

## DRA BRINGS "SOUTHERN SURGE" TO ALEXANDRIA BY WAY OF MISSISSIPPI

March 2 through April 1, 2007

It's nothing new for the Del Ray Artisans to extend Southern hospitality. But the month of March will provide DRA the pleasure of extending a helping hand way down South to a group of artists several states removed from Virginia. March 2 through April 1, 2007, DRA will host an art exhibit entitled "Southern Surge: Hurricane Force Art from Hancock County, Mississippi." This exhibit will showcase the work of Hancock County's artists, many of whom lost their homes, studios, tools and entire bodies of work during Hurricane Katrina.

Hancock County, a community of 43,000 people located on the western edge of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is home to over 200 visual and performing artists. Many of these artists are the product of a rich Southern culture. Some are born-raised-never-left-the-South, while others lived for a time in other parts of the country, but were drawn back by their strong connection to Hancock County and its environs. All paid a heavy price when Katrina swept through, so it is with a mixture of both regret and hope that they have picked up the pieces and started the creative process again.

However, out of chaos, new opportunities both regionally and nationally have been born. Like many others in August of 2005, DRA's members watched in horror as we witnessed Hurricane Katrina's widespread devastation. Katrina wiped out dozens of arts venues and commercial outlets in Hancock County, prompting artists, collectors and galleries from around the country to launch an effort to enable Hancock County's artists' work to be shown outside of their washed away community. The Del Ray Artisans learned about this and offered them an opportunity to show their work through an exhibit in our gallery.

In addition to fine art, Southern Surge will also feature "Mississippi Market," a collection of Hancock County's arts and crafts, as well as artist workshops, live music and artist talks. Beginning Saturday, March 3, there will also be free screenings of a fascinating documentary film "The Art of The Storm." Written, filmed and produced by Watts Up Productions, the documentary follows the stories of 14 Hancock County artists as they struggle to rebuild their lives and resume their careers after Hurricane Katrina's devastation. The film will be shown 4:30 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday (March 3-April 1).

Join us Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m. for the opening reception of Southern Surge. Meet some of Hancock County's inspiring artists while enjoying the exhibit and supporting Katrina relief efforts for Hancock County's arts community.

For more information about special events during Southern Surge, contact Linda Elliff 703.360.1265 or [lleliff@aol.com](mailto:lleliff@aol.com).

Gallery Hours: Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays noon-6 p.m.

Websites: [www.Hancock-Art.com](http://www.Hancock-Art.com), [www.TheArtoftheStorm](http://www.TheArtoftheStorm)

## Southern Surge Calendar

Friday, March 2 (7-10 p.m.) "Southern Surge" exhibit - Opening reception. Meet the exhibiting members of The ARTS, Hancock County, MS. (Free)

Every Saturday & Sunday March 3 through April 1 (4:30 p.m.)  
View the (55 min.) documentary "The Art of The Storm," an inspiring film about survival, compassion, love of art and how the art community rises above and beyond. (Free)

Saturday & Sunday, March 3-4 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) Collage Workshop with artist Lori Gordon. Mixed media with a focus on handmade papers. Registration required. Contact Joan Ulrich at [ulrichclay@aol.com](mailto:ulrichclay@aol.com) or 703.660.2382. (Fee: \$140-DRA members / \$160 non-members) <http://thekatrinacollectionbylorikgordon.blogspot.com>

Monday, March 5 (7 p.m.) "Visual Music" a presentation by artist Liz Schafer. Discussion and demonstration of her relationship with music to the color, form and texture found in her paintings. (Free)

Friday, March 16 (7-9 p.m.) "Community and Southern Hospitality–Hancock County (MS) Style" a presentation by artist Schonda Sweeney. Enjoy Live Acoustic Delta Blues with a side order of Sweet Tea & cake! (Free)

Workshop schedules are subject to change. Additional details will be posted on [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) prior to the events.