPTUOUS SILK SCARF

Instructor: Lynette Reed

Class: Wednesday, August 25 | 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

IMPRESSIONS: PAINTING THE GARDEN

Instructor: Juli Schuszler

3-Day Class: Mondays, Sept. 13, 20, 27 | 1:30pm – 4:30pm



In this three-day class, you will create three acrylic 11"x 14" landscape paintings in the Impressionist style, the first in unison with the teacher's demonstration and step by step instructions. Some experience helpful but not necessary. Materials provided by the instructor.

Members \$95/Non-members \$100
Maximum: 10 Students

DROP PENDANT JEWELRY TECHNIQUES WITH ART CLAY SILVER

Instructor: Cynthia A. Quesenberry

Class Date: Saturday, September 18 | 10am – 4pm

This beginner/intermediate level class is an adventure in working with precious metal clay that can be created and fired in the same day with outstanding results.

Art Clay Silver is pure fine silver (.999) mixed with water and an organic binder. It is soft and easy to work with simple tools. The techniques covered in this class include how to make a Drop Pendant, manipulate the clay, make attachments, finishing, sanding, and making simple repairs. We will create a variety of silver jewelry and/or other decorative objects for functional use in other projects.

Materials: All materials will be supplied.
Students: Bring disposable gloves.
Members \$110/Non-members \$120
Maximum: 10 Students



THE ART LANGUAGE

Instructor: Robin Caspari

2-Day Workshop: Thursday & Friday | September 23 & 24, 2021, 9am – 4pm

What is the Art Language and what are we trying to visually create in our paintings? Do we want to paint what our mind knows, or do we want to see and explore in a different way? How can we use the Art Language to create Harmony, Rhythm, Pattern and Variety?

In this 2-day workshop we will discuss and explore all of these ideas in paint and presentation. Enjoy a live demonstration, presentation, and clear guidance. Please join us with an open mind and a positive attitude! Oil preferred, but acrylic, pastel and watercolor welcome.

Members \$260 / Non-members \$280
Maximum: 9 Students



ABSTRACTING KALEIDOSCOPE COLORS

Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

2-Day Class: Tuesdays, Oct. 12 & 26 | 10am – 3pm (lunch break 12pm – 12:30pm)



Learn how to paint any scene in a variety of colors using abstracted shapes of broken color to create an artistic color Kaleidoscope!

Artists will work in their usual medium of watercolor, oil or acrylic. This is not a “how-to” beginner class for each medium. 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.

Members \$175/Non-members \$185
Maximum: 8 Students

LOVING VAN GOGH

Instructor: Juli Schuszler

3-Day Class: Mondays, Oct. 18 & 25
and Nov. 1 | 1:30pm – 4:30pm

In this three-day workshop, you will paint three 11" x 14" acrylic paintings, emulating the distinctive style of Van Gogh. The first paintings will be completed in unison with the teacher's demonstration and step-by-step instruction. Some experience is helpful but not necessary. Materials provided by the instructor.

Members \$95/Non-members \$100
Maximum: 10 Students



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



PAINT NIGHT! **Wading in the Wild**

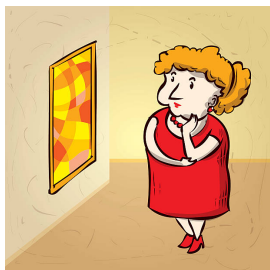
Thursday, August 26, 6pm to 8pm

Join us August 26 and have fun painting a summer scene. This class will be completed using acrylic paint on a 11"x14" stretched canvas. Create a painting with a majestic sunset with a silhouette of a shoreline and wading bird.

Step-by-step instruction will be given by artist and instructor, Juli Schuszler. Special instruction will be available to those needing help mixing colors and applying paint to create the glowing sun, the gradients, the reflections on the water, and the silhouette shapes.

Invite a friend, neighbor, relative, or spouse for this fun and engaging class. Class size is limited to 10 plus the instructor. The \$35 fee includes all materials (\$30 for members.) Bring your choice of favorite beverage and snacks. Masks are not required if you have been fully vaccinated.

Art by Juli Schuszler



OPEN CRITIQUE RETURNS! **WHEN? The 3rd Monday of each month** **at 1pm in the Pike Studio**

Anyone can benefit from constructive criticism as they create a piece of art. A team of experienced RAL Art Center artists, in a variety of mediums and styles, will be available the third Monday at 1:00pm to help you with those nagging problems, make helpful suggestions or just provide a different "set of eyeballs", perspectives and experiences to help you improve your work.

Bring up to 3 pieces to be critiqued for a fee of \$5 which will go to support RAL. The number of artists will be limited for each critique session, so please make an appointment by emailing Sarah Soderlund at sarahsod911@gmail.com.



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
www.ralartcenter.com
Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm
Phone: 804.436.9309



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