

DECEMBER 2021



The RAL Holiday Shop is open from November 30–December 30 so be sure to visit and start checking those names off your gift list! During your visit, enjoy the **Photography Exhibit** where our artists tell a story through the lens of the camera. 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 **December's Gallery Window Artists** featuring longtime RAL artist **Barbara Kershner** and new exhibiting artist, **Gloria Clifford**.

Holiday Special: Many artists will be offering their work at a 10% discount for the holidays! Don't miss this once a year opportunity!

Gallery News

November's *Express Yourself* Exhibit Awards



The November Exhibit, “Express Yourself,” was judged by Mary Montague Sikes. Monti, as she is called, is an award-winning author and artist. She stated that color and experimentation with various art mediums were her passion.

She chose a watercolor, ***Florida Keys Bananas* by Gloria Clifford for First Place**. Laura Edwards received Second Place for her oil, *Halcyon*, and T. Alan Jones received Third Place for his acrylic, *Guided Meditation*.

Honorable Mentions went to the following:

Moonlight Madness, acrylic by Sue Ramsey

Paint the Town, oil and cold wax by Mary Ellis

Forest Filigree, acrylic by Joan Willoughby

North Beach, acrylic by Debra Bull

Flights of Fancy by Ron Taylor

Diva on the Warpath, mixed glass and leather by Laurie Breakwell



Introducing New Co-op Artist: Norma Geddes

Norma Geddes discovered stained glass by accident when she impulsively took a class in the medium. It has now become her bliss!

Norma works in a variety of styles and forms, often incorporating components from around the world, such as lamp-work beads from South Africa or sea glass from her native Nova Scotia. In addition to flat hangings, she is displaying small fused glass dishes in an array of colors, containers suitable for flowers or flameless candles, and small vertical art pieces on wooden stands. Welcome Norma!

Upcoming Exhibitions & Shows

December 2021 Exhibition ~ Photography

The RAL Art Center Annual Photography Show features images of landscapes, water scenes, flowers, portraits of people or pets, historical buildings, towns, scenes of the Northern Neck and more. 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.



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

Reception: Friday, December 3: 5pm to 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.

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, November 30 – Friday, December 30: 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 5, 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: Wednesday, January 5 – 29

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

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

February 2022 ~ Expressions of Love



February is typically the month we celebrate our favorite sweetheart for Valentine's Day but this month RAL artists present their masterful creations of *ANYTHING* that they love. Will it be a loved pet, a child, grandchild or favorite vacation destination? Works could include a much-loved home, plant or flower. The sky is the limit as RAL plays host to this exciting exhibition. We hope you find something you love when you visit the RAL Art Center this month.

Receiving: Monday, January 31: 10am to 12pm

Exhibit Dates: Wednesday, February 2 – 26

Reception: Friday, February 4: 5 to 7pm

Lunch Break by Doug Mock

February 2022 ~ Winter Blues

Blue is considered beneficial to the mind and the body. It slows human metabolism and produces a calming effect. In many cultures blue is believed to

bring peace and keep bad spirits at bay. RAL artists will be creating works this month using blue as their inspiration. Join us in February to see how your favorite artist incorporates the color blue: will it be a blue subject, a blue background, shades of blue as a monochromatic design? Come visit and see!

Receiving: Monday, January 31: 10am to 12pm

Exhibit Dates: Wednesday, February 2 – 26

Reception: Friday, February 4: 5 to 7pm



Blue Heron by Barbara Kershner

RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

Serving our community through art



RAL kicked off its first Little Budding Artist class on October 16th. This class meets monthly for children aged 2–6 years who are accompanied by a caregiver. Christine Mason helped the kids create Halloween-themed projects. To quote Christine: *"It was so much fun! Thanks for asking me!"*

On October 23rd, Don Presnell led CreARTive Kids for 7–12-year-olds in drawing cartoon animals and people. *"I really had fun"* commented Don, *"and I could tell they wanted to do more."* The free art/craft classes for children and youth continue each month.



RAL participated in the Lancaster by the Bay Chamber of Commerce "Kandy for Kids" on October 30th. RAL volunteers Bob Casazza, Judy Ebner, Mary Olinger, Suzi Powell and Karen Williams distributed sweet treats and coloring books and crayons to approximately 500 children.

Finally, on November 8th, RAL welcomed 30 students from the Northumberland County Schools Gifted Education Program to the Art Center. Students chose a piece of artwork in the gallery and drew their interpretation of the piece. A second group visited the Art Center on November 18th.

To volunteer or otherwise support our youth programs, please contact Sharon Stone at gallerymanager@ralartcenter.com or call 804.436.9309.

December Gallery Windows



The December Windows at the RAL Art Center will feature the work of **Gloria Clifford and Barbara Kershner**. 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!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Artists Receive Major Awards

Be sure to visit our [blog](#) to read about awards recently won by Barbara Brecher, for her work, *A Very Special Day*, and Ron Taylor's *Locked In – Locked Out* which won first place at the Annual Artist Veterans Exhibit at the On the Hill Gallery in Yorktown, Virginia.



Art in Transit Exhibit Winners

Congratulations to three amazing artists for their works exhibited during November's Art in Transit show, co-sponsored by Bay Transit and RAL Art Center. Taking first place was **Brenda Sylvia** with her painting, *Jumping for Joy*. **Laurie Breakwell** received second place for her fused glass piece, *Take Me Along*. And **Carol Vaughn's** painting, *River Racing* rounded out the winners' list with third place. See our [blog](#) for photos and more information.



Holiday Parade RAL Float

Don't miss the lighted [Kilmarnock Christmas Parade](#) on Friday, December 10th at 7 pm. Don Presnell and many others are building and decorating the inaugural RAL Art Center float. Celebrate "Peace on Earth" and cheer for your fellow members in the parade!



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 10AM until noon**. Classes are open to all skill levels and all forms of artistic media. **The fee for each class is \$8.00.**

Monthly Open Critique Session

Open Critique!



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 1PM 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.

Featured in the photo above are critique session attendees: 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

Phone: 804.436.9309



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