



January 2024

ARTLINE

A publication of the RAL Art Center

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Support the RAL Art Center

Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Meeting for all RAL members will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 3:00 pm. This meeting is open to all members and will include a review of 2023 activities, a presentation of the FY2024 Budget, and voting on the slate of board members. Please do not miss this important gathering at the gallery! For more information, please contact Sharon Stone, executivedirector@ralartcenter.com

New Seasonal Hours

The gallery will begin opening Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, on Wednesday, January 3rd. This schedule will continue through February.

Community Outreach & Activities



Toys for Tots: A Beautiful Outpouring of Joy!

We experienced one of the most successful toy drives in recent memory this 2023 Christmas season. Members and friends of RAL donated 104 toys, books, and games to add to the overall Lancaster County Toys for Tots project. Many, many thanks for this outpouring of generosity and joy!



GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed on Giving Tuesday or shared our link with their friends and followers. We received a total of \$1550 in just one day! That was just over 20% of our goal for the 75th Anniversary book project. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful supporters and wish all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

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Calling All Educators!

Please consider helping with the smART Program for Young Artists

As we have advertised in several issues of ArtLine, RAL has been awarded a large grant from The Wiley Foundation to fund salaries and stipends for the new smART Program for Young Artists. Our highly qualified program manager, Stephanie Antonijuan, has developed a curriculum for teachers and assistants to use with the Early Childhood Education Center students, ages 3 to 5, as well as for students in grades K-5 in the Art+ Program at the Boys and Girls Club.

However, we need teachers! If you have experience working with pre-school and elementary-age children – especially as a professional educator – please consider joining our cadre of art teachers. ***We pay our teachers for contact hours and provide lesson plans, project instructions, and all supplies.*** If you have taught a subject besides art, we are confident that your skills can easily transfer with the support Stephanie is able to provide.

Teachers in this cadre will be assigned as regular a schedule as possible so that they and their students can get to know each other and build trusting relationships. For more information or to schedule a time to talk about your interest, please contact Stephanie at smartprogram@ralartcenter.com.

Please help us realize the success that this amazing program promises to bring to the children of the Northern Neck!

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Gallery News





Waiting in the Wings Selected for The Art Experience

[Cate Kauffman](#) was honored to have one of her paintings, “Waiting in the Wings” selected for The Art Experience at the Virginia Executive Mansion year-long show for 2023-24.

“Waiting In the Wings” is a 16x20” painting that Kauffman completed in December of 2019 and was shown at Art Speaks at the Bay School, RAL Art Center, and the Tappahannock Art Gallery over the intervening years.

In the meantime, a new governor was elected and the Youngkin family moved into the Executive Mansion. Governor Youngkin explained that traditionally most of the paintings on the walls of the small mansion where the Governor and his family lived during his term, were of “dusty old men in dark colors and old costumes.” Most of them were paintings of significant historic figures and past governors. Since the family uses the first floor from time to time and it is also available for tours by dignitaries and tourists and other visitors, Mrs. Youngkin wanted to enliven the atmosphere of the building.

According to [The Art Experience](#) website, she worked with a team of curators from a variety of Virginia institutions to develop the plan for The Art Experience. It is now in its second year. The first installment of the Art Experience at the Executive Mansion nearly doubled the number of works of art from 26 pieces to over 48 pieces of hanging art, sculpture, and artifacts. Expanding on the initial exhibit, “Do What You Love in Virginia” boasts over 75 works from 37 institutions and independent artists. The Art Experience will continue to grow, with more pieces slated for installation in the coming months.

The Mansion’s Art Experience has quadrupled the percentage of artwork and artifacts that celebrate minority subjects, Virginians, and culture. Virtually all the pieces were created by a Virginian, someone who was born in Virginia, lived in Virginia, studied in Virginia, or donated by a Virginian.

Kauffman reports that last summer a couple visited the RAL Art Center one Saturday and asked a lot of questions about the artists and the work there. When asked if they were looking for a particular piece, they advised that they wanted

something by a local artist who did figurative work. Kauffman provided them with the business cards of several RALAC Co-op Artists and told the couple a little bit about each one. In August she was greatly surprised to get an email followed by a phone call: "Waiting in the Wings" had been chosen.

"You never know who will be visiting RAL Art Center," Kauffman says. "It's a great opportunity to market your work and share your talents."

While "Waiting in the Wings" is still available for sale, Kauffman reports she is pleased with its provenance and the many positive comments she has received about this piece. Should it ever sell, she says her granddaughter will receive a very special donation to her college fund and if it never sells, she will receive it as a gift.

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RAL Art Center Announces Photography Show Winners



Survival of the Fittest by Harold Burnley



Live Oak-Brook Green Garden, S.C., by CarolAnne Taylor



Copper Mountain by Jeff Barsky

The RAL Art Center's assistant director, Charles Breakwell, presented awards for the Photography Show on behalf of the judge, Steve Kancianic, at a First Friday reception on Dec. 1 at the RAL Art Center. The members artist show is on display on mobile display units. The show included 34 original photographs. It was not juried but it was judged by local photographer and owner of Yours Truly Studio, Steve Kancianic.

Steve awarded First Place to "Survival of the Fittest" by Harold Burnley, commenting on its beautiful composition, sharpness, and how it is evenly lit. Second Place went to "Live Oak-Brook Green Garden, S.C." by CarolAnne Taylor. Steve noted that the photograph has a beautiful composition and good detail. Third Place was awarded to "Copper Mountain" by Jeff Barsky because of its "beautiful color" and the fact that it "feels like I am there." He also appreciated the super sharp quality of the photograph.

Steve awarded Honorable Mentions to two photographs by Annie Barsky, "Wet All Over," and "After the Rain," and to Carolyn Flowers's photograph, "Sea Fog at Daybreak." Two photographs by Tom Martin, "Red Bucket" and "Let's Beach" received Honorable Mentions as did Bob Sutherland's "Veil in the Heavens."



In Memoriam 2023

Mathilde "Til" Demisay Huckins, spouse of Charles Albert Huckins

Jessica Servis

Wilbert L. Smith, father of Sheila Stepko

Robert H. Willoughby, spouse of Joan Willoughby

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Adult Classes and Workshops

Creating with Color



Instructor: Juli Schuszler

Day: Wednesdays

Dates: Jan 17, 24, and 31

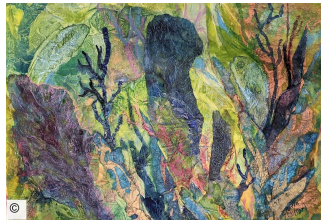
Time: 10:00 am -1:00 pm

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

Students will learn color theory by creating acrylic art works. Using acrylic paint, they will learn how

[Read more . . .](#)

Watermedia Fun and Fabulous



Instructor: Gloria Clifford

Day: Thursdays

Dates: Jan 18 – Feb 15

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

[Read more . . .](#)

Color Theory Should Be Fun



Instructor: Gloria Clifford

Day: Thursdays

Dates: Jan 18 – Feb 15

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

[Read more . . .](#)

January Try It Tuesday: Paint a Clean Slate in the New Year



Instructor: Celeste Johnston

Day: Tuesday

Date: January 16

Time: 10 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members

Get a start in the new year with a clean slate. Come join us for this new workshop that will see

[Read more . . .](#)

January Adult Paint Night: Balloon Bubbles!



Instructor: Doug Mock

Day: Thursday

Date: January 25

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Let your inner child shine as you create this one-of-a-kind painting using latex balloons and acrylic

[Read more . . .](#)

February Try It Tuesday: Chase the Winter Blues with Neuropathy



A workshop for a Neu You

Instructor: Celeste Johnston

Day: Tuesday

Date: February 6

Time: 10 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members

Chase the winter blues with Neuropathy. Come join us for this new and fun form of art that uses prompts to

[Read more . . .](#)

Creating Abstracts Using Cold Wax and Oils



Instructor: Gloria Clifford, Artist

Day: Saturday

Date: February 10

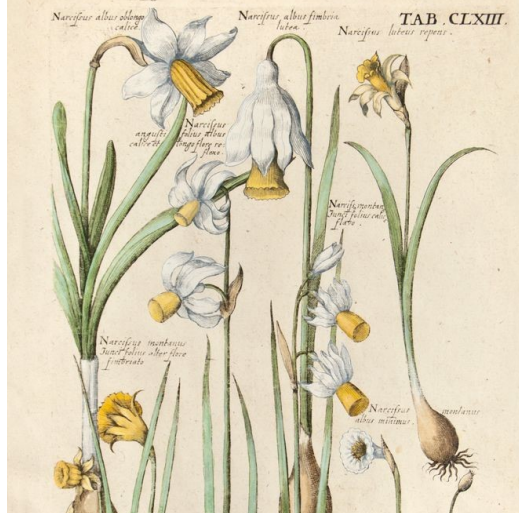
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$100 for members, \$115 for non-members

Who knew that after years of painting only representational subjects would I ever create abstract paintings and be loving it? This totally new one-day Workshop

[Read more . . .](#)

Botanical Observation and Drawing



Botanical copperplate engraving by Michael Valentini (1657-1729) courtesy of The Antiquarium

Instructor: Celeste Johnston

Day: Saturday

Date: February 24

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (12-1 lunch)

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

Burst into spring with this botanical drawing class for daffodils. This workshop consists of two sessions, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. In the morning you will create a botanical or

[Read more . . .](#)

Painting Workshop – Acrylics or Oils



Instructor: James W. Jones

Day: Saturday

Date: April 6

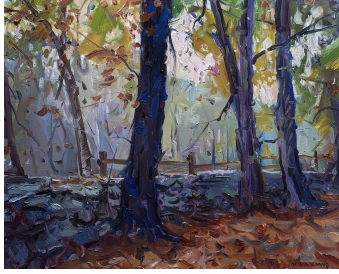
Time: 10 am – 3:30 pm

Cost: \$165 members; \$190 non-members

This one-day workshop will focus on selecting personal and original subject matter; composition and design

[Read more . . .](#)

Plein Air with Kyle Buckland



Instructor: Kyle Buckland

Days: Friday thru Sunday

Dates: April 19, 20, & 21

Time: all day, approx. 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: Members: \$395, non-members \$454

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to join Kyle Buckland, a nationally acclaimed Plein Air artist, for a captivating 3-day

[Read more . . .](#)

Flower Power



Instructor: Catherine Hillis

Days: Friday & Saturday

Dates: April 26 and 27

Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: Members: \$238; Non-members: \$273

Paint the beauty of nature with watercolor paint. Learn good technique to last a lifetime. Study and paint the beauty of flowers,

[Read more . . .](#)

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Upcoming Exhibits

January Windows Exhibits



Reedville Sunrise, oil.

Reedville artist, **Dave Hershiser**, enjoys painting scenes from around the Northern Neck. Working in oils or acrylics, his subject matter consists of landscapes, seascapes, and an occasional still life. Dave's favorite art genre is the Hudson River School of painting, and the work of artists such as Albert Bierstadt and Frederick Church.



Little Red, oil and cold wax.

Sue Ramsey says, "I have always been interested in art but never had the opportunity to take classes. Before I retired, I decided it was time to learn to paint and began taking watercolor classes. Later, I also began going to Springmaid each year where I studied with many wonderful artists and learned different techniques from each of them. I continue with workshops at RAL and paint primarily landscape and florals. Recently I have added abstracts and acrylics. My paintings are from my own photos of my travels and my gardens. I am a signature member of the Virginia Watercolor Society."



Queen Mum, fused glass.

Laurie Breakwell is an RAL exhibiting artist in fused glass. However, her studio is a mish mash mess of treasures from which to create. Her mixed media piece, "What was in that Pot?" was awarded Best in Show and a fused glass work, "Sorry Charlie" took the People's Choice award in this year's Labor Day Show. She is a proud resident of Kilmarnock and loves her association with RAL.



Wildflower Hospital No. 1, oil, Sarah Haddox

January: 75 Years of 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 Saturday, January 27, 2024

Reception: Friday, January 5, 5 - 7 pm



Party! oil, Patty Richards

January: 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 Saturday, January 27, 2024

Reception: Friday, January 5, 5-7 pm



Image of a Mother, charcoal, Jody Ball

February: 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: Wednesday, January 31 to Saturday, February 24, 2024

Reception: Friday, February 2 from 5 to 7 pm



Hunting Season, photograph, Harold Burnley

February: 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: Wednesday, January 31 to Saturday, February 24, 2024

Reception: Friday, February 2 from 5 to 7 pm



Don Teaxote, acrylic, Johnny Hayes

March: Absolutely Anything

Let's make one thing absolutely clear. Your entry can be absolutely anything! (Provided it meets the display restrictions.)

Receiving: February 26, 10 am to 12 pm

Exhibit Dates: Feb 28 – March 30

Reception: Friday, March 1, 5-7 pm



By the Bay, acrylic, Brenda Sylvia

March: My Favorite Things

It makes no matter what it is, if it means something to you, then pick your medium and go for it!

Receiving: February 26, 10 am to 12 pm

Exhibit Dates: Feb 28 – March 30

Reception: Friday, March 1, 5-7 pm

More 2024 Exhibits:

April: From the Garden, Catherine Hillis

May: Art in Transit, Hip to Be Square

June: Art Heist, Simplicity

July: Driven to Abstraction, Small Works

August: Critters and Creatures, Tartan Village Students

September: 63rd Labor Day Art Show

October: Water: Above and Below

November: Sunrise, Suset, & Nocturnes; From My Travels

December: Holiday Shop, Photography Show

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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.

2023 Board Officers

Barbara Kershner, President

Julie Austin, Vice President

CarolAnne Taylor, Secretary

Deirdra McLaughlin, Treasurer

Executive Director: Sharon Stone

ral@ralartcenter.com

www.ralartcenter.com

19 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

**Hours: Wednesday - Saturday,
10 am to 4 pm**

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