

MAY 2023



Springtime by Claude Monet (1872)

Visit RAL Art Center this month and enjoy the **Sky's the Limit** exhibit AND the third annual **Art in Transit** show and reception (at which the winning piece of art will be "unveiled" by being displayed for the first time on the side of a Bay Transit bus!).

Also, the **2023 Art Heist** is right around the corner so get your tickets now before we are sold out! Remember, art donations that go into the Heist are needed by **May 19**.

Our **May Gallery Windows** will feature artists **Malia Joy, Dave Hershiser and Linda Dessaint** so be sure to stop by and admire their wonderful artwork.

This month's **classes** feature something for everyone...try your hand at working with **oil and cold wax**, using **soft pastels**, and painting with **acrylics**. Register today for your favorite classes – or try something new!

Gallery News



RAL ANNOUNCES APRIL EXHIBIT AWARDS

Spring was in full bloom with floral art at the RAL Art Center in the shows, "**Spring is in the Air**" and "**All About Flowers**." The 92 original pieces in these two shows included paintings, photography, fiber art, glass, and sculpture entered by member artists. Both art shows were judged by Suzanne Scott, a graphic designer with Gloucester Graphic Design, and former owner of Scotts Design Associates of Richmond and Artifacts Gallery of Lynchburg.

In addition to these two exhibits, the RAL Art Center hosted **The Annual Art and Flowers Collaborative Exhibit**, partnering with local floral designers who have been inspired by art in the gallery. Twenty-three floral arrangements were on display on Friday and Saturday, April 14 and

The public cast votes for their favorite floral arrangement during the day on Friday, April 14. **Sue Ramsey's** floral design, inspired by Ron Taylor's acrylic painting, *Cruising the Nile*, was third. **Laurie Breakwell's** floral creation, inspired by Gloria Clifford's acrylic painting, *Jellies Dance* was second. The first choice was a floral arrangement by **Doug Mock and Ron Taylor**, inspired by Linda Goldstein's watercolor, *While the Cat's Away*.

First Place in "Spring is in the Air," went to *Lowcountry Marsh in May*, a cold wax and oil painting by **Bonnie–Leigh Jones**. Suzanne said that she was "immediately attracted to the blue of the water and the brushstrokes." **Second Place** went to *Inspired by Nature*, a pastel by **Linda Dessaint**. Suzanne said that the "use of light in shadows of the trees and just a hint of flowers with the rose-colored sky makes you feel like you found a magical spot that you would like to stay in for a while." *Breaking Ground*, a watercolor by **Doug Mock**, received **Third Place**. Suzanne appreciated the difficulty of the medium. She said that the preciseness and detail in the work are impressive.

Honorable Mentions went to *Camellias*, an oil painting by **Juli Schuszler**, *The Old Rectory Farm*, an oil painting by **Linda Marshall**, *Spring Awakens*, a mixed media piece by **Sammy Anderson**, *Sweet Magnolia*, a watercolor by **Dee Simons**, and *View from My Window*, a stained-glass piece by **Laurie Morrissette**.

First Place in All About Flowers went to *Irises*, an oil painting by **Juli Schuszler**. Suzanne said that the illumination of the irises and leaves in the background, the shades of purple used in the flowers, and the scale and details are all so impressive, but what really elevates this painting to her is the spectacular background that creates a portrait-like effect as well as giving the painting a dimensional quality.

Second Place went to *Fresh from the Garden*, an oil and cold wax work by **Bonnie–Leigh Jones**, Suzanne said, "This small little piece attracted me instantly. The loose brushstrokes give motion to the piece and the vibrant use of orange, blue, and lime with a sprinkle of teal was an explosion of color in the best way."

Coneflower, a watercolor by **Becky Shaia** took **Third Place**. Suzanne commented that the orange cones have an intensity of color while the pink flowers...are softer and more delicate.

Suzanne awarded **Honorable Mentions** to *Views of a Flower* a fiber work by Barbara Brecher, *Peeking Over a Fence*, an oil and cold wax piece by **Sammy Anderson**, and *Garden Love*, a pastel by **Linda Dessaint**.

Pictured from left to right: *Irises* with artist Juli Schuszler; Doug Mock and Ron Taylor, with their floral interpretation inspired by Linda Goldstein's watercolor, *While the Cat's Away*; and *Low Country Marsh in May* with artist Bonnie–Leigh Jones.

Volunteer Spotlight: Introducing Karen Mungiu, Adult Workshop Coordinator

We are happy to announce Karen Mungiu has taken on the volunteer position of coordinating adult classes for RAL, combining several of her passions into this important role. Karen has been a RAL member for a few years and recently found herself with more time to devote to hobbies including gardening, art, and learning.

Karen lives in Heathsville with her husband and four-legged child and holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a Master's in Public Administration (National Security) from Troy State University, a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, and a certificate in online educational technology from Liberty University.

Welcome, Karen!



Wanted: Writer for Windows Articles



Do you enjoy writing? Would you like to meet and learn more about the co-op artists who display work in our front windows? Well, here's your chance!

After writing these articles for a little over 5 years, member and co-op artist Ellen Huddy has decided to retire from her post. Over the years, she wrote beautiful, informative pieces – for which we are extremely grateful. But now she wants to pass the baton and we are looking for a hand to grasp it.

If you are interested in writing a short article highlighting the work of 3 window artists each month, please contact either Mary Ellis (mary1ellis@aol.com) or Cate Kauffman (catek2652@icloud.com).

Getting to Know You: Meeting New Members

Name tags are in fashion again at our First Friday Receptions!



As you arrive, players on the Membership Team will offer you a name tag. If you are a RAL member, you will be asked to wear a blue name tag and then look for those in the crowd with red name tags. The red signifies that the wearer is not a member and needs a very warm RAL welcome. Also, look for a blue dot on blue name tags, which signifies that the wearer is a new member!

We are growing and it's going to take everyone to help keep the spirit of friendship growing, too. Thank you all for making RAL a great place to learn and grow!

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 pm to 8 pm.



- 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.

The Heist reception begins at 4 pm; beverages and delicious hors d'oeuvres will be served. The drawing begins promptly at 5 pm.

To reserve your ticket(s), use the online form on our website (ralartcenter.com), visit the gallery in person, or call us at 804-436-9309. Tickets are already going fast!



Donations Needed: Quality Art for The Great Art Heist

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!



The RAL Art Center Gallery Is Available For Rent!

Would you or someone you know like to have a social event in our beautiful gallery space?

The RAL Art Center gallery is available to book for private parties and receptions. The cost is \$325 for 2.5 hours with tables, tablecloths, and chairs provided. We'll even create a playlist

according to your listening taste!

For more information, please contact Sharon Stone at executivedirector@ralartcenter.com or Charles Breakwell at assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com.

RAL Artist Mel Neale Awarded a Solo Exhibit

Mel Neale, RAL exhibiting artist and frequent winner in RAL Members' Shows, will be featured in a solo exhibit, "Reflections on Time and Place," at the Arts on Main Gallery in Gloucester Courthouse, Virginia, during the month of May.

Mel's pastel painting, *Window, Window, in the Mirror* was awarded First Place by well-known Richmond Artist, Matt Lively, in the Arts on Main Annual Juried Exhibition in October 2022. The prize for the winner of that competition is a solo exhibit during the next year.



Mel's show will open on Friday, May 5, 2023, with a First Friday Reception from 6-8 pm, and will continue through the entire month of May. The reception is open to the public. Please stop by to show support for Mel; the reception ends an hour later than the RAL First Friday. You can come to both!

On display will be Mel's recent works in pastel and watercolor. She is a Signature Member of the Virginia Watercolor Society and a Juried Associate Member of the Pastel Society of America. Check <https://gloucesterarts.org/event/may-2023-first-friday-featuring-mel-neale-winner-of-the-2022-annual-juried-show/>

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

June's Try It Tuesday: Music to Inspire Painting

Instructor: Celeste Johnston

Date: Tuesday, June 13

Time: 6 -8pm

Cost: \$35 for RAL members; \$40 for non-members (price includes a \$5 supply fee)

Want to learn to paint with the inspiration of Van Gogh, Hockney, or even Marilyn Monroe? Many people turn on music as they paint. Do you realize how it inspires you or impacts your painting?

Please come join us for a fun workshop to learn about the phenomena of synesthesia – music and painting. You will experiment with layering paints or “doing fat over lean.” Feel free to bring a snack, a beverage, and a friend or two.



CLASS: Oil and Cold Wax

Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

Dates: Tuesday, May 9

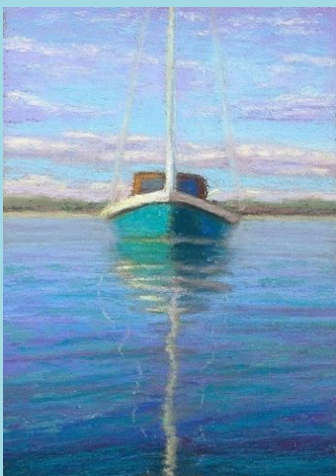
Time: 10am to 3pm

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!



May Try It Tuesday

Instructor: Doug Mock

Date: Tuesday, May 9

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!

May's Paint Night

Instructor: Gloria Clifford

Dates: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Time: 6–8 pm

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

Celebrate the waterfowl of the Northern Neck by creating your own painting to add to your collection or share as a gift. Bring your favorite beverage, a snack, and a friend or two for this fun evening. Paint nights are for everyone at all experience levels and a great way to socialize with others who like art and Northern Neck

waterfowl!



Upcoming Exhibits



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

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

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.

**art in
transit**

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.

2023 Exhibits & Special Events

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)

November *Express Yourself* and *Visiting Artists Suzanne Quel & Jorie Wiley*

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



May Gallery Windows



Malia Joy began creating pottery as a hobby. Now that she has retired, Malia has more time to focus on her craft. She enjoys making pots on the wheel, hand-building, and learning new surface decoration techniques. She recently started using the sgraffito technique, which involves carving or scratching a design to reveal the color of the clay underneath the glaze.

Dave Hershiser shares that painting and drawing have been lifelong interests and passions for him. Dave's favorite artists are the Hudson River School painters. He likes their portrayal of the beauty and grandeur of nature and their use of the qualities of luminescence and atmospheric effects. Dave paints with oils or acrylics and tries to capture these same qualities in his paintings.

Linda Dessaint grew up in rural New Hampshire and found magic and joy in nature. As she grew and traveled, this source of inspiration never changed. Linda enjoys plein-air painting and over the past 25 years has been creating with soft pastel and oil.

From left to right: Malia Joy, Dave Hershiser's *Hughlett Point* and *Eventide* by Linda Dessaint

Community Outreach

Summer Youth Art Camp 2023

This summer, RAL Art Center will offer 9 weeks of themed art camp sessions for children of elementary and middle school age. The first week

is June 12-16; camp sessions continue through August 7-11. There will also be a 3-day session, Wednesday through Friday July 5-7.

Themes are all new and include Groovy Art, Don't Bug Me!, Patterns Galore, Wild and Wacky Weaving, plus many more. Projects are age-appropriate and range from designing album covers to weaving on found objects to creating a mosaic peace sign and a Q-tip dragonfly.

Morning sessions will run from 9:30 to 12:30, Monday through Friday, for rising 1st through rising 5th graders; afternoon sessions will be 1:00 to 4:00 for rising 6th through rising 9th graders. The cost for members is \$110 per week; non-member price is \$126 per week. Register online or at the gallery.



Saturday Kids' Classes Are Back!

Budding Artists, the outreach art program for elementary school-aged children, is gearing up for 2023! Beginning on May 6th, Karen Williams will offer these free art classes for children in kindergarten through 5th grade on every 1st Saturday of the month. The time is 10-11 am and parents should call ahead to sign up their children, at 804-436-9309.



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

Support the RAL Art Center



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

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