ARTLINE

April 2024

A publication of the **RAL** Art Center

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- March Awards
- New Co-op Artists
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Support the RAL Art Center

Breaking News: RAL Purchases New Building!

RAL PLANS FOR EXCITING GROWTH

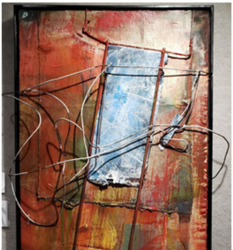
The RAL Art Center has acquired a new building as it prepares for a new and exciting line-up of classes, community events, programs and much more. RAL has purchased 45 North Main Street in Kilmarnock, Virginia, which most recently housed The Audiology Offices and Higher Health. We are excited about this much-needed space and look forward to sharing more about our exciting plans as they develop.

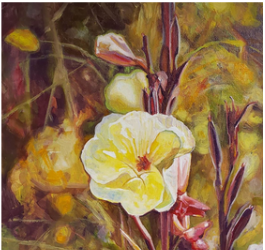
Gallery News

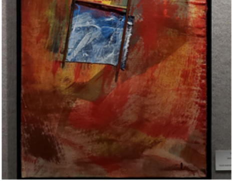
Return to Five-Day Retail Week

We are pleased to announce that we will return to our five-day retail week beginning on April 2, 2024. Our regular hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm through the rest of the year. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors!

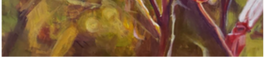
RAL Art Center Announces March Exhibit Winners







Collage, mixed media, by Mike Stevens



Bokeh Bouquet, acrylic and oil, by Lara Brady

March brought two new art exhibits, “Absolutely Anything” and “My Favorite Things” to the RAL Art Center. The two RAL members’ open exhibits included 101 original art works, including paintings, photography, glass, and sculpture.

Doug Mock, an award-winning artist, teacher, and presiding President of the RAL Board of Directors, judged both exhibits. Doug presented the awards and comments at the First Friday event, a public reception on March 1. For First Place in the exhibit “Absolutely Anything,” Doug selected “Collage,” a mixed media piece by Mike Stevens because “the artist’s use of line, shape, color, and texture make this a fabulous piece and very deserving, to me, of its first-place win!” For the show’s Second Place award, Doug said that he chose “Light Riddle,” an acrylic on paper painting by Richard Stodart. Third Place went to the oil painting “Protea” by Juli Schuszler. From the sixty-one works in this exhibit, Doug also selected six Honorable Mentions: “Floral Ribbons,” an oil painting by Gayle Merrill; “Marsh Mallows,” an oil painting by Maria Whitehead; “French Flies,” a sculpture by Karyn Gallion; “Kumquat Trio,” an oil painting by Sarah Marshall Elliott; “Brother,” a watercolor painting by Carol Vaughn; and “The World Keeps on Turning,” a mixed media painting by Ron Taylor.

For the exhibition “My Favorite Things,” Doug said that he awarded First Place to Lara Brady’s acrylic and oil painting “Bokeh Bouquet” because “it kept drawing me back, again and again,” and “the beautiful use of edges, both soft and hard.” Second Place went to “Feed Me, Feed Me, Too,” a glass-on-glass mosaic by Patricia Curlin. Third Place went to “A Monumental View,” a photograph by Annie Barsky. From the forty works in this show, Doug chose four Honorable Mentions: “And Then There Was Light,” a pastel by Mel Neale; “Cows, Ogden Nash, Papermaking & Bookbinding,” a hand-made book by Barbara Brecher; “Girl’s Camp Office,” an acrylic painting by Page Rudolph; and “Morning Workout, Essex County,” a pastel by Delores Flessner.

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Welcoming Three New Co-op Artists to RAL

Tom Martin

Tam Norman

Hampton Arts League
Members Exhibition

Karen Kingsley

The RAL Art Center has recently juried in three wonderfully diverse artists. Tom Martin has been an artist all his life, beginning as a child drawing characters and scenes from his favorite books, and later progressing to sketching, pen & ink, and watercolor. He was juried into RAL for these mediums when the Art Center first opened in 2000. These days he focuses on digital photography, saying “My art makes suggestions. It hopefully evokes a visual opportunity for the viewer to create a story or feel an emotion.” The titles for Tom’s pieces are straightforward, thus encouraging viewers to engage their own thoughts and explore their own interpretations.

Tam Norman is an oil painter who lives in Aylett, Virginia with her husband, 3 boys, and 2 dogs. She finds the time in her busy family life to pursue her talent and love for painting. Her artistic style is rooted in representational realism with impressionism influences and the linocut artistry and printing she loves and pursues as a hobby. Tam aspires “to elevate the everyday,” as seen in her current painting that glorifies a pair of Crocs in glowing color, or her delicious small painting “Marble Donut”which was awarded the Blue Ribbon in our January “Close Ups” Show.

Karen Kingsley joined the Rappahannock Art League shortly after retiring to the Northern Neck. Her desire to explore and pursue her lifelong interest in artistic expression was renewed by her participation in the RAL Life Drawing group and various classes.Karen considers herself to be an “experimental artist,” exploring a wide variety of mediumsand subjects. Her subjects and style,which can range from abstracted realism to the purely abstract, from figures to florals, are vibrantly colorful, and have been winning awards in regional shows in Hampton, Williamsburg, and RAL. She recently received First Place award in the February RAL Show, “Black, White, and Grey All Over.”

4th Annual Art in Transit Competition Entry Deadline Approaches

The deadline for entering the 4th Annual Art in Transit competition is drawing near. This is an amazing opportunity to have a copy of your art installed on the side of a Bay Transit bus. Additionally, the first prize cash award is $1,000, with the second-place winner receiving $750, and the third-place winner receiving $500.

To enter, complete your art according to the guidelines and bring the form, your art, and the entry fee to RAL Art Center on Saturday, 4/27, Sunday, 4/28, or Monday, 4/29, between 10 am and 12 pm.

See ***May Exhibits*** below for more information about entering.

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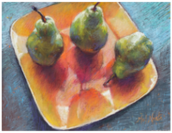
RAL Artist Exhibits in American Impressionist Society Showcase



Green Pears Reflected, pastel by Mel Neale

Mel Neale, RAL Cooperative Artist and frequent award winner, recently had the honor of having one of her paintings accepted into the American Impressionist Society (AIS) 8th Annual Small Works Showcase, 2024. "Green Pears Reflected" is one of 160 paintings (160 artists) out of 1,806 entries, and one of only 16 pastel paintings to be chosen. The digital catalogue is available here, Mel’s painting is on page 119.

AIS sponsors four shows per year. Two are online only and two, Small Works and their Annual National Juried Exhibition, are “in person” shows. Mel previously has been accepted into an AIS online show.

The AIS Small Works showcase will take place at the Anderson Fine Art Gallery, St. Simons, GA, April 25 to May 28.

New Windows Display Team Takes the Reins

RAL announces the formation of a new Windows Display Team starting in April. David Hershiser and Gloria Clifford have recently been appointed to this position by the Gallery Team at RAL. Heartfelt thanks go to Mary Ellis who is passing the baton after many years as the Windows Display organizer. Thank you for setting a standard of excellence that shows the RAL Art Center in its best light to visitors on Main Street!

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The Great Art Heist

CALLING ALL ART LOVERS
Artists, Members & Friends

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please support the 17th 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, 2024.

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 our largest annual fundraiser!

The Great Art Heist - How It Works

RAL Art Center is excited to announce the 17th Annual Great Art Heist for 2024! This exciting and highly anticipated event will happen on Saturday June 29 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Here's how it works:

- 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 isexhibited at the RAL Art Center and is available for preview during regular business hours from June 4 to June 29.
- Patrons purchase their ticket(s) and then complete a wish list in the order of priority for the artwork they desire. **In 2024 we will only be selling 50 tickets.**

- 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, 2024.

The Heist reception begins at 4:00 pm; beverages and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Drawing begins promptly at 5:00 pm.

To reserve and pay for your ticket(s) please call RAL at 804-436-9309, visit our website, or come by RAL during regular business hours.

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

ADMIT
ADMIT ONE

The 17th Annual Great Art Heist is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024 from 4:00-7:00 pm.

The Heist is RAL’s largest annual fundraiser. 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 - $50

Guests will be able to enjoy all Heist activities including beer, wine, food, entertainment and great fellowship. Only participant ticket holders 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, 2024.***

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 2024 we will only be selling 50 tickets.***

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 16, 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, 2024.

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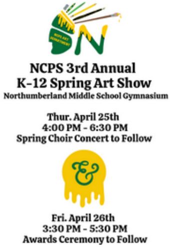
Community Outreach & Activities

Support our local student shows!



NCPS 3rd Annual
K-12 Spring Art Show
Northumberland Middle School Gymnasium

Thur. April 25th
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Spring Choir Concert to Follow

&

Fri. April 26th
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Awards Ceremony to Follow

Lancaster Show Needs Judges

Member Marilyn Sprouse has requested that one or more RAL artists assist her with judging the 2024 LCS Student Exhibit this month. The show date is Thursday, April 18, and judging takes place at 2:30. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn directly at msprouse@lcs.k12.va.us

2024 Summer Camps are Open for Registration!

Join the smART Program at RAL Art Center this summer for six weeks of summer camp fun! Youth Art Camps will be held beginning June 10th through July 27th.

June camps are now open for registration on the RAL website. Click here to register!

Make the most of your family's summer break with weeklong day camps designed for kids ages 5 to 18. Explore the grounds in a camp all about art and nature or give the budding architect in the family a chance to build their skills!

Whatever your kids' passions, they're sure to find plenty to love at the gallery. And you'll love that they're learning and making memories every step of the way.

Click here to see all dates and full camp descriptions.

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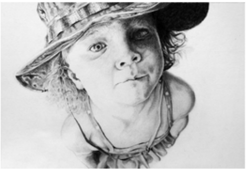
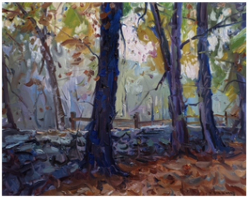
Adult Classes and Workshops

Drawing: Learning to See 2



Instructor: Gloria Clifford

Plein Air with Kyle Buckland



Day: Thursdays
Dates: April 11 – May 9, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: $220 members, $253 non-members

This is the second 5-week course with an emphasis on additional, more advanced drawing skills. In this second session, the understanding of perspective and perspective drawing

Read more . . .

Instructor: Kyle Buckland
Days: Friday thru Sunday
Dates: April 19, 20, & 21

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

Cost: $395 members, $454 non-members

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

Read more . . .

April Try It Tuesday: Color Magic with Brusho

POWDERED
BRUSHO WATERCOLOR

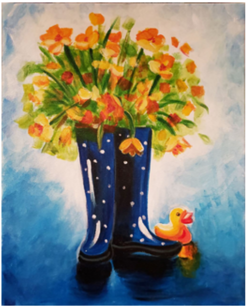
Instructor: Celeste Johnston, artist
Date: Tuesday - April 9, 2024
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: $35 members, $40 non-members

Make your paintings zing with colors pushing beyond realism and capturing mood and essence. It can be used like Watercolor and with watercolor. It has unusual and fascinating properties. It is great for backgrounds and can be used for layering additional washes.

All supplies included.

April Paint Night: Rainy Day Flowers



Instructor: Juli Schuszler
Date: Thursday – April 25
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

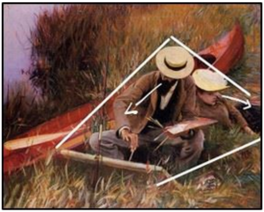
Cost: $35 members, $40 non-members

Join us on the evening of Thursday, April 25 to have fun painting a rainy-day arrangement. This class will be completed using acrylic paint on an 11" x 14" stretched canvas. Create a painting of rain boots filled with spring flowers and accompanied by a rubber duck.

Read more . . .

Understanding Composition and Design

May Try It Tuesday: May Flowers

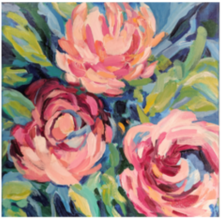


Instructor: Doug Mock
Dates: Monday & Tuesday, May 6th & 7th
Times: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: $150 members, $175 non-members

Artists will learn the importance of creating works that take advantage of strong design and composition. You will learn about the elements and principles of design, what armature or structure is best for your specific work, how to assess your photos (or plein air sites) to ensure strong works and how to best plan your art for success. This workshop does not include physical painting.

Read more . . .

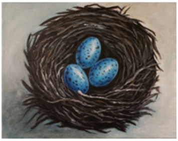


Instructor: Gloria Clifford
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Time: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: $35 members, $40 non-members

May is a wonderful time to be painting flowers. In this "Try It Tuesday" event, students will render this floral painting by instructor, Gloria Clifford, using bold brushstrokes in acrylic paints. Come create this version OR your very own personal interpretation of what May in bloom means to you!

May Paint Night: Robin's Egg Blue



Instructor: Juli Schuszler, Artist
Date: Thursday – May 23
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Cost: $35 members, $40 non-members

Join us on the evening of Thursday, May 23to have fun painting a spring-themed image. This class will be completed using acrylic paint on an 11” x 14” canvas. Create a painting of 3 speckled robin’s eggs nestled in a bird’s nest.

All materials are provided by the instructor. All levels of experience are welcome, from beginner to

Read more . . .

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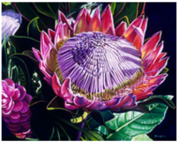
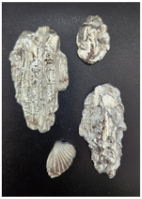
Upcoming Exhibits

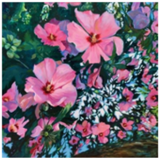
April Windows Exhibits



Proteus, oil by Juli Schuszler



Silver clay jewelry by Jacquie Colligan



Rose of Sharon, oil by Gayle Merrill

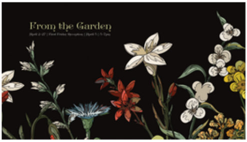
The artists featured in the RAL Art Center's windows this month are Juli Schuszler, Jacquie Colligan, and Gayle Merrill.

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. Much of Juli's inspiration comes from her garden. 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.

Fine artist and jewelry designer, Jacquie Colligan, also looks to nature for inspiration. For instance, the silver art clay Jacquie uses to create many of her jewelry pieces is formed using molds made from bark and oyster shells. Jacquie's unique handcrafted jewelry created a demand for inspired unique art pieces. They incorporate semi-precious stone, metal, and beads acquired during worldwide travel.

Finally, Gayle Merrill showcases her large-scale floral paintings. Gayle lives in Gloucester, where she paints 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.

Read the full article on our blog.



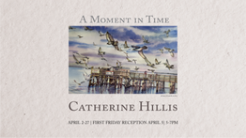
April: From the Garden

Flowers, veggies, bugs, birds, leaves, twigs, trees, pollen? What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "it came from the garden"? Show us what this means to you.

Receiving: Monday, April 1, 10 am to 12 pm

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, April 2 through Saturday, April 27

Reception: Friday, April 5, 5 to 7 pm


A Moment in Time
Catherine Hillis
April 2-27 | First Friday Reception April 5 | 5-7PM

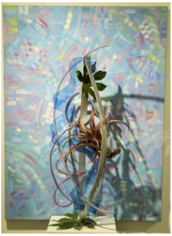
April: A Moment in Time

with Visiting Artist - Catherine Hillis

Our April exhibit on the MDUs will feature the work of visiting artist, Catherine Hillis. Catherine will also be teaching a water-color workshop during April, details found in the ***Classes*** section of this newsletter.

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, April 2 through Saturday, April 27

Reception: Friday, April 5, 5 to 7 pm



Arrangement by Cathie Elliott; painting by Mary Ellis

April: Art and Flowers

RAL artists and local floral designers will once again participate in a collaborative exhibit. The exhibit will open on Friday, April 5th and run through Saturday, April 6th. Visitors to the gallery will cast votes for their favorite pairing with ribbons awarded for first, second, and third place. This event has become one of RAL's highlights of the year.

Exhibit dates: Friday, April 5 through Saturday, April 6

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May: Art in Transit

Enter the 4th Annual Art in Transit competition! Works may be in any 2-dimensional medium and portray any subject that is acceptable for all audiences.

Receiving: Saturday, April 27, Sunday, April 28, and Monday, April 29, from 10 AM and 12 PM

Exhibits Dates: Tuesday, April 30 to Saturday, June 1

Awards Reception: Friday, May 31, 5-7 pm

Find the entry form and more information at AiT 2024 | RAL Art Center

HIP
TO BE
SQUARE
APRIL 30 - JUNE 1

May: Hip to Be Square

The theme this month is open, but you must keep it in a SQUARE composition no larger than 14"x14." It can also be as small as 2"x2" or anything in between. The important thing to remember is that it must be in a square format! 3-dimensional pieces must also have a square format (cubed) and be no larger than 14" in any direction.

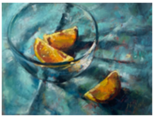
Receiving: Monday, April 29, 10 am - 12 pm

Exhibit Dates: Tuesday, April 30 to Saturday, June 1

Reception: Friday, May 3, 5-7 pm

June: Simplicity

Keeping it simple can be a challenge when we are used to creating highly detailed paintings, drawings, or photographs. Consider the peace and calm of the line, the shape, the color, the graphic. Keep in mind that this show will be on the mobile display units, with size limits of 28 inches wide and 58 inches high. Please see the Exhibit Guidelines for details.



Citrus in Glass Bowl, pastel by Mel Neale

More 2024 Exhibits:

July: Driven to Abstraction, Small Works

August: Critters and Creatures, Tartan Village Students

September: 63rd Labor Day Art Show

October: Water: Above and Below; Robin Caspari

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

December: Holiday Shop, Photography Show

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THE NETTIE LOKEY WILEY and CHARLES L. WILEY FOUNDATION

THE COLE CHARITABLE TRUST

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.

2024 Board Officers

Executive Director: Sharon Stone

Doug Mock, President

Sarah Marshall Elliott, Vice President,

Karen Pica, Secretary

Deirdra McLaughlin, Treasurer

ral@ralartcenter.com

www.ralartcenter.com

19 N. Main Street, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday,
10 am to 4 pm

804.436.9309

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