

December 2023



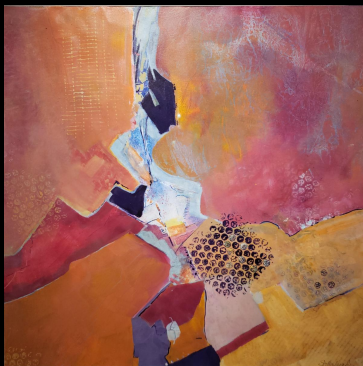
*Woodstock Winter* by New England-based artist Marilyn Wendling

Visit RAL in December and enjoy our **annual Holiday Shop and Gingerbread-ageddon** ~ our artists' interpretations of the "all-things-gingerbread" theme. As a holiday bonus, these creative pieces are also for sale!

**December's Gallery Windows** feature talented artists **Laura Edwards, Bonnie Leigh-Jones** and **Pat Lawler**. It's definitely time to do more than a little window shopping so come in and start checking names off your list!

Don't forget to bring **unwrapped toys to the gallery by December 8th!** You'll support **Toys for Tots** and put a smile on a deserving child's face. And, remember **Santa** himself will be **artmaking with the children on December 9th** from 10 am until 12 noon.

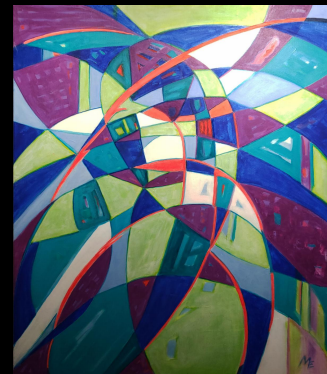
## Gallery News



*Aerial View*  
by Sarah Soderlund



*Method, Madness, Sanity, Desire*  
by John Lutell



*Balancing Color and Design*  
by Mary Ellis

## Announcing the Winners of RAL November Exhibits

The November member exhibit, "Express Yourself," was judged by Mary Montague Sikes, an artist, author, and retired art teacher from West Point, Virginia. Charles Breakwell, assistant director of the RAL Art Center, and Juli Schuszler, exhibits team member, presented the awards and comments on behalf of the show's judge at the public reception on Nov. 3 at the RAL Art Center.

Mary selected *Aerial View*, an acrylic painting by Sarah Soderlund, for First Place. She said that it has “an excellent composition and use of texture” and “an excellent color combination.” For Second Place, she chose the steel sculpture by John Latell, *Method, Madness, Sanity, Desire*. Mary said that she liked the sculpture’s “line, the form, and the use of rust and corrosion for texture and color.” The Third-Place award went to Mary Ellis’s acrylic painting, *Balancing Color and Design* because “line and color sweep through this to create a pleasing, moving design.”

Honorable Mentions went to *Shattering*, an acrylic painting by Sammy Anderson, *Moonlight Madness*, an acrylic painting by Sue Ramsey, *Can’t Sit Down*, a mixed-media piece by Jacquie Colligan, *Clearly, There Has to be a Better Way*, an acrylic painting by Brenda Sylvia, *Color Me Kaffe Challenge Jacket*, fiber art by Lee Taylor, and *Sunrise Serenity*, a photograph by Harold Burnley.

Visiting artists and RAL members Suzanne Quel Mehoud and Jorie Wiley displayed their paintings in the “This and That” exhibit on the art center’s Mobile Display Units and part of the gallery’s wall space.

## Welcome New Artist, Gayle Merrill!

Gayle B. Merrill is our newest exhibiting co-op artist. Gayle graduated from Virginia Tech with a major in Fine Art and Education and subsequently taught Art History at the high school level in Chesapeake, Virginia. While painting in watercolors and showing in various art shows in the area, she won several Best in Show Awards.

Gayle now lives in Gloucester, where she is painting in oils. She lives on the water and enjoys painting the water and all kinds of boats on the Mobjack and Chesapeake Bays. With her emphasis on strong light and color, flowers have been her most recent subject matter. Gayle is inspired by their natural shapes and beautiful colors, and that love is evident in the vibrancy of the large, semi-abstract florals she is currently exhibiting in the RAL Gallery. The large-scale and up-close point of view makes the viewer feel like being in the midst of a huge bouquet!



*Red Dogwood* by Gayle Merrill



## Volunteer Opportunities: Can we count on you?

A few new volunteer opportunities have emerged, and we hope you will consider helping in these ways:

**Social Media** – Christine Mason has been spending hours and hours each week for the past year making sure that our social media presence is interesting and up to date. However, she would like one or more volunteers to help her by taking on some of the tasks. This is an immediate need and is definitely a

case of “many hands make light work!” Please contact Sharon Stone ([executivedirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:executivedirector@ralartcenter.com)) or Charles Breakwell ([assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com)) for more information.

**Bartender Scheduling** – We have a cadre of folks who enjoy pouring for guests at our First Friday receptions and special events. However, we could really use an organized person to manage their schedules. This would entail creating a schedule, informing bartenders about their shifts, and communicating with the Gallery Team leaders and Volunteer Coordinator, as necessary. Please contact Cate Kauffman, Gallery Team leader, for more information ([catek2652@icloud.com](mailto:catek2652@icloud.com)).

**The Gallery Team** is seeking three or four individuals to support Kay Mock, the Reception

Coordinator This would entail helping to set out food brought in by members and then cleaning up the remains of each First Friday reception and occasional special events. There are about 15 receptions per year and having a stable, reliable corps of people to help would be wonderful. For more information, please contact Cate Kauffman, Gallery Team leader ([catek2652@icloud.com](mailto:catek2652@icloud.com)).

## Winter Weather and RAL Closings

As we enter the winter season, please remember that RAL Art Center closes whenever the Lancaster County Public Schools are closed for inclement weather.

Some helpful community websites and information are listed to the right.

Please be safe this winter!

**Lancaster County Public Schools:**  
[Home | Lancaster County Public Schools \(lcs.k12.va.us\)](http://Home.LancasterCountyPublicSchools.lcs.k12.va.us)

**Town of Kilmarnock Emergency Services:**  
[Community Services – Kilmarnock, Virginia \(kilmarnockva.com\)](http://CommunityServices-Kilmarnock.Virginia.kilmarnockva.com)

**Norris Bridge Traffic Camera:**  
[VA-3 @ Norris Bridge Southside Traffic Cam | WeatherBug](#)

**Northern Neck FaceBook Group:**  
[HAPPENINGS ON THE NORTHERN NECK AND SURROUNDING AREAS | Facebook](#)



## New ArtLine Delivery System in January 2024

In January, RAL Art Center will begin sending ArtLine through our membership management system instead of through the current delivery system.

The email should look exactly as it does today with the sender listed as RAL Art Center. However, any change in technology carries with it the possibility of glitches. If you do not receive the January 2024 issue of ArtLine by January

2nd, please check your spam and junk folders. If you find it in one of those, try moving it to your Inbox, marking it as legitimate, or adding it to your contact list. That should ensure that future issues will be smoothly delivered to your Inbox.

If, however, you do not receive ArtLine at all in January, please notify Charles Breakwell ([assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com)) or Sharon Stone ([executivedirector@ralartcenter.com](mailto:executivedirector@ralartcenter.com)). We hope no delivery interruptions occur, but if they do, we will assist you in any way possible to put your email settings aright.

## Community Outreach & Events

### 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).



## Update:

As you have already read in the previous month's ArtLine, RAL Art Center is a drop site for the





Lancaster County 2023 Toys for Tots campaign.

We have had an amazingly generous outpouring of donations for children in need. **The donation box will remain in the lobby until December 8, 2023.** If you have not already donated an

unwrapped toy or book, please do so soon. Thank you in advance – and thanks so much to everyone who has participated so far!



### The Lil Artist League and Art+ are RAL smART!

We are well into the new school year, and every week excitement stirs as RAL smART Program art educators walk into classroom after classroom: art is in session!

For the 2023–2024 season, The Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck and Lancaster County's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) are the nexus of creativity, problem-solving, and art making. Children of all ages—our youngest artists just 3 years old—have been playing with all sorts of unique materiality, expressive mark-making, and fun self-expression!

At the Boys and Girls Club, Art+ has been fully engrossed in learning about landscapes and watercolor techniques, where the ECEC's Lil Artist League has had so much fun exploring fall leaves, pumpkin painting, and making self-portraits!

*Above: Art educator, Doug Mock, teaches watercolor painting at The Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck to three budding artists in Art+.*

### Family Art Fun in Kilmarnock Town Centre Park

Autumn has made it to the Northern Neck, and there's no better way to celebrate than with the first-ever "Fall into Kilmarnock" Festival. This windy triumph was hosted in Town Centre Park, and was jam-packed with vendors, food trucks, live music, and plenty of family-friendly activities!

This was made even more special by the RAL Art Center Artmaking Station, where smART Program Manager Stephanie Antonijuan facilitated a drop-in artmaking project of Fall Leaf Relief Prints. With over 1,000 attendees at the Fall Festival, our artmaking station saw consistent family participation and beautiful one-of-a-kind leaf prints! We can't wait to see more community artmaking at Santa's Village on December 1st and 2nd!



*Above: Stephanie Antonijuan, smART Program Manager, assists families with fall-themed printmaking at Kilmarnock's "Fall into Kilmarnock Festival."*

## Classes and Activities

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

[www.ralartcenter.com](http://www.ralartcenter.com) or call 804.436.9309

### Creating with Color

Instructor: Juli Schuszler

Day and Dates: Wed., January 17, 24, and 31, 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Cost: Members: \$160; Non-members: \$184

Students will learn color theory by creating acrylic art works. Using acrylic paint on canvas paper and canvas, they will learn how to mix color and how to apply color schemes for both visual appeal and meaning. Students will paint a color wheel for reference. Next, students will use acrylic paint to create a monochromatic painting, a landscape using an analogous color scheme, and a Pop Art Painting with a complementary color scheme. Some experience helpful but not entirely necessary. Bring

snacks. Materials will be provided by the instructor.

## Color Theory Should Be Fun

Instructor: Gloria Clifford, Artist

Dates: Thursdays, January 18 - February 15, 2024

Time: 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$220 for members, \$253 for non-members

After many years of teaching drawing and painting, I began to notice that many of my students had only a minimal knowledge of color and how to mix colors accurately within their paintings and/or drawings. As a result, I developed a five-week color theory class which offers hands on activities with a fun take on learning how to use color effectively and confidently. Not only will students learn how to mix color beautifully in several mediums, but they will also have a better understanding of how color affects every aspect of our lives. Color is everywhere in our world and learning more about color will be a tremendous aid in the pursuit of any future painting class.



## Watermedia Fun and Fabulous

Instructor: Gloria Clifford, Artist

Dates: Thursdays, January 18 - February 15, 2024

Time: 10:00 - 12:30 pm

Cost: \$220 for members, \$253 for non-members

In this new class offering the emphasis will cover how to creatively use watercolor in several new, 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 materials will be taught and encouraged. This class is for those who wish to experiment and for those who want to learn out of the box new painting methods. The methods of Collage and the use of additional materials not normally used within a watercolor painting will be a part of this class experience. See website for supply list.

## Upcoming Exhibits

### December 2023 - Holiday Shop

The Holiday Shop is open and in full swing! Once again, we have over two dozen artists who have produced hand-crafted decorations, gift items, and ornaments for sale. Whittle down your holiday shopping list by visiting soon - and maybe even treat yourself to something special!

We will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am



to 4 pm and on Sundays from 12 to 4 pm. Closed on Christmas Eve.

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

## 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 anniversary year with something special!

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

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

*Party!* by Patty Richards



## February 2024 – Black, White and Grey All Over

Partly black, partly white, partly grey. That's all up to you. Give it a shot. Remember, life is not always black and white: it's grey, too!





**Receiving:** Monday, January 29 from 10 am to 12 pm  
**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, January 30 to Saturday, February 24  
**Reception:** Friday, February 2 from 5 to 7 pm

*Image of a Mother*, charcoal by Jody Ball

## February 2024 – A Touch of Color

Don't go hog wild! Let a little color go a long way.  
Put it in the right place and boom! There it is!

**Receiving:** Monday, January 29 from 10 am to 12 pm  
**Exhibit Dates:** Tuesday, January 30 to Saturday, February 24  
**Reception:** Friday, February 2 from 5 to 7 pm



*Hunting Season*, photograph by Harold Burnley



## Open Critique Monthly Meetings

Anyone can benefit from constructive criticism as they create a piece of art. A team of experienced RAL Art Center artists, in a variety of mediums and styles, will be available to help you with those nagging problems, make helpful suggestions or just provide a different "set of eyeballs," perspectives, and experiences 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 group meets the

3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Pike Studio. The number of artists will be limited for each critique session, so please make an appointment by emailing Sarah Soderlund at [sarahsod911@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsod911@gmail.com).

## 2023–2024 Upcoming Exhibits & Special Events

**2023**

**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

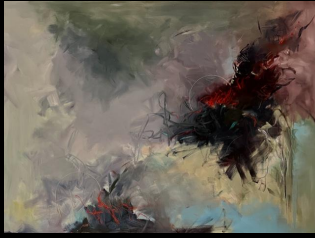
**March**

Absolutely Anything; My Favorite Things

**April**

From the Garden; Visiting Artist, Catherine Hillis

## December's Gallery Window Artists



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

Laura Edwards, Bonnie–Leigh Jones, and Pat Lawler

A native of Tidewater Virginia, **Laura Edwards** trained as a painter at The University of North Carolina in Asheville, the art-rich area of western North Carolina. She maintained a working artist studio at The Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia, for over 25 years. In 2020 she relocated to Irvington, Virginia, and works from her home studio.

Laura's paintings are described as "color and surface driven reimagined landscape and seascape. All of the paintings are intuitive, having no concrete reference but evoking a familiar image. A realistic image surfaces from the abstract painting; a painting within the painting." The paintings create an illusion; the painting you see and the one you imagine.

**Bonnie–Leigh Jones** joined the RAL cooperative artist ranks this year. She says, "I am constantly delighted by the beauty of the natural world, and nowhere more so than right here where I live in the Northern Neck. This special place surrounds me with water, beaches, fields, farms, open space, and the dazzling display nature provides every day. This inspires me. I see a painting around every corner!

The landscape is my primary subject matter, and my recent introduction to cold wax and oil has opened a whole new world of possibilities with this fun and exciting medium! I love the incredible texture that cold wax mixed with oils can create; I love the use of palette knives and other unconventional tools instead of brushes; I love working on panels, scraping off, adding in, mark making, and the tug-and-pull of layering. Whether abstracted or representational, this medium allows me to paint loosely, expressively, and joyfully.

While not formally trained in art school, I have enjoyed numerous workshops with talented artists, primarily in the Richmond area where I lived for many years. I also have had opportunities to exhibit my work in Richmond with the Tuckahoe Artists Association. After retirement and moving to White Stone in 2016, this has become the time to pursue my art in a focused and purposeful way. I am thankful to be part of RAL Art Center and the supportive and enthusiastic group of creative people I have found here."

Beautiful jewelry art by **Pat Lawler** will once again entice passers-by from the shelved window. Pat never intended to be a jewelry maker but instead came into this art by way of floral design. She was a horticulturist and florist who couldn't find jewelry that she would like to wear. So, with some basic tools and adult education instruction, she began to learn silversmithing. She fell in love with working with metal and currently designs applique pieces that depict the creatures in nature – animals, birds, insects– and plants. She says, "My art is a little bit like working in batik but created from silver instead of fabric. Through simple designs, I try to capture the essential character and beauty of favorite creatures and plants."

From left to right, *Moonstruck* by Laura Edwards, *As Far as the Eye Can See* by Bonnie Leigh-Jones, *Three Hares* pendant by Pat Lawler





## 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.

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### Officers 2023

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



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



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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 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Phone: 804.436.9309

Support the RAL Art Center



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

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