

# The Well Crafted Word

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

[www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

## WOMEN IN ART: BODY OF WORK

Opening Reception: Friday, March 5, 7 – 10 pm  
Exhibit Dates: March 5-21, 2010

In a new show, artists are asked to explore women's varied roles as patrons, creators and sources of inspiration in the creative world. The all-media show, a joint effort by Del Ray Artisans and the Divas of Decoupage, runs from Friday, March 5, to Sunday, March 21.

The opening reception is Friday, March 5 from 7 – 10 pm at the Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. The reception, and the gallery, is free and open to the public.

Over the centuries, women have played many roles in art. Consider Mona Lisa, the icon; Mary Cassatt, the painter; Annie Leibovitz, the photographer; Elizabeth Catlett, the sculptor-printmaker and the quilt makers of Gee's Bend, Alabama, guardians of a homespun tradition showcased by the Smithsonian Institution.

Artists participating in the show will have the opportunity to further test their imagination by using luck-of-the-draw items provided by the show's organizers as elements in their art pieces.

For more information about the show, visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) or contact Ellyn Ferguson at 703-549-2660 or [elferguson@netzero.com](mailto:elferguson@netzero.com) and Vivienne Lukacs at 703-979-8996 or [viv703@msn.com](mailto:viv703@msn.com).

**Divas of Decoupage  
&  
Del Ray Artisans**

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**Women in Art:  
BODY OF WORK**

Opening Reception  
Friday, March 5, 7 - 10 PM

Show Dates  
March 5 - 21, 2010

**DEL RAY  
ARTISANS**

Del Ray Artisans Gallery  
Nicholas A. Colasanto Center  
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
Ph: 703-838-4827  
[www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

Hours  
Thursdays: Noon - 4 PM  
Fridays: Noon - 9 PM  
Saturdays: 10 AM - 9 PM  
Sundays: Noon - 6 PM

## MARCH + APRIL = FULL BAG!

April's "What's Your Bag?" show (April 2-25) is chock full of special events!

Artists will explore the bag's form and function in a variety of media and interpretations. (See Call for Entry at [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)). Along with this exhibit there will be a marketplace where patrons may purchase items on the spot. Also, three workshops are offered in March and are specially priced to assure full, creative attendance - so early registration is highly encouraged.

Become a fan of "What's Your Bag?" on Facebook! Mark your calendars for these important events:

### "WHAT'S YOUR BAG?" BAG SWAP!!!

Bring 'gently used' or 'un-favorite' bags and swap them out for something "new-to-you"!

Curators Karen Schmitz and Theresa Kulstad will host this FREE and FUN happening at the gallery. So scope your closets for handbags, luggage and/or totes. Bring as many as you wish! Items not chosen will be donated to area shelters and charities.

When: Friday, April 16, 7-9PM. Free and open to all. Bring gently used handbags, luggage, totes and/or backpacks to the Del Ray Artisans gallery and trade for someone else's.

## NO FOOLIN' - GET THINKIN'

Get your creative thinking caps on and come up with the winning T-shirt design! It's time for a brand spankin' new DRA T-shirt.

### Contest Rules:

- T-shirt design entries should depict the spirit of Del Ray Artisans. Get Cheerin'!
- Design on one side only
- Up to 4 ink colors may be used. Start Drawin'!
- Shirt color should be white or a light color of your suggestion
- Please submit design in black and white with an additional color sketch/version
- Entries should be on paper no larger than 8 1/2" x 11" and should be actual size
- Name, address, phone number, and email should be on the outside of the envelope. None of this information is to be on the drawing submitted
- Entries must be received at the DRA gallery by 5 pm on April 1. Get Crackin'!
- Winning design will be selected by a committee of DRA members
- Deadline is Thursday, April 1, 2010 -- No Foolin'!

The winner will receive the first T-shirt printed and have the reward of seeing DRA members proudly wearing their design! The T-shirt contest and sale of shirts is a DRA Fundraising project and all proceeds from the sale of the shirts will benefit Del Ray Artisans.

# WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS WORKSHOPS

## FELTING ACCESSORIES

**Session 1: Wednesday, March 10, 7 pm – 9 pm**

**Session 2: Sunday, March 14, 1 pm -4 pm**

Instructor: Susan Boyd ([www.WearItWellConsulting.com](http://www.WearItWellConsulting.com))

Learn how to turn those ruined, moth-ridden garments into felt, and how to turn the felt into fabulous fashion accessories like felted flowers, bags and scarves.

**Session One:** Participants will learn about the felting process and how to “felt” fabrics. Please bring old sweaters, coats, or whatever you might want to felt for advice. (Please note: only natural fibers such as wool or cashmere are suitable for felting.) You will receive written step-by-step instructions on how to felt your items, which you will then go home and complete prior to Session Two.

**Session Two:** Participants will create fashion accessories from their felted fabric. You will receive patterns and directions on how to trim and finish. Sewing machine usage & some trim materials provided. Supply list will be provided prior to Session One. Basic sewing skilled needed.

Fee: \$40 for DRA members / \$45 for non-members. Advance registration by Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> is required at [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

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## “IN THE BAG” - MAKING NEW ACCESSORIES FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

**Friday, March 12, 6 pm -10 pm**

Instructor: Jen Athanas ([jenafusion.blogspot.com](http://jenafusion.blogspot.com))

Create a bag from recycled materials, old clothing, your favorite dress, vintage towels and more. Learn about suitable fabrics, patterns, interfacing and other materials. Basic sewing skills needed.

Plenty of free materials provided along with sewing machine usage. Instructor will provide a suggested supply list prior to class.

Advance registration is required by 3/9 at [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org). Fee is \$40 for DRA members \$40 / \$45 for non-members.

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## CREATIVITY: THINKING IN AND OUT OF THE BAG

**Sunday, April 11, 1 pm – 3 pm**

Instructor: Lynn Wyvill/Certified Creativity Coach

Are you stuck in a creative rut? Does it feel like your creativity has taken a vacation? Do you describe yourself as not having a creative bone in your body? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, this workshop is for you.

During this fun, interactive, hands-on workshop, we’ll spend two hours helping you get in touch with your creative side. Workshop activities are designed to give you a new perspective on your creativity and get your creative expression flowing again. Absolutely no art experience is necessary, just an open mind and a willingness to play, discover and have fun.

All materials are included. Adults only. Members \$20/Non-member \$25. Please check website for registration details.

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## MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

**PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR NEWSLETTER TO SEE IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED.**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amy Souza  
Mixed water media, Collage

Brian R. Miller + Amy Barrington  
Furniture making

Kelli M. Reidford  
Photography, Painting

Karina Saxeg Salum  
Mixed media, Collage

Corinne Marlowe  
Painting: acrylics

Madeline Ramsey  
Glass

Lauran Yates

Elizabeth Floyd  
Oil, Watercolor, Dry media

Ed Goldwag  
Ink, Pencil

Antonios S. Perros

Lori Short

Fran Rosenfeld  
Beaded jewelry

Gale Baker  
Oil painting

Lynn Wyvill  
Acrylic

Charlene Nield  
Acrylic, Mixed media, Watercolor

Want to be up on all  
the DRA happenings?  
Sign up for our weekly  
e-blast.

Did you know  
it includes  
announcements of  
upcoming DRA events;  
calls for entries to  
DRA shows; calls for  
volunteers as well as  
calls for entries in other  
local, regional and  
national shows?





JENNIFER BREWER



## THANK YOU!

The New Work for a New Year show in January was an all around success. A big thank you to the more than 60 artists who participated and volunteered to make the opening reception and the entire show run so smoothly. Seventeen (17) pieces of art were sold and sales totaled almost \$3,000!

## FUN IN THE SUN WITH DRA ART CAMP:

Are you looking for a planned break during the summer months? Come be a part of Art Camp!

We are looking for teachers to lead projects, as well as volunteers to assist. This is a fulfilling experience for everyone involved. Help build your professional artistic resume or apply your DRA volunteer hours towards this event.

Needs:

- Teachers to develop and lead projects that are age- and ability-appropriate for ages 8-14. The sessions are 2-3 hours each. Projects can take more time but will have to be held on more than one day.
- Teachers should commit to at least one day at Art Camp plus planning meetings and prep time.
- Teachers get paid \$250 for a full day of teaching.
- Specifically interested in classes for photography, origami, music, and dance.
- Volunteers needed to assist in project sessions, lead games, supervise clean up, play time, and mealtime.

As an alternative to volunteering, please consider donating toward a scholarship for a talented child. DRA offers several spots and sliding scale fees to kids that otherwise would not have this enriching experience. YOU can help make this happen!

Please contact Art Camp Coordinator, Jen Athanas for more information and to be a part of this enriching and energizing time! [DRA.ArtCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.ArtCamp@gmail.com) or 571-332-0181

## GREAT IDEAS & CURATORS WANTED NOW!

We want all your great ideas about exhibitions for the first half of 2011. We will be putting together our schedule of art shows – at least for January through June of 2011, much earlier this year than in the past: The new deadline is JUNE 1, 2010.

This means we need everyone to put into words all those wonderful ideas that have been slowly germinating in your heads, and turn them into ideas for shows. Even if you're not sure you'd be able to curate yourself, your ideas could inspire others to develop them into shows and/or work with you as co-curators.

We plan to have our exhibition schedule for the first half of 2011 set by September of this year, thus giving plenty of time for curators to work on all the details of their shows without feeling rushed. But to do so, we must have your proposals by JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>.

Show proposals or ideas for the second half of 2011 will be accepted December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. But please, don't wait 'til then!

This year's schedule of shows finally came together after a series of delays, which caused major deadline pressures for curators with shows in the first few months of the year. But one avoidable delay was due to many of the proposals coming in very late, way past our August due date. This is why the DRA Board decided to schedule our shows in two stages with 2 deadlines for selection, so that everyone has more time—to select, schedule, and implement the high quality art shows we are all so proud of.

Start thinking! How about a 'landscape' show, a 'figurative' or 'portrait' show, maybe a 'still life', 'watercolor' or 'oil painters' show? Or even a photography or 3D show? Themed shows such as Alexandria, seasons, abstracts, or small works show to name just a few? Come on, you can think of more than this, so bring it on!

Details on how to submit proposals for June 1<sup>st</sup> coming soon . . . Ideas should start now!

Contact: Show Selection Committee Members: Michele Reday Cook, Jeanne Tift, Ron Tickerhoff, Theresa Kulstad, Karen Schmitz, Tracy Wilkerson.

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## MEMBER BENEFITS

Did you know that as a member of Del Ray Artisans you are eligible for membership in the Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union?

Discover the benefits of a credit union membership, especially during these tough economic times!

COFCU benefits include:

- Lower fees
- Competitive rates
- Diverse savings and loan options
- Convenient services
- 40,000+ surcharge-free ATMs
- Excellent member services

Contact DRA's representative, Susanne Waltemyer at [SWaltemyer@cofcu.org](mailto:SWaltemyer@cofcu.org). Join today!



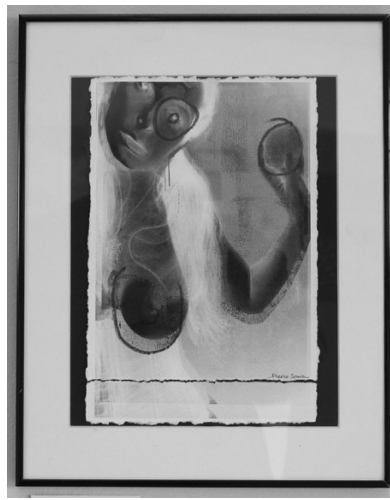
## SHOW AND TELL at DEL RAY ARTISANS

By Becky Rife

Belonging to Del Ray Artisans means you can enter your artwork in art shows. I agreed to write an article on the subject and contacted several participants who willingly submitted their comments. The response was hugely positive. We all agree it is exciting and also humbling to see our work displayed on the walls in the gallery. The experience is even better if something sells. It validates our dreams that we are indeed artists and photographers and crafters.

As for me, I had never entered artwork in a show before so showing up with my collages and experiencing the process of picking titles and writing an artist's statement was all new and a learning experience in itself. I had forgotten that having a title for a work gives it an identity, a reason for being. I sold my very first piece at the opening reception and my (shaky) confidence in my artistic talents was strengthened. It's a start and it felt so good. As for the two pieces that didn't sell I was inspired by my competition, to keep striving to be the best that I can be.

Attending an opening reception is fun as well. Participants need to donate time and food to make it a success but the efforts are worth it. It's an opportunity to mingle with other artists and art lovers. A friend of Lesley Hall's traveled two hours to attend the reception and support her friend. She said she loved the artwork and particularly enjoyed the chance to create 'Instant Art' which was part of the NEW WORK FOR THE NEW YEAR show. Another friend wrote that she enjoyed talking to the artists about their pieces and found the atmosphere warm and friendly.



FIERCE SONIA

Those members who have organized and curated shows found the experience rewarding. It requires teamwork with other DRA members willing to donate their time to make the shows successful as well as a good eye for art.

Theresa Kulstad mentioned that although it is satisfying to sell a piece of work, she experiences separation anxiety in letting go of a piece of art she lovingly created. We do put our heart and soul in our work and when people appreciate that, it is rewarding.

The terms of sale with DRA are quite fair. I am new at this but the other local gallery I contacted takes a much higher commission for sales of artwork and takes it right off the top. DRA politely asks for a commission but does not require it. Del Ray Artisans are truly a community of artists and patrons and supporters of art, and recognizes that many of us make art as a hobby, or are just beginning careers and not yet established artists and photographers.

## FROM THE CURATOR'S CORNER:

### “ORIGINAL”

As in “work must be original and not previously shown at DRA.” What does this mean? It is seen every time you read one of our calls for entry. Yes, of course it means it must be your own work and not copied from another artist. It also means that if you paint from a photograph it needs to be your own photo and not somebody else's! “Original” has an additional meaning in our call: we do not accept reproductions or copies even of your own work in our shows. That includes prints unless your process creates a different image each time, such as mono-prints. We are writing from a painter's perspective here. Photographers have a different set of guidelines. You will learn about them next month.

And about that phrase, “. . .not previously shown at DRA”, it's because we don't want to see the same art over and over again. If you want to submit artwork that is so perfect and so fits the theme of the show but was previously exhibited at DRA, please ask the curator first to see if the piece would be acceptable.

## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS TO THE BOARD!

### LESLEY HALL, VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR

Lesley has been a member of Del Ray Artisans for three years and loves being a part of it. As a military 'brat' Lesley traveled across the United States before settling in Virginia and it's this exposure to such varying experiences that has groomed her for the never-ending creative challenge of life as an artist. She is constantly on the move, beading, painting, sketching, traveling and taking pictures along the way.

Lesley makes her living doing faux finishes and murals for residences and businesses, as well as woodworking and finishing for Urban Craftsmen. In her spare time she makes jewelry that she sells at area craft shows or “Jewelry Parties” at peoples' homes. Currently she hosts open studio 'Art Nights' at her home in Clifton where friends can express themselves through paint, charcoal, beads, or photography.

### SUZEN GALVIN, PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Suz has been a member of DRA for many years, drifting away a few times but the community feeling at DRA always draws her back. 'Rather than competing, everyone is so supportive of each other!' she exclaims. Old-timers will remember her as Susan Dick, but after remarrying a few years ago she changed both her first and last name. Suz plays in many mediums, from sketching to photography to watercolors to iPhone apps, and lately, to recycling broken glass, mirrors, gems and jewels to make framed

and 3-D pieces. Her entry in the recent Off-Beat Auction was the campy mixed-medium bistro table 'Martini Break' which was a wink to her social club, Martinis-4-Moms; where the problems of the world are solved over martinis and fine food. As Suz has discovered her parental responsibilities haven't ended with her two children reaching adulthood, they are BOTH getting married this year and need her help!

### ANNE MOFFITT, TREASURER

Anne is a familiar face in Del Ray having spent the past five years at Virginia Commerce Bank's Mount Vernon Avenue branch where she is the Assistant Manager.

Her exposure to art started early with both grandmothers and mother active in the arts as textile designers, painters and art teacher. And while she once loved to sketch and paint, her current favorite creative pastime is writing. It is something she loves to do when she is not boating, swimming, surfing, or snorkeling!

A native Northern Virginian, Anne just bought her first house, and she is still busy unpacking. She hopes it soon will be furnished enough to relax and settle down with her boyfriend Greg and their two dogs, Sniper and Caliber.



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

703.838.4827  
TheDelRayArtisans.org

**GALLERY HOURS:**

Thurs: noon-4pm  
Fri: Noon-9pm  
Sat: 10am-9pm  
Sun: noon-6pm  
The gallery is open during all events and performances

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** 5th of the month  
Editor: DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com

## 2010 CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 5 - 21 **WOMEN IN ART: BODY OF WORK**  
*Ellyn Ferguson curator*  
*elferguson@netzero.net*  
*with Vivienne Lukacs and Beverly Hansen*
- 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 Life Drawing, 11 am - 1 pm, gesture
- 10 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm short/long pose
- 10 WORKSHOP  
Felting Accessories Session #1, 7 - 9 pm
- 12 WORKSHOP  
Making Accessories from Recycled Materials, 6- 10 pm
- 14 WORKSHOP  
Felting Accessories Session #2, 1 - 3 pm
- 24 Life Drawing, 11 am - 1 pm, gesture
- 24 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm short/long pose

### APRIL

- 2 - 25 **WHAT'S YOUR BAG?**  
*Theresa Kulstad,*  
*Karen Schmitz, curators,*  
*tkulstad@verizon.net,*  
*schmityk@yahoo.com*
- 7 Life Drawing, 11 am - 1 pm gesture
- 7 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm short/long pose
- 9 ATC (Artist Trading Cards)  
Swap theme: "Part Bag", 7-9 pm
- 11 WORKSHOP  
Creativity - Thinking In & Out of the Bag, 1- 3 pm
- 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 21 Life Drawing, 11 am - 1 pm, gesture
- 21 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm, short/long pose
- 25 Closing Reception / Mystery Bag Games, 3- 6 pm

### MAY

- 6 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 7 - 16 **TCW STUDENT SHOW**
- 8 **SPRING ART SALE**  
Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 11 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 12 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 21 - 30 **MASTER THESIS, AMANDA WRIGHT**  
Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm

### JUNE

- 3 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 4 - 27 **UNDECIDED: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARTIST AND VIEWER**  
(All-Member Show)  
*Betty Plummer curator*  
*plummer.betty@epa.gov*  
*with Michele Reday Cook*
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 9 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 13 General Member Meeting, time TBD
- 23 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm

### JULY

- 1 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 2 - 18 **GLOBAL RHYTHM**  
*Matthew Tito Cuenca curator*  
*mattbewcuenca@gmail.com*
- 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 14 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 21 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 26 - 30 **ART CAMP**

### AUGUST

- 5 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 6 - 22 **GATHERING OF THE LEGENDS**  
*Nina Tisara Project Director*  
*gecko@tisarapboto.com*
- 10 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 11 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 25 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 3 - 19 **BOARD SHOWCASE**  
*curator tbd*
- 8 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 22 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 25 Yard Sale, outside
- 26 Card Making Party, time TBD

### OCTOBER

- 1 - 24 **ONCE UPON A TIME**  
*Christina Richardson and Laura Bell curators*  
*christina@figaroconsulting.com*  
*bellineart@aol.com*
- 2 **ART ON THE AVENUE**
- 6 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 12 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 20 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm  
Annual Member Meeting & Elections, date and time TBD

### NOVEMBER

- 5 - 21 **BLUE: AN INTERPRETATION**  
(All-Member Show)  
*Betsy Mead curator*  
*betsymead31@starpower.net*
- 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 14 Card Making Party, time TBD
- 24 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 30 WORKSHOP Mosaic 7 - 9 pm

### DECEMBER

- 1 WORKSHOP Mosaic 7 - 9 pm
- 3 - 5 **HOLIDAY MARKET**
- 8 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 15 Life Drawing, 2 - 5 pm

## 2010

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

**Linda Silk**  
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#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Kurt Peterson**  
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#### TREASURER

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#### ASST TREASURER

vacant

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#### Linda Elliff

DRA.Fundraiser2@gmail.com

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Randall.M.Scheessele@hud.gov

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#### 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.

