



The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the Del Ray Artisans....since 1992 www.thedelrayartisans.org

Love Letters

“Love Letters” runs from Friday, Feb. 4, through Sunday, February 27. Come to the Opening Reception on Friday, Feb. 4, from 7 to 10 pm.

Whether you have it, lost it, want it, avoid it, need it or ignore it; love makes us do crazy things. Throughout time love has inspired artists, writers and musicians to produce some of their most memorable works. “Love Letters” will exhibit a unique juried collection of love-inspired artworks paired with the artist’s love letter to the object of their affection. Join us as we eavesdrop on the private conversation between artist and admiration in “Love Letters”.



But wait, there’s more!

A creative workshop and a not-to-be-missed Valentine’s Day Mixer are also planned in conjunction with this show. Advance registration required for each of these events.

- **Duo Mixed-media Art Workshop**, Saturday, February 5, 12-2 pm. Join Matt and Tracy, to explore using everyday materials in new and interesting ways to produce one-of-a-kind artworks. Members: \$10, non-members: \$15, maximum 20. Contact Matthew (matthewcuenca@gmail.com) or Tracy (tlwideas@comcast.net) or visit the DRA website at <http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/>.
- **Valentine’s Day Mixer is Monday night, February 14**, from 7-11 pm, \$10 per person. Want a different way to celebrate Valentine’s Day? Whether you are single or taken, join us—you won’t be disappointed! — *Matthew Tito Cuenca & Tracy Wilkerson*



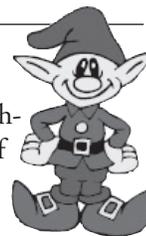
All-member Meeting & Art Swap, February 13, 2-4 pm

Don’t miss our all-member meeting Sun., Feb. 13 from 2-4 pm! Meet new members and get acquainted with the DRA Board. We will feature our annual “Art Swap”! Just bring along an “art something” gently used or new. Have some extra paint, fabric, or other art supplies? Something you THOUGHT you needed but didn’t? This is an opportunity to share and get something in return! — *Betsy Mead*

THANKYOU! The Holiday Market Was Another Success!

DRA’s 2010 Holiday Market was phenomenal! Our event was listed in the Washington Post’s Best Bets section for the weekend which created a steady stream of shoppers all weekend. The vendors, bake sale helpers, and customers had a great time. A special thank-you goes out to Pamela Underhill and DJ Gaskin who sacrificed their shopping time on Friday night to help out with the yummy food from Sapore D’Italia. Thanks to everyone who contributed AND shopped at the Holiday Market.

The Holiday Market Committee sends a huge special THANK YOU to the holiday elves who baked and helped sell the holiday goodies for the Bake Sale. \$300 was raised to benefit Becca’s Ark (beccasark.org). We especially thank the following DRA members who “elfed” out during the Bake Sale: Kathy Lawler, Kathy O’Brien, Linda Hill, and Mr. Fogelsong (an exhibitor’s husband). Looking forward to next year’s Holiday Market! — *Tracy Wilkerson*



Welcome, New Members Who Joined in December!

Maizie Clarke

Berit Jarama Estabrook

Carmen Garay Gray – Pastel, Watercolor

Patrick Roth – Friend

Serene F. Werblood

From the President ...

Fellow Del Ray Artisans. 2011 brings a talented, energized, and committed Board of Directors already working to make this an exciting and artistic year. We need your help! Bring us your amazing art each month to make our gallery the wonderful space it is. We need your other skills and knowledge as well, to carry out our mission of creating art by and for our community.

We’re in search of Fundraisers to help plan and execute events, programs, and activities to give us financial support. If you know event planning, grants writing, corporate sponsorship, or just great ideas for fundraisers....we need to hear from you! Let’s put the FUN in FUND-RAISING! Contact me or any Board member to join our team.

Our Board meets on the second Tuesday. DRA members are welcome to sit in on these meetings. If you have concerns or ideas, contact any Board member on the back of the newsletter or on our website. We’ll do our best to answer your questions. Each Board member forms a committee to work with her/him. If you have an interest but are not ready to serve on the Board, they still want you. — *Michele Reday Cook*, President, Del Ray Artisans (dra.president@gmail.com)

**Celebrating
Movement
Art Show
at the Gallery,
Nov. 26-28**



Thanksgiving weekend's Celebrating Movement show was a DRA first, with 3 performing arts events in 3 days! Friday night showcased a jazz duo at the Jazzy Art View, wine and cheese. Saturday night brought new faces to the gallery for our Red Hot Salsa Night. We learned basic Salsa steps and snacked on homemade salsa donated by Tommy V Salsa. Sunday afternoon our Poetry Tea Party welcomed area poets. We listened to their poetry readings while enjoying hot tea and sweet morsels.

Special thanks to Salsa instructor Jovanny Aguire and jazz musicians Cristian Perez and Russell Lucas for providing great music. Extra special thanks to Jen Nicholson, DJ Gaskin, and Tracy Wilkerson who helped tremendously throughout the whole weekend, including set up, organization, and moral support. — *Tamara Wilkerson*

Ten Ways / Ten Hours

Here are 10 ways DRA members might volunteer our 10 yearly hours:

1. Distribute DRA show post-cards everywhere (1-2 hrs+).
2. Help show curators with much needed extra tasks (1-3 hrs).
3. Join a DRA board committee (1-10 hrs).
4. Help with special events and classes, cleanup, etc. (1-4 hours).
5. Springtime & summer garden clean-up (2-4 hrs).
6. Gallery grounds trash pick-up (1 hr).
7. 2011 Art Camp: help kids, assist with lunches (1-4 hrs).
8. Contact Volunteer Director Lesley Hall.
9. Freshen gallery: paint walls, clean windows.
10. Respond to future volunteer needs through announcements.

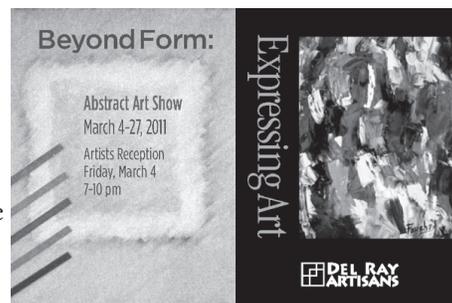
— *Karen Schmitz*

“Beyond Form: Expressing Art,” DRA’s March Abstract Show

Use the enclosed Call for Entries to submit up to 3 artworks, Feb. 27-28, from 6-9 pm.

Curators: Betty Plummer and Fareeha Khawaja

DRA’s March ALL-MEDIA ABSTRACT SHOW is open to all area artists, spotlight on painting. See the gallery zipping with positive energy, beauty, truth, and color! See the counterpoint of monochromatic simplicity, stillness, and restraint—lending balance and white space. Whichever direction you go, let it be lovely, for as Kandinsky once said, “An empty canvas is a living wonder...far lovelier than certain pictures.”



Related Exhibit Opportunity at Signature Theatre. DRA will present a juried selection of abstract art by DRA members in Signature Theatre’s lobby gallery March 14-May 22. This is in conjunction with their run of ART by Yasmina Reza in which a white-on-white abstract painting plays a leading role! This Gallery Without Walls juried show is for DRA members. So bring us your best abstract art and designate it as available for consideration for our Signature show.



The Del Ray Artisans Gallery rocked with Red Hot Salsa led by instructor Jovanny Aguire on Saturday night, Nov. 27, 2010, a featured event in the Celebrating Movement weekend show.



Partners in Art: A New Group Forming at DRA!

Our objective for Partners in Art is to create a regular forum where attendees receive support while working towards individual art objectives.

We are on the DRA calendar through April for the following dates and times:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Feb. 7, 2-4 pm | Mar. 7, 2-4 pm | Apr. 4, 2-4 pm |
| | Mar. 21, 2-4 pm | Apr. 18, 2-4 pm |

While all bring different skill levels and art goals to the table, we want to foster a creative exchange of ideas to help to motivate and encourage all participants. We plan to start each meeting with a discussion topic and a short demonstration or creativity exercise. Then everyone may talk about what they’re currently working on, where they’re finding inspiration, and what artistic challenges they’re facing. The group will evolve with participants’ interests.

We feel that such a group will, at its best, provide a non-threatening environment to share ideas, help to generate work for DRA shows, and encourage involvement and membership.

This program will be free and open to members and non-members. Occasionally there may be a charge for supplies for a group project or exercise. People of all skill levels and working in any medium are encouraged to attend. See the calendar on www.theDelRayArtisans.org for dates and times. — *Millie Mateu* (globaleducationsolutions@gmail.com) and *Katherine Rand* (katherine@katherinerand.com).

Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter! **Renewal** **New Member**

Name _____

Title First M.I. Last

Additional Household Members _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address _____

Street City State Zip

Phone Home () Cell () Work ()

E-mail Address(es) _____

 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

Active Members enjoy privileges of exhibiting in shows and are expected to contribute at least 10 volunteer hours per year. This does not include volunteer commitments for exhibiting in shows.

Friend

- \$35 Friend of DRA

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 DRA Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship for \$ _____.

I would like to make an additional donation to the DRA Art Camp for Youth for \$ _____.

Please indicate committees on which you will serve to meet your 10-hour per year volunteer commitment:

- Communications Newsletter Facilities Archives Outreach Anything DRA needs
- Fundraising Grants Publicity Volunteers Financial Other, special talents:
- Programs Website Gardening Administrative 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: www.thedelrayartisans.org.

**Life Drawing Workshop: Gesture Drawing
— February 16, 6:30-9:30 pm**

Instructor Robin Croft will offer exercises/commentary for a loose gestural approach to figure drawing. Bring a LARGE paper or newsprint pad and the following: red or black Conte, stick charcoal, woodless pencils, chalk pastel, brush and India ink. Fees: \$15, DRA members, \$18, non-members. Contact Katherine Rand at 703-836-1468 or DRA. LifeDrawing@gmail.com. Space is limited and registration is required. Register online at www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Robin Croft was recently featured in the Richmond Times Dispatch article "Turning Nature's Debris Into Works of Art" by Andy Thompson for his and a collaborator's 30 ft. long "Shipwreck, APR," an interpretation of Albert Pinkham Ryder's paintings of storm tossed ships at sea. See photos at www.rlcroft.com of this moody drawing of the James River banks.
— Katherine Rand

Open Life Drawing Sessions

Work from live models in our regular Open Life Drawing sessions at the gallery. All skill levels welcome. Sessions are drop-in. No registration required. Bring your own supplies. Fee for each 3-hour session: \$8, DRA members; \$10, non-members. Two-hour sessions: \$6, members; \$8; non-members. Please visit the DRA website for more details.



Katherine Rand

- Feb. 9**, 11 am-1 pm (gesture) & 2-5 pm (short/long pose)
- Feb. 21**, 2-5 pm (short/long pose)
- Feb. 23**, 11 am-1 pm (gesture) & 2-5 pm (short/long pose)
- Mar. 9**, Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses
- Mar. 16**, Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30 pm
- Mar. 23**, Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses



Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301-1124

703.838.4827
TheDelRayArtisans.org

Gallery Hours:

Thursday: noon-4 pm
Friday: noon-9 pm
Saturday: 10 am-9 pm
Sunday: noon-6 pm

Submission Deadline: 10th of the month

Editor: DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com

Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote art for the benefit of artists and the community.

2011 Calendar

January

7 - 30 **SHOW Baby, It's Cold Outside!** (All-Member Show) Connie Springer Zabowski and Celeste Zabowski curators *zabowski@verizon.net*
30 Love Letters Receiving, 7-9 pm
31 Love Letters Receiving, 6-9 pm

February

4 - 27 **SHOW Love Letters** Matthew Tito Cuenca and Tracy Wilkerson curators *matthewcuenca@gmail.com* *tlwideas@comcast.net*
5 **WORKSHOP Duo Mixed-Media Art**, 12-2 pm
8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
9 Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses
13 **Membership Meeting & Art Swap, 2-4 pm**
14 **Valentine's Day Mixer, 7-11 pm**
16 **WORKSHOP Life Drawing**, 6:30-9:30 pm
21 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm, short/long poses
23 Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses

March

4 - 27 **SHOW Beyond Form: Expressing Art** Betty Plummer & Fareeha Khawaja curators *bplummer11@verizon.net* *fareehamkhawaja@gmail.com*
8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
9 Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses
16 Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30 pm
23 Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses
27-28 Beyond Form Receiving, 6-9 pm

April

1 - 24 **SHOW It's Only Rock n' Roll, But I Like It!** Fierce Sonia curator *fiercesonia@aol.com*
6 Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses
12 Board Meeting, 7 pm
13 Life Drawing, 6:30-9:30 pm
20 Life Drawing, 11 am-1 pm, gestures & 2-5 pm, short/long poses
28 - May 1 Special Exhibit, TBD

2011 Board of Directors

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DRA.President@gmail.com

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Vacant

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Registrar

Ellyn Ferguson
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Newsletter

Betty Plummer
DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com

Art Campers' Work on Display

DRA Art Camp 2010 students' photography is displayed in Alexandria Mayor Euille's conference room, Jan. 10-July 1. 2009-10 Campers' artwork may be viewed at Alexandria's Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Jan. 24-April 1.



5 Ways to ♥ Del Ray Artisans!

- Buy **handmade Valentines** \$2-6 and support DRA.
- Spread **Love Letters postcards** everywhere!
- Invite your Facebook and Email friends to the **Love Letters Show**.
- Learn something new at the **Duo Mixed-media Art Workshop** on Feb. 4.
- Attend the **Valentines Day Mixer** Monday, Feb. 14, for only \$10.

— Karen Schmitz

Special Thanks... to the **City of Alexandria**, the **Alexandria Commission for the Arts**, the **Virginia Commission for the Arts**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, 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.