

APRIL 2023



Oil painting by Angela Nesbit

In April, RAL hosts two member exhibits, *Spring is in the Air* and *All About Flowers*, as well as a special collaborative exhibit, *Art & Flowers*. Our **Gallery Windows** will feature artists **Pat Lawler, Patty Cunningham** and **Julie Schuszler**. RAL will also host both **Try It Tuesday** AND **Paint Night**.

This month's classes feature something for everyone...try your hand at pouring luminous washes, using soft pastels, painting with acrylics, and creating a colorful collage. And, a limited number of spaces are available for this month's landscape painting workshop with acclaimed artist, **Kyle Buckland!**

Call now to register for your favorite classes or try something new!

Gallery News



RAL ANNOUNCES MARCH EXHIBIT AWARDS “WEATHER OR NOT” AND “DOWN MEMORY LANE”

The March shows, “Weather or Not” and “Down Memory Lane,” were judged by award-winning abstract and figure artist, Theresa Wells Stifle, a former Falls Church gallery owner and curator.

Theresa chose the oil painting *Perfect Day* by Sammy Anderson for first place in the show *Weather or Not*. Theresa said, “You can feel the wind on your face and the sun on your back.” Theresa also commented on the great angle of the pose, the high energy, and the use of texture and color in the work.

Second place went to *Dreaming of Spring Winds*, a watercolor painting by Carol Vaughn, “A delight of broad strokes and subtlety, an expansive, yet detailed work of art. The more you look, the more you see.” Third place went to *Summer Haze*, an oil and cold wax painting by

Bonnie–Leigh Jones. Theresa said that it was “elegant, yet compelling, a lovely combination of color and mood.”

Honorable mentions went to *The Tempest*, a watercolor by Ellen Huddy, *Cirrus Tide*, an acrylic painting by Ellen Werner, *Seamus in the Snow*, an oil painting by Suzanne Quel, *Out of the Fog*, a photograph by Kathleen Petersen, and *Bedazzled by Spring Bejeweled*, a glass mosaic with fused glass pieces by Laurie Breakwell.

Theresa selected *Shadows in Blue*, an oil painting by Patty Mochary for first place in the show “Down Memory Lane” because “the composition leads you right down memory lane.” Theresa commented that the strong lines and color choices are striking and impactful.

Second place was awarded to *Leaving Vietnam*, an oil painting by Suzanne Quel. Theresa said that the painting has a “wonderful focus of pose and execution of subject.” Third place went to Terry Willis for her photograph *Black Voices*; Theresa commented that the energy is palpable, the colors pop, and the moment is captured in the expressive pose.

Honorable mentions were awarded to *Elegant Tea Time*, a pastel by Mel Neale, RAL Art Talks 10/15/2013, a photograph by Mary Ellis, and *Memories of a Daffodil Farm*, an oil painting by Juli Schuszler.

Pictured from left to right: *Perfect Day* with artist, Sammy Anderson; Judge Theresa Wells Stifle beside *Shadows in Blue* by Patty Mochary.



Artist Demonstrations in the Gallery

Watch for announcements on our social media feeds about artist demonstrations in the RAL Art Center gallery. Cate Kauffman schedules these and we’ve already had several since the beginning of 2023. These are wonderful opportunities for artists to interact with the public.

Likewise, our neighbors and customers have the chance to see an artist at work. Ron Taylor created a sidewalk poster to announce the demonstration in progress. So, if you see that sign out front, be sure to stop in to support the artist(s) as they create!

If you would like to give a demonstration, please contact Cate Kauffman at catek2652@icloud.com. All member artists are invited to participate.

Volunteers are Awesome!

Thank you so much to those who responded to our previous call for volunteers. We had several people answer the call for data entry assistance and have gotten to find out about some amazing work that our members have done!

Did you know that the roles of Day Manager and Docent are not reserved solely for co-op artists? We are in dire need of at least 10 more volunteers to join these ranks as we begin opening on Tuesdays again in May.

Please consider volunteering for either of these desk jobs. Training is provided and day managers will get to use our new state-of-the-art point-of-sale system. No more calculating or complicated filing! And if you don’t know where you might be needed, please contact Sharon Stone (executivedirector@ralartcenter.com) or Charles Breakwell (assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com).



Return to Full Retail Schedule



Be sure to take note and spread the word: The RAL Art Center will be open Tuesday through Saturday beginning on May 2, 2023! Our hours will remain 10am to 4pm. This schedule will continue through December; any return to seasonal hours next January will be announced in the December issue of ArtLine.

~ IMPORTANT REMINDER ~

Please mark your calendars: the opening reception for ALL April exhibits will be on the SECOND Friday of the month, April 14th, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Paint Night, Try It Tuesday and Classes

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

www.ralartcenter.com or call

804.436.9309

April's Try It Tuesday

Instructor: Doug Mock

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Time: 6 –8pm

Cost: \$35 for RAL members; \$40 for non-members

Collage is created when you build an assemblage of items to include, but not be limited to, paper, ribbon, fabric, paint, gems, objects, etc. Artists use a wide array of items to create a brand-new image. Join Doug Mock in this Try it Tuesday class and dive-in!



You will create a large seascape or landscape (your choice). Doug will provide a variety of items and objects that you will use to build your masterpiece. This is a fun class that will challenge and stretch your creativity.

Member fee: \$35

Non-member fee: \$40



CLASS: Landscape Painting Workshop

Instructor: Kyle Buckland

Dates: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday – April 20–22

Time: All day, approximately 9:30am to 3pm

Supplies: See the website or flyer for this information

Come join visiting instructor Kyle Buckland in this fun and informative workshop for artists of all skill levels.

Kyle will teach you the importance of value, design and color mixing as well as equip you with the tools and techniques you need to paint successful

landscape paintings. We will be working indoors from photos so you can learn how Kyle translates reference photos into beautifully believable landscape paintings.

Kyle explains, "You have to know how the eye works; then you can learn what colors to look for in a landscape and how to compose those colors to get the most out of your paintings." Kyle will do a demonstration each morning with opportunities for one-on-one instruction in the afternoon.

Member fee: \$390

Non-member fee: \$430

CLASS: Pouring Luminous Washes Workshop

Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

Dates: Tuesday, 5/2, and Wednesday, 5/3

Times: All day, 10am to 3pm with a break for lunch

Cost: \$225 for members; \$240 for non-members

Supplies: Please see below



Learn to paint beautiful luminous background washes filled with lights that flow into your paintings! Working with strong design shapes, Kathleen will give you lots of instruction for taking a "pouring" technique to the next level. This class will be lots of watery fun!

Supplies: Please bring your regular watercolor supplies and your own non-copyrighted photos with simple shapes and strong light and dark values. All students will receive a special materials list at registration. Bring or buy your lunch.



CLASS: Oil and Cold Wax

Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

Dates: Tuesday, May 9

Time: 10am to 3pm

Cost: \$120 for members, \$138 for non-members; limited to 10 students

Skill level: All levels are welcome – some knowledge of "Oil and Cold Wax Painting" is helpful but not required.

This "creativity" workshop is a painting class for artists who would like to "loosen up" and escape the confines of detailed painting and drawing by working with oil paint mixed with cold wax medium. The focus of instruction will be to create expressive impressionist

and somewhat "abstracted" paintings. This workshop continues what was covered earlier this year but it is not a higher-level class than the first. New students and those from previous workshops will find many exciting paths to explore!

April's Paint Night

Instructor: Gloria Clifford

Dates: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Time: 6–8 pm

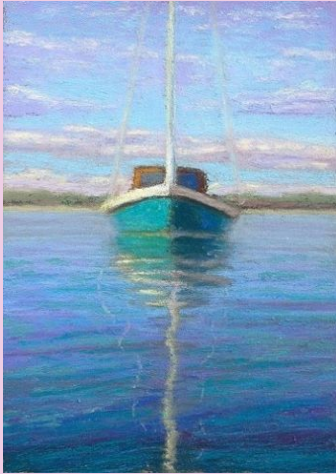
Cost: \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members

Get your creative vibes recharged during RAL's April Paint Night. This month celebrates Spring's first daffodil bouquet with an original painting created by instructor, Gloria Clifford.

Bring your favorite beverage, a snack, and a friend or two for a fun evening out! Paint nights are for everyone,



and they are a creative way to socialize with others who love making art!



May Try It Tuesday

Instructor: Doug Mock

Date: Tuesday, May ? **NEED DATE**

Time: 6–8pm

Cost: \$35 for RAL members; \$40 for non-members

Join Doug Mock and create this calming and beautiful sailboat using soft pastels.

Pastels are fun and messy so please wear an old shirt or bring a smock/apron. Doug will demonstrate how to use this art medium and how to choose, layer, and blend colors to create a dynamic and beautiful painting.

Bring your friends, your neighbors, and your family along with your choice of snacks and adult beverages. This promises to be an incredibly fun and entertaining evening!

Upcoming Exhibits



April 2023 ~ Spring Is in the Air

Ah, the budding leaves, the growing grass, the patches of yellow and white on trees and in our flowerbeds – these are the signs of spring! Celebrate the season with art depicting whatever suggests the life, the growth, and the promise of spring.

Receiving: April 3, 10AM – 12PM

Exhibit Dates: April 5 through April 29

Reception: Friday, April 14, 5–7PM (moved from April 7th)

Leaving the Beach by Brenda Sylvia

April 2023 ~ All About Flowers

From micro to macro, flowers offer beauty to capture with any medium. This exhibit showcases flowers, flowers, and more flowers. Pair flowers with pollinators, birds, people, or wildlife – but make the flower the star of the show!

Receiving: April 3, 10AM – 12PM

Exhibit Dates: April 5 through April 29

Reception: Friday, April 14, 5–7PM (moved from April 7th)

Finale by Jacquie Colligan



Annual Art and Flowers Collaborative Exhibit

Once again, we are partnering with local floral designers who have been inspired by art in our gallery. The floral arrangements will be on display on Friday and Saturday, April 14th and 15th, with a special reception on Friday evening, 5–7 pm. Cast your vote for your favorite floral arrangement any time during the day on Friday. The winner of Viewer's Choice will be announced at the evening reception.

May 2023 ~ The Bay Transit and RAL Art in Transit Exhibit

art in transit

How would you like to see your art on the side of a bus? The 2023 Art in Transit exhibit could make that happen for you! Entry forms are now available online and at the RAL Art Center for the third year of this popular competition.

This year, a few notable changes have been set into place. For example, any subject matter is allowed and so is the medium of photography. The aspect ratio for submitted works will be 15" wide by 10" high; multiples of this ratio are allowed (such as doubled or 1.5 times the stated ratio, etc.). Only two-dimensional art will be considered, and all entries must be ready to hang with wire and D-rings. Any questions about requirements can be answered by RAL staff and volunteers; they are also prescribed on the entry form.

Receiving dates are Sunday, April 30th, and Monday, May 1st, from 10am to 12pm on both days. The entry fee is \$20 per piece with a limit of two entries per artist. All art must be for sale and proceeds from sales will be split with 70% going to the artist and 30% going to RAL and Bay Transit.

An awards ceremony will be held on Friday, May 19 from 5–7pm.



May 2023 ~ Sky's the Limit

This exhibit focuses on the sky in every mood imaginable!

We want to see skies of all descriptions: wide, empty expanses or those filled with clouds, or birds, or stars; vivid colors or moody gray; nothing but sky or sky in context with land and sea. And don't forget, skies with airplanes or rockets or cityscapes. You decide – and show us what the sky has shown to you!

Receiving: May 1, 10AM – 12PM

Exhibit Dates: May 3 to May 27
Reception: Friday, May 5, 5–7PM

King Tide by Johanna Carrington

2023 Exhibits & Special Events

April *Spring is in the Air* and *All About Flowers*
(Annual Art and Flowers Collaborative Exhibit April 14–15)

May *Art in Transit* and *Sky's the Limit*
(Art in Transit Special Reception May 19)

June *Great Art Heist* (June 24)

July *Coastal Living* and *Small Works*

August *Wild Things* and *Visiting Artist Cindy Kinney*

September *62nd Annual Labor Day Art Show*

October *Color My World* and *Fall is Here Jewelry Show* (Oct. 6–7)





The Great Art Heist – How It Works

RAL Art Center is excited to announce the 16th Annual Great Art Heist for 2023! This exciting and highly anticipated event will happen on Saturday, June 24 from 4 to 8pm.

- Members and friends of RAL donate original works of art valued at or over \$175. Original art is created by the donor or from the donor's personal collection.
- Art can include paintings, jewelry, wood, photography, ceramics, fiber, baskets, sculpture, needlework, and other fine art products.
- Artwork is exhibited at the RAL Art Center and is available for

preview during regular business hours from May 30 to June 24.

- Patrons purchase their ticket(s) and then complete a wish list in the order of priority for the artwork they desire.
- The night of The Heist a random draw is made in the way of a lottery, and as your name is called, you claim the original that is highest on your "must have" list.
- The number of tickets sold will not exceed the number of original works available...you are guaranteed a great piece of art to call your own. If your name is drawn late in the event and there is no longer any work of art to your liking, RAL will gladly provide you with a donation card for the value of your ticket.
- Early-bird tickets may be purchased until April 30, 2023.

The Heist reception begins at 4:00 pm; beverages and delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served. Drawing begins promptly at 5:00 pm. To reserve your ticket(s), complete the online payment form (www.ralartcenter.com), visit RAL Art Center during regular business hours to pay in person or call the Art Center at 804-436-9309. A printable form is available on our website if you prefer to mail a check (19 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482).

Early bird tickets go on sale April 1st and are on a first-come, first-served basis – reserve your ticket(s) early!

Early Bird Tickets NOW Available for The Great Art Heist

The Great Art Heist is scheduled for Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 4:00–8:00 pm.

The Heist is RAL's largest annual fundraiser. In 2023 every attendee will need to purchase a ticket either as a Heist participant or as a guest.

RAL Member: participant ticket – \$150
RAL Member: guest ticket – \$25

Non-members: participant ticket – \$200
Non-members: guest ticket – \$25

Guests will be able to enjoy all Heist activities including beer, wine, food, entertainment and great fellowship. Only participant ticketholders will choose their piece of original art during the Heist.

Any non-member purchasing a Heist ticket will receive 1 free membership good for 12 months at the Friend Level beginning July 1, 2023.



You can buy your Heist ticket as an Early Bird from April 1 thru April 30. By doing so, you will receive 2 complimentary tickets to either an RAL Paint Night or a Try It Tuesday class. These tickets are valid for 12 months and offer a savings of \$70 if you are an RAL member and \$80 if you are not an RAL member. Your complimentary tickets can be found in your welcome packet the night of the Heist.

In the event you are unable to attend you can still participate via proxy. Anyone needing a proxy vote should contact Christine Mason, Great Art Heist chairperson, no later than June 17, either by email at christinemason2@yahoo.com or by phone at 804-577-7757.

All early bird tickets must be paid for, in full, by the close of business on Sunday, April 30, 2023.



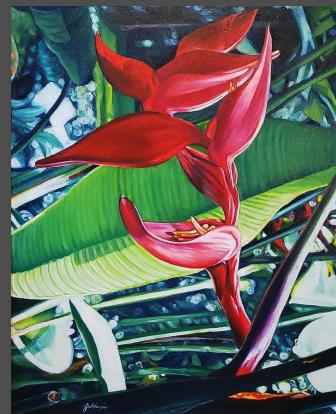
CALLING ALL ART LOVERS - Artists, Members & Friends

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please support the 16th Annual Great Art Heist by donating a piece of original art: either your own or one from your personal collection.

Works can include any of the following: painting, photography, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, fiber, basketry, needlework, furniture, etc. Donated art must be valued at or above \$175. If your contribution is a painting or photograph, it must be framed. Any work going on a wall must meet the RAL Art Center standards for exhibition with wire (no sawtooth) hangers.

The deadline to deliver your donation(s) to the RAL Art Center is NO LATER than May 19, 2023. To commit, please contact Christine Mason, The Great Art Heist Chair, by email at christinemason2@yahoo.com or by calling her directly at 804-577-7757. Thank you in advance for supporting the RAL Art Center and this, our largest annual fundraiser!

April Gallery Windows



The April RAL Art Center exhibit is blooming with new Spring life this month, with floral paintings that will inspire your inner gardener. Juli Schuszler and Patty Cunningham will be showing their visions of spring in the RAL Gallery Windows and jewelry artist, Pat Lawler, will present inspiring works in silver and stone.

Juli Schuszler is a Gloucester artist known for her vibrant and dramatic oil masterpieces showcasing the beauty of the natural world. A passion for color is evident in Juli's paintings, inspired by an ongoing love of nature and gardening, and her garden is where she finds much of her source material. Juli works from real life observations and her own reference photos,

focusing on the play of light and shadow, creating drama and visual interest in her art.

Patty Cunningham takes great delight in creating and sharing her art. She works in acrylics, in a wide variety of subjects and themes, and her works are known for her use of bold colors and highly focused details. "Nature never fails me," says Patty, noting the abundance of subjects provided all around. The garden provides much inspiration as evidenced by her piece, *A Tiger Swallowtail on a Wild Lupine*. This beautiful acrylic painting is stunning in detail and has overall calm hues.

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"

Read the full articles by Ellen Huddy and Sharon Stone posted on the RAL Art Center blog.

From left to right: Lapis set in silver earrings by Pat Lawler; *A Tiger Swallowtail on a Wild Lupine* by Patty Cunningham; and *Heliconia* by Julie Schuszler

Community Outreach

RAL Partners with Lancaster Early Childhood Education Center

RAL is excited to be partnering with the Lancaster Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) as it teaches free weekly classes to 85 children ages 4 and 5. In this strategic partnership RAL members, Bonnie Hughes, Dale Coburn, and Doug Mock are teaching every Monday from 9 to 10am.

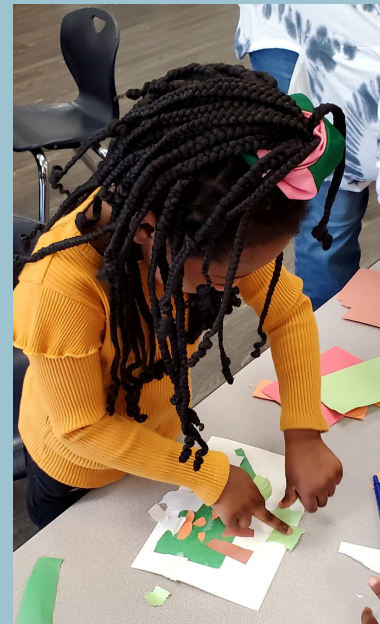
Bonnie, who has over 10 years of experience teaching preschool art, has done a fantastic job of providing input to the lessons that we teach.

"I am thrilled to be teaching these children and love starting my week with these amazing young artists. They have all done so well, which brings me much joy," stated Bonnie. Our lessons are fun but, most importantly, educational. Lessons are process-based and are intended to develop critical skills that these children need to be successful as they prepare for primary school.

Lessons have been very well received by the children and their classroom teachers. Each week we teach classes that work to build fine motor skills, strength-building skills, shape, and color knowledge along with self-improvement, self-expression, and self-confidence.

Doug Mock, past RAL Executive Director stated, "It is so exciting to see these children every week. RAL is doing everything possible to make learning fun, educational, and rewarding for these kids and their families. We leave each week with a smile on our face as do the kids."

If anyone from the RAL community is interested in getting involved with these classes please reach out to Karen Williams, the RAL youth outreach coordinator, at 540-406-1321 or via email at larkarwillfish@gmail.com.



LCPS and NCPS Receive RAL Donation

Each year in the month of April, our public-school art programs present student work to the community. The RAL Art Center is once again a proud supporter of these young artists and their teachers through donations from our Community Outreach program. The funds we give go toward exhibit expenses, including awards and ribbons.



Please join us in supporting student artists by attending their shows. The Northumberland County show will be held in the Northumberland Middle School gym on Thursday, April 13, 4–6 pm and Friday, April 14, 4–6:30 pm. The Lancaster County show is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 9 am to 12 pm and will be held at Lancaster High School.

Caption: Pictured from left to right: Marilyn Sprouse, Kendra Hunt, Chauncey Robinson, Sharon Stone, and Shauna McCranie.



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**



Executive Director: Sharon Stone

ral@ralartcenter.com

www.ralartcenter.com

OUR HOURS ARE:

WEDNESDAY – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Phone: 804.436.9309



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

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