

MARCH 2021

ARTLINE

The newsletter of the RAL Art Center

March is your *lucky month* at the RAL Art Center! With spring around the corner, it's a great time to check out the **Don Presnell's imaginative paintings and sculpture**, and **Sarah Elliott's oil paintings of "Bovines & Birds"** – both featured in March's Gallery Windows. After a peek in the windows, come in and see the **current exhibit, *Monochromatic Madness***. And yes! **Classes** are back and registration is now open. Be sure to secure your spot today. Details are now available about one of our most popular events...**The Great Art Heist** so be sure to circle June 26th on your calendar! And lastly, the RAL Art Center has announced an **all-new membership program** – read all about the exciting new benefits below and share with your fellow artists, patrons, friends and family!



UPCOMING EXHIBITS



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

Art by Ron Taylor

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

Art by CarolAnne Taylor





May 2021 Exhibit ~ *Still Life Show*

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: May 3, 2021 10AM to 12PM
Exhibit Dates: May 6 - May 29

Art by Mel Neale



A Slash of Red
by Maggie Gilman



Hot Mess of the Heart
by Laurie Breakwell



Richardson's by
Janis Wells

"A Touch of Red" ~ Meet the Winning Artists

February's Exhibit at the RAL Art Center celebrated the color RED. "A Touch of Red" included paintings, photography, mixed media, fused-glass and fiber art.

This year's February exhibit was judged by Nadine Flood. Nadine moved to the Northern Neck and joined the RAL Art Center three years ago. She has a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Art from VCU, and she has taught high school art for 29 years at North Stafford High School.

And the winners are...

Laurie Breakwell took first place for her fused-glass, "Hot Mess of the Heart." This is Laurie's third year to win a first place award in a member show at the RAL Art Center. Judge Nadine Flood is quoted as saying, *"This is a fun, fused-glass composition composed of layers of clear, translucent and opaque colored glass. It is a whimsical piece with a playful edge mounted on a black metal stand. The placement of the heart focal point is daring and unexpected."*

The second place award went to Maggie Gilman for her photograph, "A Slash of Red." Ms. Flood commented that it was a beautifully sophisticated photograph of harmonious analogous colors on a cement wall. It celebrated texture and spare shadows and the nuances of color.

Jane Wells won third place with her acrylic of "Richardson's," which is a fresh and expressive scene of an alley and house with a small red car parked next to it. The judge said it showed a bold contrast of warm and cool colors along with bold highlights.

Honorable mentions also were awarded to the following:

- "Red In," acrylic by Karen Kingsley
- "Gone to the Birds," pastel by Mel Neale
- "Typhon Racing," watercolor by Carol Vaughn
- "Second Day," mixed media by Jacquie Colligan
- "The Treehouse," acrylic by Brenda Sylvia

COMING IN JUNE...THE GREAT ART HEIST!

Tickets Are Available Starting April 1



RAL Art Center is excited to announce The Great Art Heist, its largest, most exciting and highly anticipated event, now celebrating 14 years! After a year off due to COVID, the Heist will be held Saturday, June 26, 2021 in one form or another. If able, our reception will begin at 4:00 pm with drinks and hors d'oeuvres followed by the main event at 5:00 pm.

This year's Chairperson, Christine Mason, has already begun an exciting and energetic campaign to make the event the absolute best!

How does The Great Art Heist work? Tickets are purchased for a fine art raffle. The night of the event tickets will be drawn at random. As each ticket is drawn, the ticket-

holder gets his/her pick of any donated, original work of art. The next ticket drawn gets his/her choice of the remaining art and so on and so forth. Ticket holders can preview all works of art at RAL from June 3 thru June 26. The number of tickets sold corresponds to the number of art originals donated. EVERY ticket holder is **guaranteed** to go home with something special! Member tickets for The Great Art Heist will sell for \$100 with non-member tickets selling for \$125 and can be purchased at the RAL Art Center.

New in 2021, you can buy your Heist ticket as an Early Bird from April 1 thru May 6. By doing so, you will automatically be entered into our first ever Early Bird Raffle. The winning ticket number will be drawn the night of The Heist. For the lucky winner, you will walk away that evening with two great items: your raffle prize AND your original work of art.

The 2021 Heist will continue to have its fun and competitive silent auction.

As in years past, RAL members and friends will be asked to donate original artwork which can be 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional, even jewelry. All items must be valued at \$150 or more. The deadline to donate works is April 30, 2021. Items donated do not need to be created by the donor. If your contribution is a painting or photograph, it must be framed. Any work going on a wall must meet the RAL standards for exhibition with wire (no sawtooth) hangers.

Also new for 2021 will be a Summer Art Camp sponsorship program. Individuals and businesses who choose to sponsor an at-risk or underprivileged child will give that child the opportunity to participate in one week of our popular Summer Art Camps at NO CHARGE. Every \$85 donated will sponsor one child for an entire week of camp. Please give generously. All sponsors will be listed, with their permission, in The Great Art Heist program.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, donating items to the Silent Auction, or volunteering to support this great cause please contact Christine at events@ralartcenter.com or by calling her directly at 804-577-7757.

We look forward to seeing you at the 14th Annual Great Art Heist a fun and exciting community event!

RAL ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



RAL members are the lifeblood of our organization and we are very thankful for their support. It is with great excitement that we announce a brand-new membership program offering new levels, valuable benefits and significant savings throughout the gallery and in the Pike Studio.

Our new membership program is a tremendous step forward for RAL Art Center. It gives current members great options as they renew or upgrade. It offers visitors and guests with many levels to consider, encouraging them to join. And 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 joining RAL for the very first time or renewing/upgrading your existing membership, you will help RAL achieve the following goals;

- **Expand and promote our Youth Education Initiative;** implementing an after-school enrichment program, creating a high school mentorship program and developing Art-on-the-Go for artists of every age
- **Attract regional and national instructors** to teach new, diverse and exciting classes for beginners to advanced levels
- **Expand and enhance our fine art exhibitions;** promoting the artwork of our members and artists.

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. From discounts on wall rent, to discounts in the gift shop, special previews of key art exhibitions, or free paint nights, your options are many.

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 customercare@ralartcenter.com or call us directly at 804-436-9309.

RAL Art Center
Your Place...Your Passion...Your Friends

[Join or Renew Here](#)

The RAL Gallery Windows



Sam Sea Turtle by Don Presnell

March Windows

by Ellen Huddy

March brings the first hint of spring and the new life that comes with it to the NNK. And the RAL Art Center Gallery Windows will also have some new talent to display with the works of Donald Presnell and Sarah Marshall Elliott.

Don Presnell is a unique artist among our RAL community with an education and career in Industrial Design. Having earned his degree at the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California, Don's product designs were well known in such companies as Honda, Rubbermaid, Fisher-Price Toys, and others. His designs are found in such diverse things as motorcycles, children's highchairs, decorative outdoor recycling bins, and small children's toy sets. His love of art was greatly influenced by his junior high school art teacher, Dale Rousey, who was a renowned artist within the Orange County, CA art community, and who took great interest in Don's work. Don had two years of private art lessons with Rousey which greatly influenced his artistic future.

Don is now retired from the corporate world of product design and works in his Chesapeake Bay studio daily, creating glass, metal and wood sculpture. He also paints in all mediums. In the Gallery Windows he will have a variety of his creations, including a wonderful sculpture of a squid fashioned from a piece of Chesapeake Bay driftwood which he found on the beach at his home in White Sand Harbor. The piece of wood had once been a small tree trunk. Its weathered shape suggested that it could be the arms and tentacles of a squid, and thus it became the basis for the sculpture you see in the Gallery Windows. Donald's other sculptures and paintings often spring from pure imagination, finding their life from his training in Industrial Design model-making, or in the form of an often-fanciful painting.

Sarah Elliott is a fairly new artist to the RAL Art Center, and is already an accomplished oil painter with not only a blue ribbon but also a "Viewer's Choice" award won at the 2020 Labor Day Show, and "The People's Choice Award" at the 2021 "You Be The Judge" exhibit in January.

Life can change in a day, which it certainly did for Sarah when she left the corporate world after 37 years of working in marketing and publishing. Feeling seriously adrift, she decided to take the painting lessons that she had wanted to take for many years. Sarah finds that her canvas is the perfect place to express her creativity, energy and love of color. Using deliberate, yet loose

brushstrokes, she enjoys finding unexpected colors in her reference sources and bringing that color out on her canvas for all to see. Sarah says that she "brings her whole self to the easel", and she hopes that this will translate to those who see and admire her work.

"Bovine and Birds" will be the theme for Sarah's windows paintings. She loves painting the cows (such eyes!) and the birds (those colors!), and people seem to love both subject matters. Sarah's inspiration can come from the natural world around her and the special moments it can offer, from photos that either she has taken or which come from friends and family, or images that she has researched and found. It is easy to see why Sarah's paintings are captivating and easy for people to love, and you will find one to love in the Gallery Windows as well!



Lashes by Sarah Elliott

RAL Art Center Upcoming Classes –Register Now!



Applying Proper Perspective: Don Presnell Monday, May 3: 10am – 3pm

(Please bring your own "working lunch".)

Participants will learn how to use perspective properly in their artwork, giving their pieces a masterful look. The 5-hour course will cover eye level, 1-, 2-, and 3-point perspective layouts, as well as proper use and angles of ellipses in art.

One of the first things noticeable in a weak drawing or painting is improper perspective and poor axis angles in circles and ellipses. This is because it just doesn't look natural. Proper perspective will shape it right up! Participants will use a straight edge, compass, square, circle template and ellipse template on a large drawing pad to create several sketches and drawings with their new-found knowledge.

The course will also cover supporting elements of drawing, such as composition, setting the light source and the addition of shadow in the work. Participant's drawings may be used later as underlays, line drawings for future work, or to color directly with pastels or colored pencils. If you like, bring a vacation photo with some architecture in it, and we can break down the perspective!

Class Materials List

Materials Included with class:

- Koala Tools | Drawing Perspective (2-Point) Large Sketch Pad | 9" x 12", 40 Sheets
- Ellipse Master Templates Drafting and Design Template
- Canson XL Series Bristol Pad, Heavyweight Paper for Ink, Marker or Pencil, Smooth Finish, Fold Over, 100 Pound, 9 x 12 Inch, 25 Sheets

Please bring your own:

- Colored pencils
- T-Square
- Pencil Compass (the kind for making circles!)

Members \$100 / Non-Members \$110

Maximum: 8 Students

NOTE: Registration Deadline – April 19, 2021

"Broken Color – Painting Like the Impressionists!"

All Medias – Intermediate Level

Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

2-Day Workshop

Wednesdays May 5 & May 19, 2021: 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

Members \$145 / Non-Members \$155
Maximum: 6 Students



Class will be held in the newly renovated Pike Studio...

a great place to learn, grow and connect.

COVID-19 restrictions apply

Have You Visited the New RAL Art Center Website Yet?

If not, twenty-nine RAL Co-op Artists are now showcasing their beautiful art pieces on the new website, www.ralartcenter.com. Alongside the artist's work is a statement about their passion and inspiration for their art. Paintings in all mediums, photography, fiber, jewelry, wood, glass, metal and multi-media art are featured throughout the site.



You'll also find that RAL Art Center class descriptions and registration forms are just one step away on the website. And, all the details of our exciting new Membership Program and artists and art patron member benefits are detailed on the new site.

Check us out often, our blog posts are frequently updated with information about our Exhibits, Classes and Happenings!

RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH
Serving our community through art



Visit the RAL Art Center on the First Saturday of Each Month 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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