

JULY 2023



Avenue in the Rain by Frederick Childe Hassam (1859–1935)

Hassam was a prominent and prolific American Impressionist painter, noted for his urban and coastal scenes. His most famous works are the "Flag" paintings, completed during World War I.

RAL Art Center is bursting with activity and fun this July!

Come visit the gallery to see amazing work entered into
TWO exhibits,
Coastal Living and Small Works.

Ready to create something yourself?
Sign up for Try It Tuesday and learn to paint a beautiful angel with a palette knife or
maybe a **colorful beach landscape** at **this month's Paint Night.**

Our **July Gallery Windows** will feature artists **Sarah Marshall Elliott, Karen Williams, and Ed Ramsey...a wonderful combination of paintings and ceramics!**

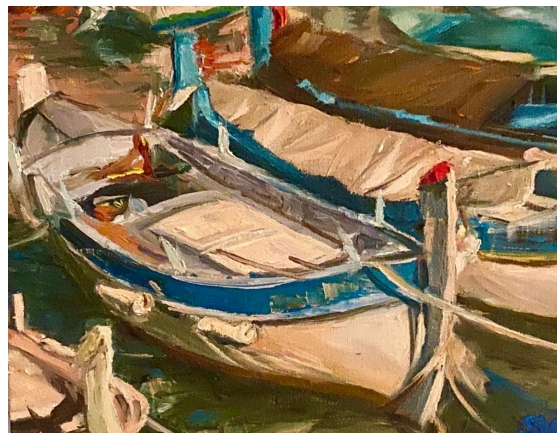
Ready to learn something new or improve your skills? Sign up for **iPhone Advanced Photography Workshop, Oil Painting for Beginners, or Botanical Observation and Drawing** before these classes are filled!

Gallery News

Announcing the 62nd Labor Day Art Show August 30 –September 23, 2023

The RAL Art Center invites all members, 18 and older, to enter its annual Labor Day Art Show. We hope to exhibit 200 original works of art that have never been seen before! AND, we plan to welcome many new, first-time artists to our 62nd Labor Day Art Show.

This art show is not juried, but is it judged. This means that, although work will not be evaluated



in order to be accepted, ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded. Once again, a **People's Choice Award** will be announced based on votes cast during the exhibit.

The **deadline to submit entry forms and fees is Saturday, August 12th by 4 pm**. The **artwork delivery dates are August 26th, 27th, and 28th from 10 am to 12 noon** at the RAL Art Center. If you are already a member of RAL, please consider entering this fantastic show. If you aren't a member, you can still join RAL and be a part of what most members consider to be **the pinnacle exhibit of the year!**

You may submit your entry form and pay the entry fee in person at the RAL Art Center or on RAL's website, <https://www.ralartcenter.com/>. Both the prospectus and the entry form are available on the website. The **exhibit runs from August 30th to September 23rd**. Join us for the **First Friday reception on September 1st** when the winners are unveiled.

Our Labor Day Art Show is **one of the longest-standing visual art shows in Virginia** and has also been awarded the *Virginia Living Magazine's Best of Virginia 2023 for Art Events*. We are proud to be in our 62nd year. We hope that you, your family, your neighbors, and your friends visit often!

Receiving: August 26 – 28, 10 am to 12 pm

Exhibit Dates: August 30 – September 23

Reception: Friday, September 1, 5 – 7 pm

Old World Boats V by Sarah Marshall Elliott~ 2023 Labor Day Art Show Best in Show



The 16th Annual Great Art Heist a Smashing Success!

The 16th Annual Great Art Heist was held on Saturday, June 24th and it was a tremendous success.

From the **113 pieces of art generously donated by RAL artists, members, and friends**, to the incredible Italian-inspired buffet, this year's Heist was an exciting evening.

"This event would never have been possible without the incredible support of the volunteers who gave selflessly of their time," stated Heist Chairperson Christine Mason. *"This year's event was fantastic with very few hiccups. I have received so many positive responses from our guests."*

Mistress of Ceremonies, Laurie Breakwell and her sidekick Pat Mason were a big hit and kept the event moving at a steady and manageable pace. Their energy was infectious, and their antics made the environment quite entertaining.

"I have come to the Heist since its very first year. We buy two tickets every year and our home is surrounded by beautiful art from the incredibly talented RAL artists and generous donors," stated Doug Mock, Heist co-chair.

Sharon Stone, RAL Executive Director stated, *"It is so gratifying to see where the Great Art Heist is today and how our community has embraced RAL and this amazing event."*

Plans are already in the works for 2024!

Lancaster by the Bay Chamber After Hours at RAL

Our exhibit reception on July 7th will also be the site for "After Hours" with Lancaster by the Bay Chamber. Please come to meet and greet our community leaders and help us show off the Art Center in its best light!

If you can donate food, please contact Kay Mock (804-221-7841, landwine@frontier.com), or just bring in your favorite dish to share. Setup starts at 4:45 pm; reception is 5-7 pm.



Announcing a New RAL & Bay Aging Partnership: The Artful Aging Program

The RAL Art Center is pleased to announce that our collaboration with Bay Transit/Bay Aging has expanded to include the new Artful Aging program. This is a **joint pilot program of art instruction for seniors living in income-restricted housing in the Northern Neck**. RAL and Bay Aging submitted a **grant request to River Counties Community Foundation (RCCF)** in April of this year. We received partial funding for this exciting new endeavor and expect to hold the first art classes in September.

Bay Aging selected Tartan Village in Kilmarnock to serve as the first site for the program. The residents of this apartment community are active and independent; the head of household must be at least 62 years old and meet certain financial restrictions to qualify for housing. Bay Aging operates 12 of these senior rental communities, and we hope to see the Artful Aging program available at many of these sites in the future.

Art instructors from the RAL Art Center will deliver structured, no-fee art lessons to Tartan Village residents in the onsite Community Room. This will include six months of weekly lessons, in alternating months over one year. Tartan Village participants can choose classes in watercolor, acrylic, or quilting/fiber art; they will receive all supplies at no cost and may sign up for three art gallery visits that include an instructional artist talk.

Bay Aging, through use of Bay Transit buses, will provide transportation to local galleries as well as staff to serve as liaisons with the residents. RAL Executive Director, Sharon Stone, will serve as the Artful Aging Program Director.

We would especially like to thank the board and staff of RCCF for their support. We hope that, through Artful Aging, many senior adults in our area will experience improved health and quality of life through their active engagement with art and personal creativity!

Meet Volunteer Laura Ann Cline

We are so grateful to have so many wonderful volunteers who fill key roles in the operation of RAL Art Center! Our newest addition to the Admin Team is Laura Ann Cline, Desk Volunteer Coordinator. Laura Ann joined RAL in 2022 and began volunteering as a Docent because she was the neighbor of one of our co-op artists.

She grew up in Mt. Vernon and graduated with a degree in political science from Mary Washington College, now the University of Mary Washington. Currently, Laura Ann is active in several volunteer organizations in addition to RAL: Irvington Village Improvement Association, Rappahannock River Yacht Club, Women of St. Francis, and the Rappahannock Garden Club.



Current Docents and Day Managers should direct scheduling questions to Laura Ann at

Volunteer@ralartcenter.com. If you would like to volunteer as a Day Manager or Docent, please also contact Laura Ann for more information. Welcome, Laura Ann!



Holiday Shop Meeting: Christmas Eve in July

With the new point-of-sale system, we are already thinking about how to make the technology work to our advantage in December.

If you have considered or plan to sell your handcrafts or art in the 2023 Holiday Shop, please join us for an organizational meeting on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 10 am. We will be formulating the rules and procedures for vendors to use. Offer your experiences and suggestions and help us make this the smoothest Holiday Shop ever!

Please reply to Sharon Stone at executivedirector@ralartcenter.com or Charles Breakwell at assistantdirector@ralartcenter.com. For more information, contact either Sharon or Charles or call the gallery at 804-436-9309.

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

iPhone Advanced Photography Workshop

Instructor: Caroline Maryan

Dates: Sunday, July 9, 2023

Time: 1-4 pm

Cost: \$50 for members; \$55 for non-members

Join us for a three-hour hands-on Advanced iPhone Photography Workshop with Williamsburg-based travel photographer, Caroline Maryan. The workshop is open to anyone who is already comfortable using the iPhone camera. It is not an introductory class.

We'll start by digging deeper into the modes offered on the iPhone, like Pano, Portrait, Macro, Live, Burst, and Night Mode. Next, we'll learn how to create beautiful memories with video modes: Video, Time-Lapse, and Slo-Mo. The short films we can make with Slo-Mo will melt your heart! Finally, we'll dive into editing your photos and videos in the Photos and iMovie apps on your iPhone. Caroline's classes are always popular, so be sure to sign up early!



July's Try It Tuesday: Wing and Things

Part I – Angel Painting with Palette Knife

Instructor: Rebecca West

Date: Tuesday, July 11

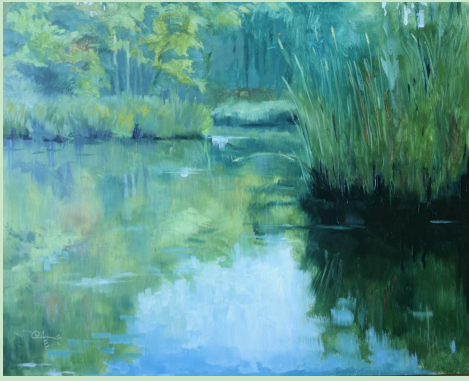
Time: 6 –8 pm

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

Experiment with a palette knife while creating your own angel painting. Using a palette knife allows you to create different effects than with a brush.

An original painting from the instructor, Rebecca West, will be the model for your own palette-knife artwork. Feel free to bring a snack, a beverage, and a friend or two.





Oil Painting for Beginners

Instructor: Cate Kauffman

Dates: July 22–23

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Cost: \$230 for members; \$265 for non-members

Oils are both forgiving and challenging and are loved by many artists. This beginner's class will introduce you to basic techniques that will help you get off on the right foot and give you the opportunity to experience these wonderful paints without a lot of expense or

struggle. You will learn the basic painting techniques using the safest oil paint products on the market today.

Note about supplies: Paint will be supplied by the instructor. DO NOT bring paint or medium to class. Also, if you want to learn to stretch a small canvas over a lunch break, bring a small set of stretcher bars, a length of canvas large enough to cover stretchers with a two-inch overlay, and a staple gun. The instructor will bring stretcher pliers and other tools to show. With small canvasses, special tools are not normally needed.



July's Paint Night: Surfside

Instructor: Juli Schuszler

Dates: Thursday, July 27

Time: 6–8 pm

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

Join us on the evening of Thursday, July 27 to have fun painting a beachy landscape. This class will be completed using acrylic paint on an 11" x 14" stretched canvas. Create a painting of rippling waves and a sunny beach dotted with umbrellas and footprints.

All levels of experience are welcome, from beginner to experienced. You will receive a reference picture and printed step-by-step directions. Feel free to bring your favorite beverages and snacks to make the evening even more special. Bring a friend, neighbor, relative, or spouse for this fun and engaging class.

Botanical Observation and Drawing Workshop

Instructor: Celeste Johnston, certified botanical artist

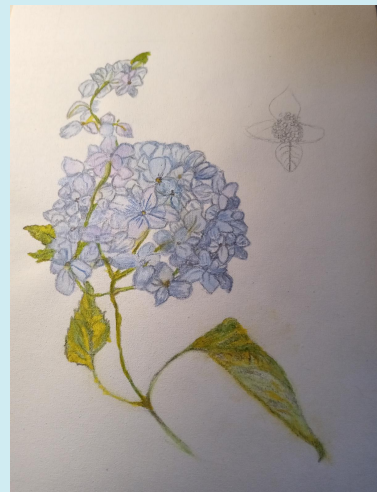
Date: July 29, 2023

Time: 9 am – 4 pm (12–1 lunch)

Cost: \$70 for Members, \$81 for Non-members

Join other artists, gardeners, and nature lovers to learn a bit about the history of botanical illustration, the basics of how to observe plants/flora/fauna, and how to scientifically render illustrations of what you observe. All experience levels are welcome.

The workshop will consist of two parts. The morning session will be an introduction to the history of botanical drawing, the basics, and the foundation. The morning session is a "pre-requisite" for the afternoon session; however, there is no obligation to remain for the afternoon session if you already have experience with drawing and are more interested in the background. The afternoon session will focus on observation and botanical illustration.



Supplies: The instructor will provide class supplies; you just need to bring your curiosity and lunch.



August's Try It Tuesday: Wings and Things Part II – Miniature Fairy Wings

Instructor: Rebecca West

Date/Time: Tuesday, August 8, 6–8 pm

Cost: Members: \$35; Non-Members: \$40

Join us to design and make your own miniature fairy wings. Creating art with fantasy film is as easy as designing, drawing, cutting, and assembling.

This month's Try It Tuesday will allow you to experiment with construction using wire, glue, and translucent material. You will leave with your own set (or sets) of miniature fairy wings to use as decoration, gifts, or however you choose. Feel free to bring a snack, a beverage, and a friend or two.



Visiting Artist Workshop: Landscape Painting with Kyle Buckland

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday – August 18, 19, & 20

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

Cost: \$390 for members; \$430 for non-members

Come join Kyle 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.

OPEN STUDIO

Instructor: Brenda Sylvia

Open Studio: Wednesdays – 6 pm – 8:30 pm

Open to artists of all levels to work in any medium except oils (unless you are not using solvents with them).

A still life will be set up for working from life and you are welcome to bring your own objects or photographs to work from. Bring your own materials and refreshments. Tabletop easels will be provided.

RAL artist Brenda Sylvia will be available for instruction, encouragement, and demonstrations. Come join us to have fun with your art in a nourishing, supportive environment. Please sign up in advance – restricted to 8 artists per session.

Supplies: Bring your own materials.

Members \$20 per night / Non-Members \$25 per night
Maximum: 8 Students





July 2023 ~Small Works Exhibit

It's time once more for the ever-popular Small Works exhibit in July. This is the perfect show for tiny – or at least, petite – masterpieces. No theme or subject matter is suggested, so create as you like. But please limit your 2-dimensional works to 154 square inches (equivalent to 11”x14”). Three-dimensional works should follow roughly the same guideline: no more than 14” high and 11” wide and deep.

Exhibit Dates: June 27 to July 29
Reception: Friday, July 7, 5–7 PM

Cottage Garden, punchneedle fiber art by Cheryl Mihills

July 2023 ~ Coastal Living

Capture the beauty of the coast in your art for this July exhibit! What lets you know that you are in the River Realm? Is it the scenery? The food? Maybe the hammock out back with a view of the water? Celebrate the coast and all it has to offer!

Exhibit Dates: June 27 to July 29
Reception: Friday, July 7, 5–7 PM

Tangier Marsh, oil by Karen Williams



August 2023 ~ Wild Things Exhibit

From wild animals to wildflowers, from wild child to wild weather, this exhibit invites the entirely undomesticated to take center stage. Be sure to send an artist statement to Barb Brecher (500 characters or less to barb@brecherdesign.com) to explain why these entries are wild!

Receiving: Monday, July 31, 10 AM – 12 PM
Exhibit Dates: August 1 to August 26
Reception: Friday, August 4, 5–7 PM

On Patrol, photography by Bob Sutherland

August 2023 ~ Visiting Artist Cindy Kinney

In August, RAL Art Center welcomes visiting artist, Cindy Kinney, and her exhibit of watercolor paintings.

Originally from Baltimore, Cindy moved to Richmond as a child and currently lives there. She spent most of her career at Virginia Commonwealth University, retiring in 2022. She says, “I have been creatively and artistically inclined ever since childhood. When Santa gave me that big box of 64 color crayons, it was the best thing ever. I started working in watercolor in 1989 and added working in oils later. I have studied with a number of local Richmond artists and have been included in exhibits in Virginia.

"I try to capture light and color in my paintings. My goal is to find beauty in everything and share that beauty with others." She adds, "When the cares and craziness of the world become too much, Nature gives us peace and healing for our hearts and souls. This exhibit includes paintings of places and things that have brought me peace and joy."

Exhibit Dates: August 1 to August 26
Reception: Friday, August 4, 5-7 PM

Daffodil by Cindy Kinney



2023 Exhibits & Special Events

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)



July Gallery Window Artists





RAL's July Window Artists

Karen Williams

Karen has always had an interest in art but was not able to really pursue that interest until she retired. She says, *"I consider myself a realist painter, specializing in oils. Travel in my retirement years has been the inspiration for most of my paintings. I take pleasure in transforming my memories from a small photo into a larger piece of work for both my enjoyment and others. Sometimes my subject matter may seem off-the-wall but one of my favorite compliments is that my painting made someone giggle or smile."*

Sarah Marshall Elliott

Sarah enjoyed a career in marketing and publishing but felt adrift when she retired from the corporate world. This led her to enroll in painting classes. She says, *"I quickly learned that 'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time,' as said by Thomas Merton. I found so much more than I had lost. Bringing unexpected color to life is great fun. I bring my whole self to the easel and hope my energy and emotion comes through to those who admire my work."*

Ed Ramsey

Ed uses a potter's wheel to produce many of his functional pieces, but his first love is in hand building, using slabs or coils. He fires many of his pieces using the Western Raku method where pieces are removed from the hot kiln and placed in masses of combustible material (e.g., straw, sawdust, or newspaper) to provide a reducing atmosphere for the glaze and to stain the exposed body surface with carbon.

Clockwise from left to right: Ceramics by Ed Ramsey; Karen Williams', *River Sky*; *Checking the Pots* by Sarah Marshall Elliott

Community Outreach



Summer Youth Art Camp at RAL!

Kids in middle and elementary school have been creating art and having fun in the Pike Studio since the middle of June. We have completed three weeks of these fun lessons and still have six to go.

Cartooning is the theme for July 5–7, specifically Marvel Cartooning for middle and high school students in the afternoons. Other upcoming topics include Patterns Galore, exploring geometric designs and mosaic; Peace, Love, & Rock ‘n’ Roll, celebrating bright colors; Wild & Wacky Weaving, using unusual items as looms, including weaving a hula hoop rug in the afternoon class; The Art of Music, designing album covers and other art inspired by music; and Enter Another Dimension, where 3D takes center stage and kids learn to build art beyond the flat page.

See the RAL website or visit the gallery to register. We hope to see you soon!



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:

TUESDAY – 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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