

NOVEMBER 2021



RAL Art Center has much for which to be grateful...our artists, patrons, collectors, appreciators, community, staff, volunteers and more. This month we give special thanks for everyone who supports our mission to organize, sponsor and encourage educational and cultural activities in the visual arts and crafts.

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In **early November**, don't miss our **Artist Jewelry Show (Nov. 5-6)** and **Thomas Bradshaw's plein air workshop (Nov. 6-7)**. Come visit the gallery during the month and see the **Express Yourself Exhibit** and a special **Youth Art Show** featuring young artists from Lancaster High. Interested in learning how to take **amazing photos with your iPhone? Sign up NOW for Carolyn Maryan's in-demand class**. And join us **every Monday from 10am – noon as we draw the human figure** using a *live* model. And, as always, be sure to check out **November's Gallery Window Artists** featuring new co-op artist **Barbara Brecher** and longtime RAL artist, **Linda Lavigne Long**.

A reminder: The holidays are around the corner and art makes a special gift.

Gallery News

RAL Welcomes Sharon Stone as Gallery Manager

RAL Art Center is excited to welcome Sharon Stone as it's new part-time Gallery Manager.

Sharon comes to RAL with tremendous background and experience in the gallery environment. Most recently, she was the Interim Executive Director at Gloucester Arts on Main and continues to serve on its board. She served as Manager of Stewart Gallery in Gloucester, Virginia from 2017 until its closing in 2020.



Sharon traveled the world as a military spouse for twenty-five years residing in Europe, Asia, and various states throughout the U.S. During her own language studies Sharon realized she had an affinity for teaching English as a foreign language and pursued this career from 1999 to 2019.

She currently lives in Gloucester with her husband, Eric and has two daughters and two grandchildren. She and Eric own a thirty-acre hobby farm where they raise vegetables, goats, chickens, cats and dogs.

In other personnel news, Dale Coburn, RAL's longtime Customer Care and Membership Manager, has now "retired" but will continue to serve the organization as RAL's Volunteer Coordinator. Dale can be reached dale.ralac@gmail.com. or you can call or text her at 757.561.9474.

Awards

POLKA DOT FLAMINGO TAKES FIRST PLACE

The October exhibit at the RAL Art Center was Whimsy, Funk and Fun. This colorful show featured oil, watercolor, pastel, acrylic, mixed media, photography, and fused glass.



Marilyn Sprouse judged this exhibit, and awards were given out at the October First Friday's reception. Marilyn chose ***Polka Dot Flamingo***, an acrylic by **Gloria Clifford** for First Place. The judge's statement quoted that this piece was technically whimsy; and that the border around the body had no connection, yet added the fun taking this from a serious study into whimsy.

Second Place went to **Sammy Anderson** for her mixed media, *I Spy*. **Third Place** was awarded to **Don Presnell** for

his acrylic, *Fiesta Musical*.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the following:

Green Sun, watercolor by Albert James Penley III
A Very Wild Cherry Tree, mixed media by Sara Amy Leach
Day at the Swamp, paint on Plexiglas by Bob Casazza
Dangerous Bloom, watercolor by Linda LaVigne-Long
Exotic Fish Series #2, mixed media by Jacquie Colligan
Effervescent, oil by Christine Mason

Holiday Shop 2021



ATTENTION: RAL Art Center Artists and Artisans!
It's time to get your workshops humming!

The **2021 Holiday Shop** is in the planning phase. This eagerly awaited annual event takes place in RAL Art Center's Exhibit Room **November 30 through December 30**.

Gift priced items, preferably less than \$150, handmade by RAL Members, will be on display and for sale. A wonderful array of items that include **jewelry, framed art of all kinds, baskets, ornaments, pottery, art glass, knit and crocheted items, other fiber arts, holiday cards, and more**, will delight the eye and offer many opportunities for satisfying that Holiday gift list.

All RAL Art Center members are invited to take part. **There is no charge for displaying but each artist/artisan will have a limited space — first come first served.** All items must be for sale and be handcrafted by the exhibiting artist. Each participant will be responsible for their own inventory, but must submit a detailed list of their items with prices for our records. Gallery retains 25% commission.

Receiving will be Monday, Nov. 29, 10am to 4pm. The event coordinator and crew will be on hand to assign you a space as your art requires and as space permits.

Upcoming Exhibitions & Shows



Attention Artists!
Check Out the Upcoming Exhibits

November ~ Express Yourself & High School Student Art Show

December ~ Annual Holiday Shop & Photography Show

January 2022 - You Be The Judge

Bring us your best...we look forward to exhibiting your work!

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

Annual Co-op Artist Jewelry Show
November 5-6

After a one year hiatus, this highly anticipated Fall event is back featuring our four popular jewelry artists, each of whom exhibits regularly at RAL Art Center. Each artist produces one-of-a-kind artisan pieces, each with their own unique flair.

Sue Broadway designs and creates her **sumptuous jewelry from a variety of mediums** including .999 fine silver, pearls, crystal, beads, semi precious stones and other interesting materials. **Sometimes simple, sometimes extravagant, always unexpected!**



Jacquie Colligan's inspired art pieces incorporate **semi-precious stone, metal and beads acquired during her worldwide travels**. Using **Art Clay Silver**, she creates molds from the unusual shapes of bark, rocks and shells in her collection. Sometimes embellished, sometimes left to speak for itself, each piece is unique, eye-grabbing and **truly one-of-a-kind**.

Courtney Guerrant's love affair with **semi-precious stones and pearls** is apparent in her original and **unique bracelets, necklaces and earrings** – true feasts for the eyes. Courtney wore a different piece of her pearls and sparkles with her sweats each day during the pandemic – it made her happy and will make you happy, too!

Pat Lawler is the **ultimate craftswoman in using traditional metal smithing tools and techniques in fabricating sterling silver jewelry**. Her pieces are simple, original, elegant and everyday-to-special occasion wearable.

This show is the perfect opportunity to indulge yourself or surprise and thrill those special friends and family members. Drop a hint! You might be surprised and thrilled yourself!

The Jewelry Show opens Friday, November 5 from 1pm to 4pm and Saturday, November 6, 10am to 4pm. **The First Friday Reception, which is open to the public, is November 5, 5pm to 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.**

Youth Art Show

Dates: November 9 – 27 | 10:00AM to 4:00PM

Talented artists, in grades 9 through 12, from **Lancaster County Public High School, LHS Visual and Graphic Arts Program**, will participate in this exhibit at RAL Art Center.

Sandy Manning, LHS art teacher, described the collection as classical drawings and illustration examples of still life, portrait and landscape art. The graphic arts design class will present comic strips and poster designs that demonstrate traditional and digital examples of persuasion and communication. The Art2 students will display 3D sculptures as well.



Floral 2 by Quinn Mai

***Plan your visit to the RAL Art Center
and enjoy the art created by the youth in our community.***

November 2021 ~ Express Yourself An All-Member, All Mediums Exhibit

Visual arts offer a special opportunity for artists to tell their viewers what they feel about their subject in their preferred medium, in their own style. This can be done in representational art, abstract art, or semi-abstract art, through paintings, photography, glass, pottery or sculpture.



This is the challenge of November's All-Member, All-Medium Exhibit. What do you, the artist, want to convey to your audience? Is your art telling your story and grabbing the viewer's attention? Is it sending your message? **Go ahead...EXPRESS YOURSELF!**

Receiving: Monday, November 1: 10am – 12pm

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, November 2: Saturday, November 27

Reception: Friday, November 5: 5pm – 7pm

December 2021 Exhibition ~ Photography

The RAL Art Center Annual Photography Show is a great opportunity to display your favorite images, whether they are landscapes, water scenes, flowers, portraits of people or pets, historical buildings, towns, scenes of the Northern Neck or special shots from your travels. Your photographs can be taken with either a camera or cellphone.



Exhibit attendees will see that photographers have many choices for the style that best expresses their artistic vision including documentary, abstract, and artistic photographs. By using in-camera to post-processing creative effects, they create and tell stories through the lens of their camera.

Receiving: Monday, November 29: 10am – 12pm

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, November 30 – Friday, December 31

Reception: Friday, December 3: 5pm – 7pm



December 2021 ~ Holiday Shop

RAL's Annual Holiday Shop is an eagerly awaited event featuring one-of-a-kind affordable gifts that make your shopping experience fun. RAL member Artists and Artisans create a wonderful array of items that include jewelry, framed art of all kinds, baskets, ornaments, pottery, art glass, knitted and crocheted items, other fiber arts, holiday cards and many other gift items. Join us for

our *Holiday First Friday* on December 3rd from 5pm to 7pm.

Receiving: Monday, November 29: 10am to 12pm

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, November 30 – Friday, December 31: 10am to 4pm

Reception: Friday, December 3: 5pm to 7pm

January 2022 – You Be the Judge

RAL Art Center Artists are creating their entries for one of the best shows of each year. You, our visitors, get to choose the winner of the exhibit.

The show opens January 4, 2022, and runs through January 29, 2022. Paintings in every medium, Photography, Pottery, Glass, Fiber Art, Sculpture and Jewelry will be represented.

Expect to have to choose from multiple favorites!



Receiving: Monday, January 3: 10am to 12 pm

Exhibit Dates: January 4 – 29

Reception: Friday, January 7: 5pm to 7pm

2021 Winner, *Drift Away With Us* by Sarah Marshall Elliott

RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

Serving our community through art

Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck Tours RAL Art Center

"It made me want to paint."
Chermera Waller

Members of the Boys & Girls Club
of the Northern Neck were treated

to a gallery tour in the month of September, helping the children increase their awareness of art and sharing its importance to the world. The children spent time with Executive Director, Doug Mock who introduced them to RAL co-operative artists' work. They learned about each artist, what inspired them and the many forms of art media used.



The Boys & Girls Club recently began their Art+ program in an effort to introduce the children to famous and local artists who work in a variety of media.

Ann Vaden, the Art+ coordinator stated, *"The kids loved the tour of the RAL Art Center. Doug did a great job explaining the art on display and talking with the kids about the artists. He made them excited about what they saw and about creating their own art."*

"It was nice. I saw a lot of paintings. It made me want to paint," Chermera Waller said.

"My favorite thing about the tour was seeing the bowling balls that looked like a man and a woman," said Cenaya Palmer.

The kids thought it was "cool" and had a wonderful time experiencing all that RAL has to offer.

Doug commented, *"It is so important that we help these children recognize that art is one of the few things in life that they can pursue where there is no wrong answer. Helping them to find their artistic voice and teaching them to use their heads, their hands and their hearts is essential as they continue on their artistic journey."*

RAL is excited about its relationship with the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck and looks forward to more exciting and artistic adventures.

November's Gallery Windows



Untitled by Linda LaVigne Long



Felted Wool and Silk Cape by Barbara Brecher

The November 2021 Windows at the RAL Art Center will feature the work of a longtime Co-Op Artist, **Linda Lavigne Long**, and a new Co-Op Artist, **Barbara Brecher**. A full article about these artists, written by Ellen Huddy, will appear in the *Rappahannock Record* and on the website at ralartcenter.com. Be sure to check it out!

Natural Colors

RAL Artist Brenda Sylvia's Solo Exhibit at the
Norfolk Botanical Garden

RAL Art Center artist **Brenda M. Sylvia** is having a solo exhibition called *Natural Colors* at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Her exhibit will include 22 of her larger acrylic paintings and will be on display in the Baker Hall in October and November. Most of the paintings are for sale through the Garden Gift Shop and some are being exhibited for the first time.



Brenda is passionate about the beauty of nature and her love of color grew even stronger after living and painting in the Virgin Islands.

The Norfolk Botanical Garden, the largest Botanical garden in Virginia, is open daily from 11am to 5pm (except Thanksgiving Day). There is a \$15 entry fee for non-members. You can learn more about the Garden on their website www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org.

Upcoming Art Classes

www.ralartcenter.com/register-for-class

NOTE: Class participants and instructors are required to wear masks while in the Pike Studio.

RAL Art Center Offers Life Drawing Classes



Life drawing, sometimes known as figure or gesture drawing, is a wonderful way for artists to grow. During a life drawing session, there is a model present, either male or female.

Models traditionally pose for different lengths of time varying from session to session. The shorter poses are meant to allow artists to

loosen up and capture simple gestures of the figure. Longer sessions give the artist more time to visualize and document a detailed rendering.

Popular art tools used when participating in life drawing classes can be charcoal, graphite, pen and ink, pastel and a wide variety of painting media.

The RAL Art Center conducts **Life Drawing Classes** in their Pike Studio every Monday from **10:00AM until noon**. Classes are open to all skill levels and all forms of artistic media. **The fee for each class is \$8.00.**



Plein Air Painting – Less is More

Instructor: Thomas Bradshaw
2-Day Plein Air Workshop: Saturday & Sunday, November 6 & 7, 2021, 10am – 4pm

Richmond based artist, Thomas Bradshaw, graduated from the Art Institute of Atlanta with a degree in Graphic Design. After graduation he moved to Jackson Hole, WY where his evolution into a plein air artist began to take shape. In this class Thomas will bring his plein air knowledge to the RAL Art Center.

Less is more. Here we will learn to use less. Come learn how to mix from a limited pallet. The less colors you use the less distractions from your goal. **Reserve is strength.** The more reserve we have the more we can harness to power of observation: being able to peel away the unimportant to reveal what it's showing us in its raw form.

Locations: Artists will meet at the RAL Art Center Pike Studio. Classes will be held at various outside locations. In case of inclement weather, we will work inside the Pike Studio. (Bring photos).

NOTE: Class participants and instructors are required to wear masks while in the Pike Studio.

Members \$260 / Non-Members \$280

Maximum: 9 Students

IPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Note: Androids are not covered in this class)

Instructor: Caroline Maryan

Class Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 | 1-3pm



A colorful sunrise over the Bay... A great white heron wading in the shallow waters... An 8-point buck in a neighbor's yard. Don't you wish you had a camera with you? Actually, you do... if you own an iPhone.

Join us for a hands-on iPhone photography workshop with Williamsburg-based travel photographer, Caroline Maryan. Whether the iPhone is your only camera... or not... you'll be amazed at what you can capture with it. All it takes is some knowledge and practice. The old expression that the best camera is the one you have with you has never been truer.

Working with the Camera app that comes with the iPhone, we'll start with the basics, learning what the various camera buttons, dials and settings control. Then, we'll dive into the modes, like Portrait, Pano and Video. Learning and practicing advanced techniques comes next. Finally, we'll touch on some simple editing.

Throughout the workshop, you'll pick up tips and tricks to improve your iPhone photography. You'll leave feeling inspired to use your mobile phone for more than a messaging device. Hand-outs with suggestions for ongoing practice will keep your learning on track.

Equipment: An iPhone. While all models of the iPhone are welcome, all of the modes are not available on some of the older models. Here are some specs to help you understand what modes may not be available on older models:

- Portrait mode is only available on newer models released since 2016, like the iPhone 7 Plus (2016), 8 Plus (2017) and all newer models. (It was not included in the smaller iPhone 7 and 8.)
- Live Photo mode is only available on iPhone models starting with 6S and 6S Plus (2015), SE (2016) and newer. For the other modes, you should be fine with any iPhone that is still working.

Please charge your iPhone before you bring it to class! Bringing your charger would be a good idea, too.

Caroline Maryan has taught photography in Williamsburg, VA and Seoul, South Korea since 2011 and loves to bring fun and excitement to her workshops. To learn more, visit her website at www.carolinemaryan.com.

Class will be held in the main gallery

NOTE: Class participants and instructors are required to wear masks.

Members \$50/Non-members \$60
Maximum: 20 Students

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

Monthly Open Critique Session



Open Critique Returns!
3rd Monday of each month at
1:00pm
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, working in a variety of mediums and styles, will be available the third Monday at 1:00pm to make helpful suggestions or just provide a different "set of eyeballs", 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 sarahsod911@gmail.com.

The August critique session attendees were: Jacquie Colligan, Mel Neale, Sarah Soderlund, Sue Ramsey, and Debbie Bull.



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

Gallery Manager: Sharon Stone

ral@ralartcenter.com

www.ralartcenter.com

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm

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