

November 2023



Vincent van Gogh, *Wheatfield with Crows*, 1890

Visit RAL in November to see the **Express Yourself** exhibit and the work of visiting artists **Jorie Wiley** and **Suzanne Quel**. You'll also be treated to our annual **Jewelry Show AND the Holiday Shop!**

Friends, it's officially time to start SHOPPING!

And, don't miss our very first **Gingerbread-ageddon**, kicking off this November! Our artists' creativity will come to life in their unique interpretations of the "all-things-**gingerbread**" theme.

Even better? All these amazing pieces of art will be for sale!

November's **Gallery Windows** will feature artists **Barb Brecher**, **Linda LaVigne-Long**, and **Sue Broadway** so be sure to do a little window shopping and then come in for a closer look!

## Gallery News



*Waving Goodbye*  
by Sammy Anderson



*Celestial Bodies*  
by Robin Brown



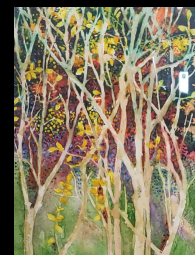
*Open Sesame*  
by Laurie Breakwell



*Autumm*  
by Johnny Hayes



*Barn Dressed for Fall*  
by Gayle Werling



*Magic of Fall*  
by Linda Goldstein

## Announcing the Winners of RAL October Exhibits

Sharon Stone, Executive Director of the RAL Art Center, and Juli Schuszler, Exhibits Team Leader,

presented the awards and comments on behalf of the show's judge, Kathy Klein, at the First Friday reception on October 6th. Klein is an abstract artist living in Gloucester. Much of her work grows out of her experience teaching Women's Studies at Indiana and Connecticut State Universities. Kathy made her selections on October 2nd from the seventy-eight original works in these two shows, "Fall is Here," and "Color My World."

In the "Color My World" exhibition, Kathy awarded **First Place to the acrylic painting, *Waving Goodbye*, by Sammy Anderson.** Kathy commented on its strong composition and vibrant colors. ***Celestial Bodies*, a mixed media work by Robin Brown, received Second Place.** Kathy said that it was "marvelous" and "filled with rhythm and movement." **Third Place went to Laurie Breakwell's fused glass sculpture, *Open Sesame*.** Kathy said that the piece was "just wonderful." **Honorable Mentions went to the photograph *Glacier Blues* by Annie Barsky, *Ancient Colors* a bas-relief sculpture by Ron Taylor, and *Color Me Fun* a watercolor by Joan Willoughby.**

In the "Fall is Here" exhibition, Kathy awarded **First Place to *Autumm*, an acrylic painting by Johnny Hayes.** Kathy noted that the "abstraction and the colors convey the season well" and that the painting "echoes Jackson Pollock." The photograph ***Barn Dressed for Fall* by Gayle Werling, received Second Place.** Kathy commented that the rusty red colors work well and enhance the composition. **Third Place went to the watercolor *Magic of Fall* by Linda Goldstein.** Kathy said that it exudes a "storybook quality." **Honorable Mentions went to *That's Close Enough*, a photograph by Jeffery D. Barsky, *Bird's Eye View*, a photograph by Annie Barsky, and *Floral Leaves*, a fiber work by Lee Taylor.**

## Welcome New Artist, Bobby Wiltshire!

Bobby Wiltshire is an award-winning artist from Richmond, VA. He retired from Carousel Signs & Designs, Inc., which he founded in 1976.



Bobby began drawing in pencil and painting with acrylics, until his oldest daughter presented him with a watercolor set many years ago. He fell in love with the medium. He started receiving instruction from Shelly Bechtel Shepherd at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, previously The Hand Workshop. His subjects consist mainly of rural scenes in Virginia as well as coastal views from the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

For the last 17 years, Bobby has attended the Nimrod Artists Retreat in Virginia, where he finds inspiration and collaborates with other artists. He is a member of the Virginia Watercolor Society and the Watercolor Society of North Carolina. Bobby is the recipient of many awards, including the Anne Hayes Award of Excellence in Watercolor for his entry in the RAL 2023 Labor Day Art Show.

*Manteo Waterfront*, watercolor by Bobby Wiltshire.



## Fall Photo Walkabout

The RAL Art Center Photography Group met on October 16th for a Photo Walkabout at Dug In Farms in Kilmarnock. They enjoyed a beautiful day and took photographs of a field of flowers, several buildings, a beehive section, a hoop house filled with new zinnias, and starter plants – a photographer's dream!

Tom Martin took them to tour his studio which is set up for portrait and still life photography. Six of the group members attended and our photos will be shared at our next meeting on November 20th at the RAL Art Center Pike Studio.

**The Photography Group meets at the gallery monthly on the 3rd Monday at 3:00 PM.** Our focus is on learning and exploring the photo opportunities in the Northern Neck. We share our skills whether members use a Digital, Mirrorless, or cell phone camera. The Annual Photography Exhibit will be in December at RAL Art Center. Join us for the reception on December 1st from 5 to 7 PM

and meet our group. All RAL members are welcome to join our group.



## Holiday Shop 2023: Vendor Guidelines

This is the final reminder that vendors who wish to sell art or handcrafts in the Holiday Shop need to submit their inventory forms to the gallery desk before they can set up their displays.

Find the form online at [Holiday Shop | RAL Art Center](#) 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.

We hope these changes make this the best Holiday Shop ever!

## 75 Years of Bringing Art to the Community and Community to the Arts

The Rappahannock Art League was founded in 1949 on a shoestring: our ten charter members each paid \$1.00 in annual dues. Times have changed when it comes to dues, but today our 300+ membership continues to aim high. RAL will commemorate its 75th year in September 2024, with the publication of a highly visual coffee table book that preserves our remarkable story.

Please visit the [Donation Page](#) on the RAL website to make your gift toward this project. Together, we will be able to create a vehicle to carry our history and hopes into the next 75 years



[#GivingTuesday2023](#)



## 62nd LDAS Programs Are Available

We have extra programs from this year's Labor Day Art Show for anyone who would like another one – or several – for their own records. They will be available at the gallery front desk through the end of November.

## Join Us on Social Media!

Keep up with all the happenings at RAL by following us on social media!

You can find us on Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/ral\\_art\\_center/](https://www.instagram.com/ral_art_center/)

and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RALArtCenter!>





## Creating with Santa

Once again, Santa will visit the RAL Art Center for a morning of artmaking! Children ages 4–10 are invited to come with their parents to visit with Santa and create a fun holiday craft on **Saturday, December 9, from 10 am to 12 pm.**



All supplies are provided free of charge. This is a great opportunity for parents to get photos of their children with Santa!

If you are interested in serving as one of Santa's helpers, please contact the gallery at 804-436-9309 or [ral@ralartcenter.com](mailto:ral@ralartcenter.com).



RAL Art Center is a drop site for the Lancaster County 2023 Toys for Tots campaign! **The donation box will remain in the lobby until December 8, 2023.** This is a cooperative effort among several non-profit organizations in our area and we are excited to offer our members this opportunity to drop off one or more unwrapped toys for children who might not otherwise have gifts this Christmas.

Thank you in advance for participating in this heartwarming tradition!

## RAL Supports Local Library for 1st Annual Comic-Con

Four RAL members volunteered at the Lancaster Community Library (LCL) on Sunday, October 8, during the library's first annual Comic-Con. This event attracted a wide age range of participants, from preschoolers through adults, many of whom attended dressed as their favorite superheroes or graphic novel characters. Vendors sold handicrafts, original art, books, and memorabilia related to fantasy or science fiction themes.

RAL Board member and library director, Alice Cooper, oversaw the festivities dressed as "Super Librarian;" other members from RAL included Stephanie Antonijuan, Charles Breakwell, and Sharon Stone. The library's aim was to encourage literacy through fun activities and content that is of interest to children and youth. Stay tuned for more news about RAL/LCL collaborations in the coming months!



## Donate Magazines for Art Projects!

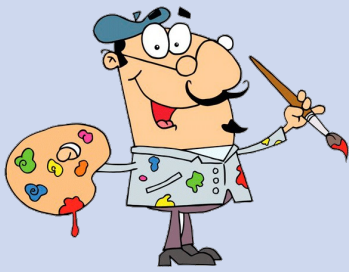
Stephanie Antonijuan, smART Program Manager, requests donations of any old magazines in good condition. She plans to use these in our children and youth art classes.

Please bring in magazines on any subject; questions may be directed to [smartprogram@ralartcenter.com](mailto:smartprogram@ralartcenter.com). Thank you!



## Classes and Activities

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



## OPEN STUDIO

Instructor: Brenda Sylvia

Open Studio: Wednesdays – 6 pm – 8:30 pm

Open to artists of all levels to work in any medium except oils (unless you are not using solvents with them).

A still life will be set up for working from life and you are welcome to bring your own objects or photographs to work from. Bring your own materials and refreshments. Tabletop easels will be provided.

RAL artist Brenda Sylvia will be available for instruction, encouragement, and demonstrations. Come join us to have fun with your art in a nourishing, supportive environment. Please sign up in advance – restricted to 8 artists per session.

Supplies: Bring your own materials.

Members \$20 per night / Non-Members \$25 per night

Maximum: 8 Students

## Upcoming Exhibits



### 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 Mehfoud**.

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: *Jacques* by Suzanne Quel Mehfoud and *Hello* by Jorie Wiley

### 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 (*Please take note of the early ending date.*)

**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 bring your gift list because you are sure to find something for everyone – including yourself!

**Show dates:** Friday, November 10 from 1 to 7 pm

Saturday, November 11 from 10 am to 4 pm

**Reception:** Friday, November 10 from 5 to 7 pm

*Copper Oyster Pendant and Copper Shell Ring* by Jacquie Colligan

## November 2023 ~ Holiday Shop

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!

Help us transform the RAL Art Center into a veritable Santa's Workshop! Crafts, gifts, ornaments, and cards can be submitted during the receiving hours. But be sure to follow the vendor instructions posted on the website and described in the article above!

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

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



## November 2023 ~ Gingerbread-ageddon!

This holiday season, we will embark on creatively interpreting all things gingerbread! Instead of the "snowpeople" we have created in the past, think of what artistic centerpieces or statuary you can construct that evoke the look – if not the taste – of gingerbread.

Size can range from 12"x12"x12" for tabletops to 36" tall for fireside or front porch decorations. Make people, structures, or the totally unexpected. Just remember, it should be fun, artsy, and for sale to benefit RAL!



**Receiving:** Any day beginning on **Monday, November 20 through Friday, December 1 during regular business hours.** Friday, December 1 is also the date for the Holiday Party/First Friday Reception.

## December 2023 ~ Photography Show

The RAL Art Center Annual Photography Show exhibits the photographer's favorite artwork whether it is landscape, water scenes, flowers, portraits of people or pets, historical buildings, towns, and scenes from the local areas or from their travels.

Photographers may enter their own images that have been taken by their digital or film camera or their cell phone. Generative AI is not permitted. Post-processing using current digital tools is permitted. Tell your story, display your vision, and share your art with viewers!!

Steve Kancianic, owner of Yours Truly Photography, will judge the show. He was born in Falls Church but considers Easton, Pennsylvania, his hometown – a medium-sized city north of Philadelphia. He attended Penn State Berks Campus in Reading, Pennsylvania, as well as Antonelli Institute of Art & Photography– an intense photography school just outside Philadelphia. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Rachel, and moved to Pittsburgh. It was in Pittsburgh that we created the name Yours Truly Photography on the porch of our tiny apartment. In 2006 we made the decision to move to Virginia for warmer weather and a life on the water. Yours Truly Photography was officially established in 2007.



**Receiving:** November 27 from 10 am to 12 pm  
**Exhibit Dates:** November 28 through December 30  
**Reception:** Friday, December 1 from 5 to 7 pm



## January 2024 – 75 Years of Art and Inspiration

From where does the inspiration for your art come? The existence of the Rappahannock Art League and RAL Art Center for 75 years is plenty of inspiration in itself. Let's celebrate RAL and RALAC's 75th with something special!

**Receiving:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024, from 10 am to 12 pm  
**Exhibit Dates:** Wednesday, January 3 through Friday, January 26, 2024  
**Reception:** Friday, January 5, 2024

*Wildflower Hospital #1* by Sarah Haddock

## January 2024 – Close-Ups

Proximity can make all the difference. Come in close, find the detail. Look, then see.

**Receiving:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024, from 10 am to 12 pm  
**Exhibit Dates:** Wednesday, January 3 through Friday, January 26, 2024  
**Reception:** Friday, January 5, 2024

*Party!* by Patty Richards



## 2023–2024 Upcoming Exhibits & Special Events

2023

**November**

Express Yourself

This and That – featuring visiting artists Suzanne Quel & Jorie Wiley

Jewelry Show (Nov. 10–11)

Holiday Shop opens November 21

**December**

Holiday Shop and Photography Show

Holiday Party (Friday, December 1, 5–7 pm)

2024

**January**

75 Years of Art Inspiration

Close-Ups

**February**

Black, White, and Grey All Over

A Touch of Color

**March**

Absolutely Anything

My Favorite Things

**April**

From the Garden

Visiting Artist, Catherine Hillis

## November'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:  
**Barb Brecher, Linda LaVigne-Long, and Sue Broadway**

**Barb Brecher** creates **felted hand-made fabric for constructing wearable art** such as scarves, jackets, and handbags. She says, “I love the feeling of working with fiber. I became interested in textiles when, as a graphic designer, my tools of the trade – paper, ink, and markers – changed to computers and software. I needed to find a new tactile outlet.”

**Abstract works** by **Linda LaVigne-Long** are also representations of her inner life. She explains, “I am an emotional painter. I will see something that reminds me of earlier times, and the desire to paint will come to me. These ideas and feelings seem to paint themselves.”

The shelves in our far-left window display **beautiful jewelry designed by Sue Broadway**. When



asked about her creative process, Sue responds, "Sometimes, a vision will come to me in the middle of the night. But often, I will simply go into my bead room with no clue as to what I'm going to do. I ask myself, "What color do I feel like working with today?" I love the dimensional feel of jewelry. And I love making earrings and necklaces that can be worn together."

From left to right, scarf by Barb Brecher, painting by Linda LaVigne-Long, jewelry by Sue Broadway



## 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 2023

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



THE NETTIE LOKEY WILEY *and*  
CHARLES L. WILEY FOUNDATION



**Executive Director:** Sharon Stone

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

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

**OUR HOURS ARE:**

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

Phone: 804.436.9309

Support the RAL Art Center



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RAL Art Center | 19 North Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482-8501

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