



The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the **Del Ray Artisans**...since 1992

www.thedelrayartisans.org

Illuminations: Board Show for 2009

Mary Louise Clifford

How often do you think about the light in the world around you? We take for granted sunlight, fire-light, electric light, automobile headlights, even mental stimulation that makes learning and new ideas shine. Several members of the Del Ray Artisans Board of Directors, who focus on light in their art, will participate in the 2009 Board Showcase, titled "Illuminations".

The opening reception for "Illuminations" will be held in the gallery on Friday evening, August 7 at 7 pm. Come meet and chat with the artists.

The work of the following artists will be featured:

Nora Partlow focuses on the sun making gardens grow and glow; she will do floral arrangements of flowers, herbs, foliage, rocks, and natural garden materials.

Michele Reday Cook will be showing oils and watercolors—portraits, landscapes, still lifes—and sculpture. She is drawn to the sea, and, in particular, to skies and the effects of changing weather—the way light changes the natural world. The infinite variation and beauty of the human face has also captured her interest.

Christina Richardson will be submitting both digital photography (Del Ray through the eyes of Daisy Mae) and Sumi-e (Japanese brush painting) from a new perspective.

Margaret Slipek will show oil paintings that she calls psychological—they have representational people and animals in somewhat abstracted backgrounds. Many are Biblical in theme, not really overt.

Jeanne Tift makes digital photographs focused on the effects of sunlight on different landscapes around the world—mountains, desert, ocean, river valleys—which she manipulates slightly to produce digital pigment prints that look a little like paintings.

Donn Grover's medium is painted glass, which he makes in old window frames. Sunlight passes through them to a great effect.

The co-curators for the exhibit are Michele Reday Cook and Jeanne Tift.

Visit the Del Ray Artisans Gallery during the month of August to enjoy the art of this talented group. They have "illuminated" our world for you through glass, camera lens, paintbrush, and, growing a garden. The exhibit runs from August 7 through the 30th.

Check www.thedelrayartisans.org for special events during August; demonstrations and workshops on gardens, flowers, and still life are planned.

Be sure to attend the 4th annual all-member cookout and "My Oh My Pie" baking contest on Sunday, August 9th, at 4:00 pm, when you can spend time looking at the show as well as eating and socializing!



Come And Be A Winner!

On Sunday, August 9th, DRA's gallery will be full of winners! The pool might be closed but that doesn't mean that no one will make a splash at this General Member Meeting.

Our 4th annual cookout and "My Oh My Pie" baking contest will award winners. There will be drawings from a hat to determine who wins the opportunity to become one of our pie "tasting judges". Another chance to be a winner will be with board games since this is all happening during our Board member art show, "Illuminations".

Fun Sunday, August 9th To-Do-List

- ✓ Bring your appetite to DRA's annual cook out starting at 4:00pm.
- ✓ Bring your special sweet or savory pie by 4:15 to the gallery for our 4th annual **My Oh My Pie** baking contest.
- ✓ Bring your discriminating palette to become a possible pie tasting judge.
- ✓ Bring your game face ready to play board games and challenge other members.
- ✓ Bring family and friends with you.

**First to volunteer
may be automatic pie judge!**

Pies may be sweet or savory and must be submitted between 3:45 and 4:15 that day. This event will require the help of volunteers so please contact Theresa Kulstad at tkulstad@verizon.net or call (703) 283-0399 if you want to fulfill some of your required hours.

It's back.... **UpBeat OffBeat Auction**

A Whacky Celebration of Creativity (see page 2)

Membership Notice: Please check your newsletter label to see if your membership has expired. Renew today.

It's back....

UpBeat OffBeat Auction

A Whacky Celebration of Creativity

October 17th, 7-10pm

Del Ray Artisans (DRA) has begun preparing for their classic whacky artful fundraiser, the UpBeat OffBeat Auction, which will be held on Saturday, October 17th, from 7pm to 10pm at the Durant Center, located on Cameron Street in Alexandria, Virginia near the King Street Metro.

We Need Helping Hands

- Need a volunteer with a truck!
- Distribute flyers & posters.
- Sell tickets to auction.
- Set-up preview exhibit.
- "Day of" furniture moving & set-up.

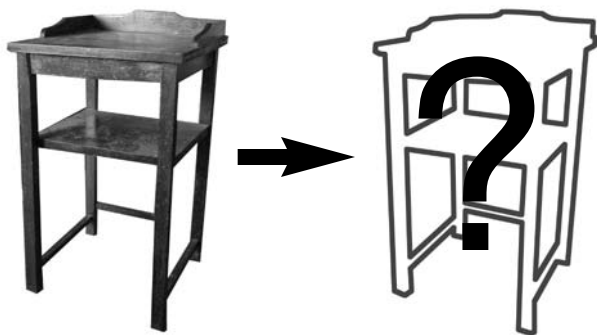
The UpBeat OffBeat Auction is a much anticipated event for both DRA members and area art lovers alike. The event includes a live furniture auction featuring a "celebrity" auctioneer and a silent auction of artwork by DRA members. Tickets are \$15.00 (\$20.00 at the door) and are available starting in August on the website www.thedelrayartisans.org or by calling 703.838.4827. Refreshments are included along with live music by a local jazz combo.

Proceeds from UpBeat OffBeat Auction help fund DRA community projects such as summer Art Camp scholarships and a full calendar of exhibits held throughout the year at the DRA gallery.

To prepare for UpBeat OffBeat Auction, DRA collects, rehabs and "dresses up" pieces of furniture to be sold during the live auction portion of the gala. Member artists "adopt" a piece of furniture and let their imaginations run wild. The result is an exciting and diverse collection of functional art that makes for lively and competitive bidding.

This year, in addition to a wide range of one-of-a-kind tables, dressers, nightstands and other items, the UpBeat OffBeat Auction features the zany humor DRA artists are known for. A nostalgic pair of ice cream chairs conjures up childhood sibling rivalry in "I Scream, You Scream" and a painted landscape with owls on a chest of drawers, "Ambarabai cicci cocco," pays homage to a centuries-old Italian nursery rhyme. These and many other makeover masterpieces can be "previewed" at the DRA gallery during Art on the Avenue, which takes place along Mt. Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray section of Alexandria, on Saturday, October 3rd (10-6). Admission to the DRA gallery and Art on the Avenue is free.

Del Ray Artisans' artistry will be in the spotlight at this year's UpBeat OffBeat Auction, and all members are encouraged to play a vital role in this, our biggest fundraising event! There are several ways for you to participate:



Silent Auction

This year's Silent Auction will consist only of art. Donate one of your creations suitable for impulse buying that has a maximum value of \$100. Interested artists need to contact Kurt Peterson at 703-489-9851 as soon as possible with a commitment to donate!

Live Auction Furniture

Anyone who is currently working on a piece at home (or who plans to start one soon) needs to inform Kurt Peterson at 703-489-9851 as soon as possible!

Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter **Renewal** **New Member**Name _____
Title _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____

Additional Name _____

Organization/CorporationName _____

Address _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Home (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

e-mail _____

 Artist Media _____**Patron**

- \$1,000 Platinum
- \$500 Gold
- \$250 Silver

*Patrons are considered Active Members and have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.***Active Member**

- \$75 Household
- \$50 Individual
- \$25 Senior (62 & over)
- \$25 Student/Disabled (circle one)

*All Active Members enjoy privileges of exhibiting in shows and are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours per year. This does not include volunteer commitments for exhibiting in shows.***Friend**

- \$35 Friend of Del Ray Artisans

*Friends may participate in workshops, classes, and programs as members. Friends do not have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.***All membership levels above receive DRA mailings, including the newsletter**I would like to receive DRA mailings: electronically via regular mail both ways

I would like to make an additional donation to Del Ray Artisans in the amount of \$_____.

I would like to make an additional donation to the Del Ray Artisans Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship in the amount of \$_____.

Please indicate committees you are willing to serve on, to meet your 10 hour volunteer commitment:

- Communications
- Fundraising
- Programs
- Newsletter
- Grants
- anything DRA needs.
- Website
- Facilities
- Publicity
- Gardening
- Archives
- Volunteers
- Administrative
- Outreach
- Financial
- Shows

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Checks payable to: DEL RAY ARTISANS. Mail to: Del Ray Artisans, Membership, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301 or pay online at www.thedelrayartisans.org

You Can Make a Difference

For a few years now Del Ray Artisans has actively supported Carpenter's Shelter, Northern Virginia's largest homeless shelter, by donating the proceeds of bake sales and selling holiday cards created specifically for the Shelter. Some members have even donated their time providing art instruction to the Shelter's children, which is such a meaningful contribution!

The Shelter is now seeking donations for their September fundraiser auction. Please consider donating a service, an item, or gift certificate to help this charity, which DRA has been very proud to support. For more information contact Jasmin Witcher, Carpenter Shelter Director of Development at (703) 548-7500, ext. 203.

A Call for Instructors and Professional Advisors

If you would like to give a workshop, please submit a workshop proposal to Theresa Kulstad at tkulstad@verizon.net. Proposal forms can be found at www.thedelrayartisans.org.

We are also seeking qualified professionals to lead panel discussions for a series on pricing, presentation, promotion and other topics for the professional growth of artists. Please submit a proposal form with the topic(s) you would like to present.

Open Life Drawing

Brush up on your life drawing skills by joining our open life drawing sessions at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. We operate on a drop-in basis so there is no need to register ahead of time. Grab your paper and drawing or painting supplies and join at the gallery to work from our live models on the upcoming dates.

August 12th, 2-5 pm
August 26th, 2-5 pm

September 9th, 2-5 pm
September 23rd, 2-5 pm

The fee for each session is \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Rand at 703.836.1468 or katherine@katherinerand.com.

A Whopping, Swapping Response, So Save the Date!

On June 19, DRA held their first Artist Trading Card (ATC) swap. The well-attended event had people so excited to see and trade that several arrived to the gallery early. These small works, also known as ATCs, showed up in a variety of forms.

The savvy and always thoughtful Karen Schmitz prepared for the event by providing takers and makers with pre-cut 2.5"x3.5" mat boards and collage scrap "kits" to start. One new friend, Bette Rudgers, swaps in a neighboring community and had an entire album of ATCs, sharing a wealth of technique and experience. Other experienced ATC artists told us about other groups they have traded with. Some people came without cards just to see what the buzz is about, but they loaded up on blank cards to start their own ATCs.

Goodie bags were given to those who traded cards with pets or animal themes that tied with the "Bond For Life" exhibit. Conversations soon turned to "the next time we do this..." and it became clear that we should have future events that will involve both making AND trading.

Whether you draw, paint, shoot photos, make prints, collage or sculpture, join in the fun and make some of your own ATCs to swap. Not only do you end up with original art that fits in your pocket, but it is free and fun!

Our next swap will be Sunday, August 23rd, 2-4pm and it will actually involve making a few ATCs. Here's how it works: bring a small bag or box with your own favorite paper scissors, scraps of paper or other embellishments, photos, glue stick or your favorite adhesive, a couple of your favorite tools whether it be pens, stamps, pastels, whatever. We will not be pulling out all of our supplies from the closets for this. Some blank ATCs may be available, but its best if you can bring your own.

Please RSVP to attend this event by calling Theresa Kulstad at (703) 283-0399 or email tkulstad@verizon.net. Sometimes space is cozy, so we would like to get a sense of how many artists to expect.

Do You Have



An old tennis racquet in the hall closet? Bake pans you haven't used in 5 years, because it's too hot in the kitchen to bake? Art and craft supplies that you really will never get around to using? Dog collars that Fido has outgrown? Toys the children don't play with any longer? Chairs that got replaced when you bought the new dining set, but that are still in the basement?

The DRA Yard Sale on Saturday, September 26th will take all of the above and just about anything else you can donate. The only things we don't want are clothing (unless designer) or broken electronics.

Last year we attracted a large crowd and raised \$1,000, so we are hoping to sell at least that amount again. To do so, we need you to search the attic and basement, closets and garage, as well as your storage units for any unwanted goods to contribute.

We will begin collecting your discards the week before the Yard Sale and will announce times in the September newsletter. Volunteers are needed to help with pricing and to work the Yard Sale.

Don't forget...one member's trash is another member's treasure!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Barbara Boehm at barbxb@yahoo.com or Linda Elliff at LLEliff@aol.com.

Card Making Event- Sunday 9/20/09 noon-4pm



This fun event is to replenish stock of the Del Ray Artisans hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind greeting cards to sell at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery. This is not a workshop but experienced paper crafters will be available to share insights with those just starting. Collage and stamping techniques will be highly featured.

This is a great way to experiment with your creativity and to meet and mix with other artisans. We provide and share most supplies but encourage participants to bring some of their own along with light snacks and creative juices. Donations for supplies and time used appreciated. Volunteers for set up and clean up will also be appreciated.



Calling all Art and Craft Vendors!

Interested in selling your art and craft goodies at DRA's Holiday Market the first weekend in December? If so, then check out the Holiday Market Application included in this newsletter (or on our website)!

Why is there an application? Because gallery space is limited and the variety of goods available at the Market will be kept balanced. The registration deadline is Friday, September 4, 2009 so don't delay! Fill out the application now and send it in with your check and up to three (3) pictures of your work. Vendor notification will be on Friday, September 25, so vendors who are accepted will have plenty of time to build inventory for the Holiday Market.

Opportunity to “Stage” your Art!

Creative measures are being taken to show and sell high end properties in the current real estate market. Staged Right (www.stagedrightva.com) is a company that has shown success in staging homes with appealing furnishings and beautiful artwork to prompt quick sales. This is a new type of opportunity to get your work seen in an environment that could help a potential art collector or home owner see your artwork and how it can enhance a home space rather than in a gallery setting.

Although the home is not serving as a gallery, enquiring clients would be able to contact the artist for direct purchase. Real estate savvy designer Lynn Chevalier would like to see your art for a possible win - win collaboration. To explore this opportunity to show your paintings, photos or any other works, contact:

Lynn Chevalier, ASP, IAHS
202.412.6445 or 703.992.6353
lynn@stagedrightva.com



Linda Silk's handpainted kimono is used to stage a house for sale.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Isabel Pollack
EICHERS AWARD WINNER
Mixed Media, Painting, Drawing

Andrew “Drew” Carioso
Clay, Sculpture

Sarah Lovell
Student

Ann Riley
Ceramics, Pottery

Lynn B. Dutton
Active

Oenone Hammersley
Oil on canvas, Gouache on paper

Sam Dyer
Active

Cheryl Leibovitz
Mixed Media

Mary Alice Cook
Painting, Printmaking/ Mixed Media

Re-String Your Bling, A Bead-u-tiful Success!

The gallery was gleaming with beads, baubles and more on June 12. Jewelry designer, Jen Judd rocked the house with her own stash of beautiful things as well as the shared beads and bling of class participants. The workshop was full, fun and resulted in some awesome creations. Karen Schmitz even walked away with THREE necklaces!

Some blingers brought sentimental treasures to make over and others were surprised to see their discards become fashionista findings. Recycling has never been so bead-u-tiful! Jen shared her skills, secrets and her amazing spirit with everyone and we wish her well in her new adventure in Alabama. Check her out on jenjuddrocks.com. Thank you, Jen for everything.

Due to the success of this event, there may be a “Bead Swap” in our future, so keep your eyes open to the website and calendar announcements!

Opportunity for DRA members

Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden is accepting applications for an art and craft fair in their garden on Saturday, October 17, from 10 am to 4 pm. Fee is only \$35. Complete details and the application can be found on their website, www.leefendallhouse.org

Cuisine on the Avenue

“Cuisine on the Avenue” is Del Ray’s theme for August 6th First Thursday. It’s a sure bet that our wonderful neighborhood restaurants are serving up some delicious offerings. But on your way to celebrate First Thursday, DRA asks you to please remember those who might be missing some meals and bring non-perishable food donations or grocery store gift cards to the gallery. We will make sure they get to the DRBA food drive supporting ALIVE and the Salvation Army.

While you’re at the gallery, enjoy the “Illuminations” show presented by a handful of our Board members. There may even be some artists out front to sell you something special that you can carry home that night!



Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301

703.838.4827
www.thedelrayartisans.org

Gallery Hours:
Thurs: noon-4 pm/ First Thursdays (open until 9 pm)
Fri: noon-9 pm
Sat: 10 am-9 pm
Sun: noon-6 pm
The gallery is open during all events and performances

Submission Deadline : 5th of the month
Editor: DRAeditor@gmail.com

Del Ray Artisans 2009 Calendar

August

6 First Thursday Del Ray – Gallery open until 9 pm
7 - 30 SHOW **ILLUMINATIONS**, co-curators
Michele Reday Cook/mredaycook@mac.com
and Jeanne Tift/jldtift@cox.net
9 General Member Summer Get Together 4-6:30 pm
11 Board Meeting, 7 pm
12 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm
23 ATC Make and Trade, 2-4pm
26 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm

September

3 First Thursday Del Ray – Gallery open until 9 pm
4 - 27 SHOW **REVENGE OF THE SEQUEL**, curator
David Kosar/ David.Kosar@verizon.net
8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
9 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm
13 It Came From the Closet 2, 1-3pm
19 Pricing, Marketing and protecting Your Artwork
1-3pm
20 Card Making Event, 12-4 pm
23 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm
26 Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser in the Park

October

2 - 25 SHOW **ALL MEMBER SHOW: Arts Build Communities** curator tba
3 Art on the Avenue 10 am-6 pm
13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
17 UpBeat OffBeat Auction 7-10pm
at The Durant Center
20 General Member Meeting & Election, 7:30pm

November

6 - 29 SHOW **Del Ray Dozen**, curator
Rob Rudick/robrudick@yahoo.com
8 Card Making Event, 12-4 pm
10 Board Meeting, 7 pm

December

4 - 6 Holiday Market
8 Board Meeting, 7 pm

2009 Board and Key Personnel

OFFICERS

President
Linda Silk
LindaSilk1@verizon.net

Vice President

Kurt Peterson
kfpeterson@gmail.com

Secretary

Monica Wise
moniwise@yahoo.com

Treasurer & Asst. Treasurer

Marlin Lord & Kathryn Brown
mglai@aol.com
neonkanb@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Communication Director

Paige Ireland
DRA.Communications
@gmail.com

Community Representative

Nora Partlow
norapartlow@yahoo.com

Curator Co-Coordinators

Michele Reday-Cook
Jeanne Tift
mredaycook@mac.com
jldtift@cox.net

Facilities Co-Directors

Donn Grover
Liz Martinez
jdrivera7@aol.com
catniphaze@yahoo.com

Fundraising Co-Directors

Barbara Boehm
Linda Elliff
barxb@yahoo.com
llefiff@aol.com

Historian Archivist

John Hiller
jw2hiller@verizon.net

Membership Director

Christina Richardson
Christina
@FigaroConsulting.com

Outreach Co-Directors

Randy Scheessele & Margaret Slipek
randall.m.scheessele
@hud.gov.
mslipek@comcast.net

Program Director

Theresa Kulstad
tkulstad@verizon.net

Volunteer Director

Patricia Oliver
poliver4@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor

Vacant

DRA Web Curator

Roy Wright
webcurator@
thedelrayartisans.org

Gallery Assistant

Tracy Wilkerson
tlwideas@comcast.net

Membership Notice: Please check your newsletter label to see if your membership has expired. Renew today.

Thank You

Special thanks to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria for their continued support of Del Ray Artisans, a 501(c)(3) organization

Many thanks to Royce Flowers for providing such spectacular arrangements for our opening receptions.

