



The Well Crafted Word

March 2000

<http://www.radiodelray.com/artisans>

ART CHAT Hosted by Del Ray Artisans in March

By special request, Del Ray Artisans will host the March ART CHAT, a networking opportunity among artists, cosponsored by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Alexandria Arts Forum. The meeting will be held at the gallery on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 7PM.

ART CHAT, once a regular monthly event, was reborn February with a well-attended gathering at the new Charles Beatley Library. The evening begins with light refreshments and open networking, guests will have an opportunity to view the *Fiber and Fire* show. All attending will have a chance to introduce themselves to the entire group, which will then discuss a topic chosen for the evening—"Collaboration Between Arts Organizations." Further networking will follow the group discussion. All Del Ray Artisans' members and guests are welcome.

Spring All-Member Show Collaboration

The *Choreographers' Collaboration Project* presents an April 7th Spring Performance with 3 new works, two are collaborations with Del Ray Artisans. A performance at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., will be followed immediately by the DRA All-Members' Show opening reception next door, at the Nicholas Colasanto Center, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Terry Field premieres *Irish Blessings*, a suite inspired by the Celtic folksongs of Alexandria's *Irish Breakfast Band* (1999 winner of Irish/Celtic record of the year), who will be performing live. *Doorway to Memories (Les Portes de Souvenir)*, a solo performed and created by Amey St. Clair, reviews the different stages of a love relationship from the celebrated beginning to the tumultuous ending. *Homeland to the Soul*, a solo performed by Mary Jo Smet, is a collaboration between choreographer Janet Stormes and poet and artist Renee Niver.

In addition, choreographers Judith Sewickley and Mary Jo Smet (with singer Alison Valtin) will present works.

Committees in Need

Del Ray Artisans is a thriving, active organization driven by energetic volunteers. We are developing a set of standard committees, to make the process of organizing volunteers. A list of committees will be available in the next issue. Please consider being a part of one of our committees. We are always looking for excitement and new ideas.

Fiber and Fire

A Collaborative Show of Contemporary Fiber and Clay Presented by Del Ray Artisans and Springwater Fiber Workshop

Del Ray Artisans and Springwater Fiber Workshop present *Fiber and Fire*, a collaborative show of contemporary fiber and clay, featuring works created by members of Del Ray Artisans, Springwater Workshop, current students of Ceramics and Pottery of the Art League School of Northern Virginia, and a special inclusion of work by St. Colletta's school. Fiber works include wearable art as well as decorative and sculptural pieces in different media and techniques. Clay works include hand-built and wheel-thrown pieces, functional and nonfunctional.

Works will be judged for ribbon awards. Judges are Christine Spangler, George Washington University faculty member and William R. Schran, Fine Art Program Head at NoVA Community College. Most works will be for sale and some items will be available in a Silent Auction—bidding starts opening night, March 10th, and continues until March 19th, when bids close. During the reception and awards ceremony on March 10th, guests can meet the artists.

Award Ceremony and Opening Reception is Friday, March 10th, 7PM - 10PM. Exhibit: March 11 - March 26, DRA Gallery in the Nicholas Colasanto Ctr., 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Virginia. Exhibit hours: Saturdays, 10AM - 4PM; and Sundays, 12NOON - 4PM; Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 12NOON - 5PM. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The opening and exhibit are free and open to the public.

Art and Politics Candidates Night Thursday, April 13th

All arts patrons are invited to attend the Alexandria Arts Forum's Year 2000 Candidates Night, Thursday, April 13, from 7PM-9PM at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Candidates will be asked questions relating to the arts in Alexandria; Robert Aubrey Davis, well known in the DC area arts arena, will moderate. All announced candidates for Mayor and City Council will be invited to participate and a reception follows.

Del Ray Artisans is an active member in the Alexandria Arts Forum and our representative is Kathryn Brown. For information: Forum President Sherry Brown 703.548.9044, or Press Contact Bill Clayton 703.548.0958.

T-shirt Designs Due

Competition March 14th General Meeting

Your design may be next in our collection of highly prized and sought-after artist-designed T-shirts! As usual, the back of the shirts should include our slogan *Celebrating the Art of Making*, and the DRA name and logo. Any design you create for the front may also incorporate words, *i.e. Del Ray*, if you choose to do so. Don't forget to include your signature on your design submission.

For the first time we are going to produce designer canvas "tote" bags. The design for the T-shirt and the bags may or may not be the same. So start creating and bring your designs to the March 14th competition!

Gardens!

*Free workout! Fresh air! Aesthetic satisfaction!
Communing with Mother Earth!*

The Garden Committee has begun planning landscape improvements for the Colasanto Center and volunteers are needed. The committee is working on: disguising the transformer box left of the entrance, improving signage, new trees, and improving water and lighting.

Come and help on two Saturday work days—March 25th & April 1st, 10AM. (Rain dates: Mar. 26 & Apr. 2.) No special skills needed but bring a fork, spade, or rake if you can. Please call Deborah Peterson (H 703.299.9422 or W 703. 836.2272) or Jane DeWeerd (703.548.2612) to volunteer. Thanks.



March Madness Card-Making Party

One of the joys of art as a child included cutting and pasting pretty colors and materials together—to the ooohs and aaahs of surrounding admirers! The opportunity to get back to those roots awaits our adult artists at another of our Card Making Parties on Friday, March 31st at 7PM in the gallery.

Easter is the subject of choice, but we are also sorely in need of birthday and other general purpose subjects for your masterpieces. These cards will be sold at the gallery, and we are also selling again at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Eleanor Baker**, Fairfax County Art League's Artist for February, recently she was also accepted as a member of the Washington Area Watercolor Association.

Kudos—**Karen Schmitz**, winner of the mid-Atlantic Small Print Exhibit.

Congrats and a big thank-you to **Liz Martinez**, our new Gallery Coordinator. Liz, you rock!

Call for Entries

(list of exhibits/ competitions for
artists—brief descriptions)

March 31, 2000

Call for Entries: Photo2000 Black/White Classic Juried Photography Show. April 9–June 20, 2000. Black/white photography only. CASH AWARDS. Deadline: April 2nd. Opening Reception: April 9th. Juror: Arno Minkkinen, internationally known Finnish-Am. photographer. Prospectus: send SASE to: The Brush Art Gallery & Studios, 256 Market Street, Lowell MA 01852 or e-mail: www.thebrush.org

Seeking artists to exhibit landscapes & cityscapes—DC Metro area

Downtown DC company is seeking exhibit photographs and paintings of landscapes & cityscapes of DC area. The company is located on 15th street, NW. Interested in exhibiting work for 3–6 months. Will provide links to artist's website from company site. Provide pricing information, artists statement, and other marketing material to assist in publicizing artists work. Seeking around 50 pieces to exhibit. Interested in no more than 4 artists. FIND ART will review work before it is forwarded. Interested artists with websites should provide address for review of work. Work needs to be available for display at the end of February. Contact FIND ART information bank at: 202.678.3455 or send e-mail to: alik@FINDARTinfobank.com

May 1, 2000

The Artist's Magazine's 2000 Annual Art Competition. More than \$16,000 in Cash Prizes! Open to all. 5 categories: Portraits, Landscapes, Still Life, Experimental, and Animal Art. Top award-winners and honorable mentions will be featured in Dec. 2000 issue of *The Artist's Magazine*. For complete rules and official entry form, send SASE to *The Artist's Magazine's* 2000 Art Competition, Attn: Terri Boes, Dept. AD, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207; fax your request to 513.531.0798, Dept. AD; or visit our Web site, www.artistsmagazine.com

May 1, 2000

The *ART CROWD MAGAZINE* Summer/Fall 2000 Juried Competition. **Deadline:** Monday, May 1, 2000. A juried showcase appearing in *Art Crowd Magazine*, a high-quality art and design magazine.

Prizes: All first-prize winners will receive a FREE full-page display; all runner-ups will receive a FREE half-page display. Artists receive 100% of anything earned on work sold through the publication.

Juror: Internationally acclaimed artist Alexandre Zlotnik

Eligibility: Submissions are welcome from all artists, designers, and craftspersons working in any media and from every school and style, including fashion and jewelry designers, furniture designers, photographers, illustrators, printmakers, sculptors, cartoonists, fiber artists, computer artists, and book designers. Each medium is juried separately. NO censorship—anything goes!

Entries: All work will be juried through slides, high-quality photos (5" x 7" or larger), or laser copies. Each submission must carry the artist's name, medium, dimensions of the work, and title. Indicate top of work. **Important:** A self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage must be included for the return of your slides or other material.

Entry Fee: Nonrefundable fee of \$25 for up to five entries. There is a \$5 charge for each additional entry over the first five.

Notification: Acceptances will be mailed May 10, 2000.

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked May 1, 2000. Mail entries, completed entry form (or postcard listing information regarding artist and artwork), and check or money order made out to "Art Crowd" to: *Art Crowd Magazine*; 331 West 57th Street, Box 465; New York, NY 10019 Phone/Fax: 212.399.1961; e-mail: staff@artcrowd.com

May 31, 2000

Writer's Digest's 69th Annual Writing Competition. Offers more than \$25,000 in prizes. Grand-prize winner will receive \$1,500 cash and choice of a trip to NYC to meet with editors and agents or NEW for 2000—a trip to 2001 Maui Writers Conference. Compete and win in 10 categories. \$10 per submission. Complete rules and official entry form, send SASE to: Writer's Digest Writing Competition, Dept. AD, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207; fax your request to 513.531.0798, Dept. AD; or visit our Web site, www.writersdigest.com



Art Camp 2000

Register Now

The Del Ray Artisans is planning an exciting week of artistic experiences this summer for youth ages 9 - 15. The Camp will run from 9:30AM - 4:30PM, July 24 - 28. Campers can sign up for the *Art Assortment* which will feature four classes: *Glass Mosaic* / teacher: Madeline Ramsey, *Eclectic Mixed Media Workshop* / teacher: Robin Robinson, *Beads 'N String Workshop* / teachers: Liz Martinez & Barbara Robinson), and *Fun with Paper and Felt* / teacher: Barbara Brecher. Completing the Camp Day will be *Fun With Clay* led by Jim Luby at the Mt. Vernon Rec. Ctr. Jim will teach fundamentals of different pottery techniques including wheel throwing and hand building. There will be an exhibit of the Campers' artwork on Friday, July 28. Cost: Art Assortment: \$150; Pottery: \$75, or sign up for the whole day: \$200. To register call Mart Larson at 703.836.0413.

Artisans and Barnes and Noble

One-person art shows by Del Ray Artisans' members continue at the Potomac Yards' Barnes and Noble Booksellers on Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 1). In March, Eleanor Baker will exhibit a variety of realistic watercolors, including luscious florals and some special "homescapes."

If you would like to exhibit at the bookstore please contact Susan Tetterton, Community Resource Manager for Barnes and Noble, at 703.299.9473. Susan is a strong supporter of the Del Ray Artisans and is always looking for new exhibitors. You can also contact Kathryn Brown, 703.549.5227 for additional information.

B&N has requested a group show for Mother's Day. Anyone interested in showing art relating to mothers or women, please call Kathryn soon, so we know if we can mount a show!

April: Brenda Townsend

May: DRA Group Show: "Celebrating Mother's Day"



Become a Member, Join Del Ray Artisans
(or renew your membership)



Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-mail: _____

I am an artist (medium): _____

I am a supporter of the arts.

Is this a membership renewal? Yes No

I am interested in volunteering. Yes No

I can liaison for Del Ray Artisans at a local civic group. Yes No

Membership Categories for One (1) Year: Individual: \$35,
Household: \$50, Corporate: \$100, Student/Senior/Disadvantaged: \$10

Please make check payable to *Del Ray Artisans*.

Mail check and membership form to *Del Ray Artisans*,

Attn: Membership, 2210 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301.

Ted Eichers

Ted Eichers grew up on a Minnesota farm, in the shadow of St. John's Abby, he lived near Cold Spring, a village inhabited by the German-speaking children and grandchildren of pioneer homesteaders. Ted was the only one of 8 children to leave this traditional life and take on a career in a distant city. Military service exposed him for the first time to climates where winters were short and mild—and summers that, incredibly, might stretch through September.

He liked to recall the late summer day in 1957 when, fresh out of the University of Minnesota, he guided his old Plymouth down Connecticut Avenue for the first time, surprised and delighted that flowers were still in bloom. That month he began his 29 year career with the Department of Agriculture and his 40 years of life in Washington.

Settled into his new home and job, he then turned to the next item of business: find a woman! To accomplish this he did what any good Catholic young man would do in the 1950's—he went to his parish priest for suggestions. Within weeks of arriving in DC, he found his way to St. Matthew's Cathedral Catholic young adult group and met Alice. They were married in Silver Spring on April 4, 1959. The family moved to Arlington on Labor Day Weekend, 1966, with three pre-schoolers, and a first grader. Two more children were born in the 1970's.

Over the years, Ted had been working on a PhD in economics. By the birth of his 6th child he was ready to begin a dissertation. Faced with a choice between completing his degree and participating more fully in the rearing of his children, he chose the latter—and gave his children, grandchildren; and, in retirement, the wider community, the immeasurable gift of his interest, time, and energy.

Ted's inner beauty was recognized by people of all ages—even small children were drawn to him, especially babies. He could entertain even the fussiest of infants with his gentle touch and funny faces. Ted was a very energetic man, right up to the very last moments of his life. He loved to keep moving. He skied and sailed, he biked and rowed, he even line-danced. He loved running after the dog and his grandchildren. There were few occasions when he wasn't sporting a homemade bandage over a cut hand or bruised finger that he'd just hit with a hammer, injuries he would ignore with typical prairie-grown stoicism.

Ted's interest in creating art did not spring to life until he retired at age 58. He gradually evolved a style of working with wood veneers that he found satisfying.

Ted's really significant legacy lies not in the artwork that he left, but in the many lives that he touched. Retiring in demeanor, he nonetheless loved meeting people and learning new things. Ted's quiet, joyful spirit reached out to an incredible diversity of humanity—offering companionship to lonely nursing home residents, comfort to the bereaved, sharing his wisdom and skill with inmates of the county jail, and at-risk youth in Alexandria.

Ted's warmth was summed up well by an Armenian refugee and artist, Martin Zakarian, whom Ted tutored in English, and who later became a good friend. When told of Ted's death, he declared "Mr. Ted was so full of life; he was like a wise child. Because of Mr. Ted, I loved America."



Del Ray Artisans
 Mail: 2210 Mount Vernon Avenue
 Alexandria, Virginia 22301
 703.838.4827
<http://www.radiodelray.com/artisans>

Thanks to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the City of Alexandria

Next General Member Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 7pm

at DRA Gallery Space
 Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue

March 14th Meeting Agenda

- T-shirt Design Competition
- Board Meeting immediately after General Meeting

DRA Calendar

- March** Watercolors by Eleanor Baker at Barnes and Noble Potomac Yards
 Opening: **Fiber and Fire**, March 10, 7-10PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
 Show: **Fiber and Fire**, March 11-26, contact Kathryn Brown 703.549.5227
 General Meeting / Board Meeting, March 14, 7PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
T-Shirt Design Competition
ART CHAT, sponsored by ACA, 7-9PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
- April** One-person show by Brenda Townsend at Barnes and Noble Potomac Yards
 Opening: **Spring All-Member Show**, April 7th, 7-10PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
Choreographers Collaboration Dance Concert at Mount Vernon Recreation Ctr.
Spring All-Member Show, April 7-30, contact Martin Angebrannt 703.683.3738
 General Meeting / Board Meeting, April 11, 7PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
- May** Opening: **3rd Annual Student Art Show**, May 5, 7-10PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
3rd Annual Student Art Exhibit, May 6-21, contact Linda Silk 703.533.7689
 General Meeting / Board Meeting, May 9, 7PM, Del Ray Artisans Center
 Alexandria Scholarship Fund Presentations, May 16, 6:30PM
 including DRA—**Ted Eichers' Memorial Art Scholarship**, TC Williams High School
- June** **Southwestern Fine Art and Photography**, June 2-25, contact TBA
- July** **Sticks, Stones & Bones—Amulets for Everyday Use**, June 30-July 23
 Contact Susan Slattery 703.922.7290 or Larisa Sjoerds 202.483.2079
Art Camp, July 24-28, contact Mart Larson 703.836.0413
- August** **Fire Show**, August 5-September 3, contact David Talmage 703.768.0709
- September** **Fall All-Member Exhibit**, contact Martin Angebrannt 703.683.3738
- October** **In 2 the Woods—Wood Exhibit**, contact Linda Silk 703.533.7689
Nightmare Folk Art: Southern Gothic, October 31-November 26, contact David Talmage 703.768.0709 or Liz Martinez 703.683.1969
- December** **Multi-Cultural Holiday Exhibit**, contact Renee Niver 703.721.1937
6th Annual Holiday Art & Craft Show and Sale, December 2, contact TBA

Elected Officers: President Martin Angebrannt 703.683.3738, Treasurer Marlin Lord 703.683.1112, Asst. Treasurer Kathryn Brown 703.549.5227, Secretary Vivienne Lukacs 703.979.8996. **Elected Board Members:** (in no particular order) PR Director Alethea Camp 703.519.9358, Graphic Design Director Terry Atkin, Gallery Coordinator Liz Martinez 703.683.1969, Membership Director Bryan Leister 703.683.1544, Director Linda Silk 703.533.7689, Director Kate Grumbacher 703.683.4224, Director Andrea LaRue 703.836.9246, Director Susan Downs Slattery 703.922.7290, Director Eleanor Baker 703.683.1252, Director Ellyn Ferguson 703.533.7689, Director Renee Niver 703.721.1937, Director Larisa Sjoerds 202.483.2079, Director Mart Larson 703.836.0413, Director David Talmage 703.768.0709.

Newsletter Editors: Terry Atkin and Susan Slattery; **Contributing Editors this issue:** Kathryn Brown, Mart Larson, Alice Eichers; **Production and Distribution Diva:** Deborah S. Peterson.

Arts Resource Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public membership organization formed to create and support community-based arts organizations and promote the arts as a resource for community development. **Del Ray Artisans** is a community arts group featuring two- and three-dimensional works of decorative and functional art and fine crafts through exhibits, lectures, and instructional classes in the community. **Del Ray Artisans** is funded, managed, and operated by **Arts Resource Foundation**.