

September 2023



*September Afternoon* by American artist Charles Courtney Curran

Visit RAL in September and enjoy the world-famous (OK, OK, make that Virginia-famous!) **Labor Day Art Show!** Join us at the First Friday Reception on September 1st as we announce and celebrate all the winners and participating artists.

#### Feeling Creative?

September features an abundance of new classes such as botanical observation and illustration, watermedia "fun" (watercolor AND acrylics!), and how to make CD/Alcohol Ink suncatchers. Reserve your spot for **Try It Tuesday** and paint a "frivolous colorful bird" with Rebecca West, or welcome the Fall and paint a floating leaf with Juli Schuszler at **September's Paint Night**.

This month's **Gallery Windows** will feature artists **Doug Mock, Debra Bull and Cheryl Mihills** so be sure to do a little window shopping and come in for a visit!

AND, join us as we **welcome two new artists to RAL**, mosaic artist, **Joan Powell** and pastelist, **Jodie Ball**. We're glad you're here!

## Gallery News



### 62nd Labor Day Art Show is Finally Here!

*August 30 - September 23, 2023*

After weeks and even months of anticipation, the RAL Art Center Labor Day Art Show is opening!

RAL has received 138 amazing works of art plus over 30 bin pieces making this year the perfect opportunity to bring your family and friends to the show. Want to be amongst the first to see the winning pieces?

Join us for a very special First Friday reception on September 1st when the winners are unveiled. And remember, the gallery will be open to the public on both Sunday, 9/3, and Monday, 9/4, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Our Labor Day Art Show is one of the longest-standing visual art shows in Virginia and has also been awarded the Virginia Living Magazine's Best of Virginia 2023 for Art Events. We are proud to be in our 62nd year. We hope that you, your family, your neighbors, and your friends visit often!

Exhibit Dates: August 30 - September 23



## RAL ART CENTER ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR AUGUST'S "WILD THINGS" EXHIBIT

Wild Things was the theme that artists envisioned when creating work for the August exhibit at the RAL Art Center in Kilmarnock, VA. Although wild animals may have first come to mind, many other wild things appeared in the submitted art including wild weather, wild cartoon figures, and wild abstract designs.

The opening reception was Friday, August 4th, with **art judge Sherry Hodges** announcing the awards. Hodges holds a degree in Fine Arts from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in art education from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her art teaching career at the secondary level extended for 34 years in York County, Virginia, public schools.

First place went to *Old and Gnarly*, an oil painting by new RAL co-op artist, **Jody Ball**. The image depicts a large tree with gnarled roots standing on a riverbank. Hodges commented that it "*Goes to show that with advanced age comes a special kind of new beauty.*" A handmade book made of viscose paper and silk won second place. The work, by fiber artist **Barbara Brecher**, is entitled *An Endless Sky Until . . .* and features a bird stretching its wings to fly. Hodges noted that Brecher's work was "*Inviting to make one study longer and the bird is inspirational.*" Rounding out the top three awards was a photograph by **Bob Sutherland** entitled, *Heaven's Light*. The photograph of a heron facing a marsh sunrise showed "*Excellent composition and control of light,*" according to Hodges.

**Honorable mentions** went to *Armed and Delicious*, a fused glass piece by **Laurie Breakwell**; *Empty Nest*, a pastel painting by **Mel Neale**; *GIRAFFHYSTERIA*, a found object sculpture by **Joy Bolger**; *Dear, We Need a New House*, a photograph by **Gayle Werling**; and *Hello!* an oil painting by **Jorie Wiley**.

Clockwise from top left, *Old and Gnarly*, by Jodie Ball, *An Endless Sky Until...* by Barbara Brecher, Bob Sutherland's *Heaven's Light*.

## RALAC Welcomes Two New Artists



Joan Powell has been collecting “stuff” since she was a girl and throughout her career, which included more than 20 years as an antique dealer. She puts these whimsical, weird, unique objects to use in her creative mosaics.

The mosaics are built around a theme, whether it be her recent Blue Willow china-framed mirror, or the wall hanging with a Hummel Doll head surrounded by vintage china.

Joan also uses her stash of goodies to create “Memory Jugs”, one of the oldest forms of American folk art, traditionally made to honor the memory of a loved one.

Her small sculptures are made with a multitude of theme-related figures, objects, and crockery assembled to resemble a towering 3-D collage. Her unique vision, along with a dose of humor shines through in all her work.



Jody Ball works in both pastel and oil to capture what she sees as the wonder and beauty of nature.

While living in Ohio, Jody taught painting and drawing in her home studio to students of all ages. She and her husband left their Ohio home almost two years ago to live the RV life, visiting, living, and working in State parks, campgrounds, and nature preserves across the country.

They have recently settled into their new home in Deltaville, but intend to intersperse time spent at home with travels in the RV. The relaxed time in natural surroundings provides Jody with the opportunity to immerse herself in and paint the beautiful landscapes she loves.

## RAL Stages an Appreciation Event for Volunteers

On August 7th, nearly 50 volunteers attended a brunch held at RAL Art Center in their honor. Volunteers handle all types of necessary jobs, from working at the front desk to repairing the facility to organizing exhibits and art classes. **In fact, without our volunteers, the organization simply would not exist!**

This brunch featured a buffet of items such as croissants, egg frittatas, cheese, deli meats, muffins, fruit salads, and sweet treats. There was a coffee and beverage station, a bagel station complete with smoked salmon and cream cheese, and a mimosa bar. The volunteers engaged in an icebreaker game that promoted laughter and good conversation.

Many volunteers noted that they met people they never had before and really enjoyed seeing others they knew but hadn't talked with in a long time. This is the great part about volunteering and one of the things that keeps bringing volunteers through our doors.





Many, many thanks to each and every person who keeps RAL running and growing!



## Holiday Shop 2023: Important Change for Vendors!

As you read in the August ArtLine, we are requiring that all Holiday Shop vendors limit their pricing to 12 tiers or categories. This is not a limit on the number of items that any vendor can sell – only of the price points.

Also, instead of simply showing up to set out their displays on receiving day, all vendors **MUST** submit their inventory form in advance. Vendors may find the form online at

<https://www.ralartcenter.com/holiday-shop> or come in for a printed form. The deadline for form submission to Charles Breakwell, [assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com), is Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

The main goal of this process is to eliminate any manual entry of items or prices. If everything can be scanned, the checkout time will be much, much shorter. Vendors who have not submitted an inventory form will not be permitted to participate in the Holiday Shop.

Please get the word out to anyone you know who might be planning to sell at RAL this year. They can read about Vendor Guidelines on our blog at [Holiday Shop 2023: Important Guidelines for Crafters \(ralartcenter.com\)](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact either Sharon Stone, [executivedirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:executivedirector@ralartcenter.com), or Charles Breakwell, 804-436-9309, with any questions. We hope these changes make this the best Holiday Shop ever!

## Paint Night, Try It Tuesday and Classes

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

[www.ralartcenter.com](http://www.ralartcenter.com) or call

804.436.9309



### Botanical Observation and Drawing

Instructor: Celeste Johnston, Botanical Artist

Date: September 9, 2023

Time: 9 am – 4 pm (12-1 lunch)

Cost: \$70 for members, \$81 for non-members

Join other artists, gardeners, and nature lovers to learn a bit about the history of botanical illustration, the basics of how to observe flowers, and how to scientifically render illustrations of what you observe.

No past experience or expertise in botanical art or drawing is required. This workshop will help you keep a better garden or nature journal, record the growth of your plants, or record observations when out on a hike or nature walk.

Please see an expanded description on the website for more information.

### September Try It Tuesday: Frivolous Bird Painting

Instructor: Rebecca West, Artist

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 6-8 pm

Cost: Members: \$35\*; Non-Members: \$40\*

\*price includes a \$5 supply fee

Come to RAL to enjoy a painting “free for all”. Paint a frivolous colorful bird to add to your collection or share as a gift. You'll combine acrylic paint, a palette knife, and a brush with your imagination as the essential ingredients in creating this painting.



### **Watermedia Fun and Free: Session I**

**Instructor:** Gloria Clifford, Artist

**Dates:** Thursdays, September 14–October 12, 2023

**Time:** 10 am – 12:30 pm

**Cost:** \$240 for members, \$276 for non-members

This BRAND NEW class offering will introduce two water-based mediums, watercolor and acrylics, in a completely fun and free way.

Although several additional water-based materials may also be used and demonstrated by the instructor, the emphasis of this class will cover how to creatively use watercolor and acrylic paints in nontraditional ways.

Some knowledge of watercolor painting and/or acrylic painting is helpful but not required. Although this is not an abstract painting class, abstract ways of thinking and application of mediums will be encouraged. Please see an extended description and supply list on the website.

### **Adult Acrylic Painting: Session I**

**Instructor:** Gloria Clifford, Artist

**Dates:** Thursdays, September 14–October 12, 2023

**Time:** 1:30 – 4 pm

**Cost:** \$240 for members, \$276 for non-members

This class is open to beginners and/or to intermediate students. It is for all those who would like to learn additional skills and for those who wish to experience the process of painting with acrylics.

Acrylic paints are one of the best painting mediums because they are more “forgiving” and can be painted over quite easily if an error is made. In this class students will create paintings of subjects of their own choice. Photos and/or reference images are highly suggested and are the responsibility of the student.

Having some knowledge of drawing and color mixing will be helpful but is not required. Please see the website for more information and a supply list.



### **CD Suncatcher with Alcohol Ink**

**Instructor:** Carol Muratore, local Northern Neck Artist

**Date:** September 19, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Cost:** \$45\* for members, \$52\* for non-members

\***Supply Cost** – add \$12 for a set of 3 alcohol ink bottles or you can bring your own (minimum of 3 different colors). See the website for more

details.

Join us for this unique art opportunity and make suncatchers using CDs and alcohol ink. Alcohol ink is gaining popularity as a fun, bright, and beautiful medium for artists. Artists are making new, unconventional updates as to how to work with this emerging medium. Many are also using it in combination with traditional mediums for amazing results. No matter your level, you will be able to quickly create beautiful artwork!



All experience levels are welcome. Feel free to share this workshop with your friends and fellow artists.

**Prerequisite:** 18 years or older, can work in a well-ventilated area and do not suffer from allergies or asthma. Wear old clothes that you are not worried about being stained and bring/wear gloves during the class.



### **Watercolor Painting for the True Beginner**

**Instructor:** Doug Mock, Artist

**Date:** Fridays, September 22 – October 27, 2023

**Time:** 1:30 – 4 pm

**Cost:** \$255 for Members, \$293 for Non-members

Do you have the desire to paint in watercolor but don't know where to start? Then this class is your chance!

Artists will learn about supplies, beginning techniques, choosing subject matter, and achieving results that are sure

to please. Open your mind, prepare to learn, have some fun, and enjoy the beauty of all that watercolor has to offer. This course is for the true beginner. Double the fun and invite a friend; this will be a great learning opportunity.

A key to success with watercolor is having the best supplies an artist can afford. If you have watercolor supplies that might work, please feel free to bring them to the first class. If you need supplies then Doug will have a good beginner set (paints, brushes, palette, and paper) available for \$125 (please make check payable to Doug Mock for supplies).



### **September Paint Night: Colorful Fall**

**Instructor:** Juli Schuszler, Artist

**Date:** Thursday – September 28, 2023

**Time:** 6 – 8 pm

**Cost:** \$35 for Members, \$40 for Non-members

Join us on the evening of Thursday, September 28 as we begin to welcome fall with this floating leaf painting.

This class will be completed using acrylic paint on an 11" x 14" stretched canvas. Create your own colorful

leaf painting while enjoying the company of others. All levels of experience are welcome, from beginner to experienced. You will receive a reference picture and printed step-by-step directions.

Special instruction will be available to those needing help mixing colors and applying paint to create the gradients needed for this image. 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.



## October 2023 ~ Fall Is Here!

Who doesn't love the onset of cooler mornings, colored foliage, and the prospect of cozy evenings by a fire?

Take a moment to share with us your vision of fall. Landscapes are welcome, but so are all things autumn, from football to bountiful produce to family celebrations! Think outside the box and surprise us!



**Receiving:** Monday, October 2 from 10 am to 12 pm

**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, October 3 through Saturday, October 28

**First Friday Reception:** Friday, October 6 from 5 to 7 pm

*One Lane Bridge* by Ellen Huddy



## October 2023 ~ Color My World

Celebrate Nature's color show with vivid, saturated landscapes! This exhibit theme also applies to colorful interiors, objects, animals, and people. What colors your world? Show us your art!

**Receiving:** Monday, October 2 from 10 am to 12 pm

**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, October 3 through Saturday, October 28

**First Friday Reception:** Friday, October 6 from 5 to 7 pm

*Summer Mountain Elegy* by Karen Kingsley



## November 2023 ~ This and That

We are pleased to have two very talented artists exhibiting their work on our Mobile Display Units in November. They are members **Jorie Wiley** and **Suzanne Quel Mehfoed**.

Currently living in Richmond, **Jorie** describes her art journey in this way: *"I have always loved art and want to create what I see. I have been painting since 2004 when I started experimenting with oil painting. Juggling the work of painting with raising three children was a real adventure! I have been a member of the Tuckahoe Artist Association for several years and have taken classes from several talented artists in the Richmond area. I love to paint landscapes, living creatures, and capture beauty and atmosphere in my paintings."*

Also based in Richmond, **Suzanne** says, *"Some of my earliest childhood memories are of hours spent, pencil in hand creating entire stories of animals and people. This led to a BFA in Art Education from VCU. And now I find painting creatures human and otherwise as intriguing as*

those drawn stories from the past.”

**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, October 31 through Saturday, November 25

**Reception:** Friday, November 3 from 5 to 7 pm

From left to right: *Hello* by Jorie Wiley and *Jacques* by Suzanne Quel Mehfoud

## November 2023 ~ Express Yourself

This is every member’s chance to enter art that is inspired by thought or emotion. Whatever you want to say, whatever you want others to think about – that is what we want to see.

Express yourself in color, line, or perspective. Make it dreamlike, real, or abstract. Push the envelope or play it safe, but in either case, show us something about you!

**Receiving:** Monday, October 30 from 10 am to 12 pm

**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, October 31 through Saturday, November 18

**Reception:** Friday, November 3 from 5 to 7 pm

*Bright Sunny Day* by Mary Ellis



## November 2023 ~ Jewelry Show

The annual RAL Jewelry Show is coming soon! Our co-op jewelry artists will once again display treasures to entice anyone who appreciates things that glitter and sparkle!

Be sure to mark your calendar and make your gift list because you are sure to find something for everyone – including yourself!

**Show dates:** Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11 during regular business hours



## –Holiday Shop 2023– ATTENTION MEMBERS

The annual RAL Holiday Shop gives members the opportunity to sell handmade crafts, cards, ornaments, and small works of art. Most of the items are priced at \$100 or lower, so these quality pieces fit the budget of most holiday shoppers.

This year, we are excited to announce that we will open the Holiday Shop a week earlier than usual to take advantage of Black Friday and Small Business Saturday traffic!

It’s not too early to begin creating for Christmas. Please see the website for the new and improved **Vendor Inventory Forms** and **Guidelines for Vendors** related to our new point-of-sale system. Vendors may **submit their inventory forms from now through November**



14th in order to participate this year.

**Receiving: Monday, November 20 from 10 am to 2 pm**

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, November 21 through Saturday, December 30

## 2023 Exhibits & Special Events

October *Color My World* and *Fall is Here*

November *Express Yourself* and *This and That* with visiting Artists *Suzanne Quel & Jorie Wiley*; Jewelry Show (Nov. 10–11)

December *Holiday Shop* and *Photography Show*  
Holiday Party (Dec. 1)



## 2024 Exhibits & Special Events

### January

*75 Years of Art Inspiration* and *Close-Ups*

### February

*Black, White, and Grey All Over* and *A Touch of Color*

### March

*Absolutely Anything* and *My Favorite Things*

### April

*From the Garden* and *Catherine Hillis*

### May

*Art in Transit* and *Hip to Be Square*

### June

*Mini Art Heist* and *Simplicity*

### July

*Driven to Abstraction* and *Small Works*

### August

*Critters and Creatures* and *Tartan Village Bay Aging*

### September

*63rd LDAS Show*

*(Co-op show in Stouffer Room)*

### October

*Water: Above and Below* and *Robin Caspari*

### November

*Sunrise, Sunset, & Nocturns* and *From My Travels*

*Holiday Shop* opens November 26

### December

*Holiday Shop* continues

*Photography Show*

**September's Gallery Window Artists**



## Meet this Month's Window Artists...

This month we are very happy to present the work of three talented RAL Co-op Artists:  
**Doug Mock, Debra Bull, and Cheryl Mihills.**

### Doug Mock

Describing what inspires him, Doug says, *"I paint watercolors of memorable moments in life. People in their everyday environment along with elements and objects in nature inspire all that I love as an artist. I capture life's simplicity and innocence through the playfulness of color and light and through unique and one-of-a-kind design."*

### Debra Bull

Debra chimes in with her experiences in nature: *"I look for areas around the Northern Neck to paint that have the feeling of raw undisturbed beaches of the Chesapeake Bay, rivers and creeks. In 2018 my eyes were opened to another hidden love of painting seascapes, water creatures, and landscapes while participating in water sports. The exploration of islands, waterways, and salt ponds offers me a different way to discover my new world."*

### Cheryl Mihills

Our third artist, Cheryl Mihills explains her fiber art pursuits: *"I have explored many creative art media since majoring in art and design at the Rochester Institute of Technology. But I have focused on the punchneedle fiber medium since discovering the technique over 40 years ago. I begin each new needlework with an idea and sometimes a sketch. The artwork evolves as I continue to punch. It is like drawing and painting with the punchneedle. Each original work is created with one strand of thread and a punchneedle using tiny loops and stitches on a fabric background. After many years, this medium still inspires me to create new images and adapt new techniques."*

**Be sure to linger on our front sidewalk to take in these amazing displays!**

From left to right: *Caribbean Cleanup* by Doug Mock, *River View* by Debra Bull, *Heron* by Cheryl Mihills

## Community Outreach





## Another Successful Art Camp Summer In the Books!

RAL completed its nine weeks of summer art camps for children on August 11. Nine instructors led 56 classes! Kids enjoyed activities from shaving cream painting to plastic Chihuly sculptures to cartooning.

RAL also offered two weeks of art activities at the YMCA Camp Kekoka. The instructors for those 12 sessions deserve an added thank you for enduring the 90+ degree temperatures in the non-air-conditioned art barn!

And finally, for the third year, RAL was invited to share in the fun of the Lancaster Public Library Summer Reading Program. Fifteen kids (and 4 adults!) joined in our "Creative Musical Chairs" program, with Dave Hershiser on the banjo.

**A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who offered their time to give our kids an imaginative and creative summer. You're the best!**



### 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



Officers 2023

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



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Executive Director: Sharon Stone

[ral@ralartcenter.com](mailto:ral@ralartcenter.com)

[www.ralartcenter.com](http://www.ralartcenter.com)

**OUR HOURS ARE:**

**TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10:00am – 4:00pm**

Phone: 804.436.9309

Support the RAL Art Center



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