

DECEMBER 2022



"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."
Michelangelo

Our holiday spirit is on full display (as are oodles of outstanding artwork!) at the gallery this month. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the **ornament trees**, experience **SNOWMAGEDDON 2022** and find some special gifts at the **Holiday Shop!**

And don't miss a very special **ARTIST TALK with Suzanne Spooner-Munch** on Friday, December 2 from 3 to 4:30PM at the gallery. Suzanne will discuss and provide a personal tour of her 8 miniatures – all on display this month.

Visit the gallery in December to enjoy our annual **Photography Show**. And be sure to check out **December's Gallery Windows** featuring long-time RAL artists, **Mary Ellis and Sue Ramsey**. December also features **Finger Weaving** during **Try It Tuesday**.

Gallery News



November Exhibit Awards

*76 Artists Respond to
Toys for Tots Challenge*

RAL's executive director, Doug Mock, challenged artists to deliver 125 pieces of art for the *Anything Goes* exhibit and if the goal was met, RAL would donate a percent of the entry fees to **Toys for Tots**. As usual, our member artists showed up with 126 pieces and, as a result, RAL was able to donate \$700 worth of toys to the local chapter.

Sandy Manning, artist/educator and avid fan of the RAL Art Center judged this exhibit. Awards were presented at November's First Friday Reception. **First Place** was awarded to *Serious Cravings*, a stabile created in the style of Alexander Calder, by **Karyn Gallion**. Manning said that the artist captured the theme with a whimsical construction that included an invitation for the audience to *"Go Ahead! Turn the Crank."*

Second Place went to *Taste by the Bay*, an acrylic painting of a boating party beneath the Norris Bridge by **Bob Casazza**. **Third Place** was awarded to *The Whole Fish Tale*, a brilliantly executed fused glass piece by **Laurie Breakwell**.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to:

- *Calypso Chicken*, acrylic by Linda Bruner
- *Life*, watercolor and ink by Pamela Bowers
- *Sanibel Sunset*, photo by CarolAnne Taylor
- *Red Chair*, photo with digital effects by Terry Willis
- *Nautical Star*, digital art by Andre O. Smith
- *Lunar Larceny*, mixed media on canvas by Brenda Sylvia
- *Anything Goes on Broadway*, photograph by Yvonne Landis

Oil Painters of America Announces Its 3rd Annual Student Art Competition

The Oil Painters of America (OPA) has announced a FREE competition for art students between the ages of 14 – 23. Entrants receive a FREE membership to OPA as well as an opportunity to win a cash award. Top place award winners will be invited to exhibit their paintings during OPA's National Exhibition at Reinter Fine Art in Charleston, SC from March 31 through April 30, 2023.



Students are invited to submit up to three oil paintings for award consideration. They are encouraged to work under the direction of a teacher or faculty member although it is not required. It is free to enter and submissions will be accepted online through OPA's website from November 1 through January 6, 2023.

For more information visit the official website for complete information by clicking here: [OPA Student Art Show](#). Please be sure to pass along this information to any and all student artists in your sphere of influence!



First-ever Northern Neck Gallery Crawl

On Saturday, December 10th, the RAL Art Center will be one of seven area art galleries participating in the first-ever Northern Neck Gallery Crawl sponsored by the Northern Neck Office of Tourism.

Galleries on the tour route include the Arts Center of Montross, Tappahannock Art

Gallery, Artists' Alliance Colonial Beach, Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern, the RAL Art Center, Objects, and Allure Art Center.

A bus will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, leaving from Colonial Beach between 10 am and 10:30 am. Art enthusiasts may also drive to each location. All galleries will be open that day from 9 am to 4 pm, with the tour bus expected to return to Colonial Beach by 5pm.

Many locations, including the RAL Art Center, will be offering light refreshments throughout the day. This is a great opportunity to shop for the holidays and show visiting friends or family the best art in our area!

For more information go to: <http://www.northernneck.org/>

Guest Artist: Suzanne Spooner-Munch Artist Talk on Friday, December 2 3:00 – 4:30PM

Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Suzanne credits her lifelong love of miniatures to beautifully crafted small items brought from Japan by her father after WWII and a wonderful dollhouse made by her grandparents.



Professionally, Suzanne enjoyed a career in visual presentation, retiring as Vice President of Visual Merchandising for Nautica Retail in New York City. She regards her miniature room boxes as small forms of the life-size versions she designed for showrooms and retail stores. Careful attention to detail makes the difference in every aspect of a successful display, whether large or small.

The interior of her “Tempus Restorum Clock Shop” pictured here is 12 1/2” wide x 13” deep x 9 1/2” high. It took her about 2 months to construct; she made nearly all of the small clocks of broken ladies’ wrist watches.

An exhibit entitled *Life in Miniature* and comprised of eight of Suzanne’s miniatures will be on display at the RAL Art Center throughout the month of December. She will give a talk and tour of the miniatures on Friday afternoon, December 2nd from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. This promises to be a fun and magical exhibit for children and adults alike!

Holiday Happenings At RAL



Don't Miss It...the RAL Annual Holiday Shop

RAL's Annual Holiday Shop is an eagerly awaited event featuring one-of-a kind affordable gifts that make your shopping experience fun.

RAL member artists and artisans create a wonderful array of items that include jewelry, framed art of all kinds, baskets, ornaments, pottery, art glass, knitted and crocheted items, other fiber arts, holiday cards and many other gift items.

Join us for our Holiday First Friday on December 2nd from 5 to 7PM.



Come See the Ornament Trees!

New this year, three Christmas Trees in the gallery filled with beautiful ornaments that are available for sale.

Gallery visitors are invited to see the trees now through December 31.



Snowmageddon to Hit RAL in December!

ENTRIES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN DEC. 4!

Calling ALL makers of fun things...RAL is hosting Snowmageddon 2022.

What does this mean? Create a snowman, snowwoman, or snowperson in any style, format or fashion that is at least 24” tall. Your creation could be a painting, a sculpture, a work of art in fiber...or whatever you so choose. Your materials can include anything, cardboard, fabric, plastic, cotton, metal, the sky's the limit.

We ask that your work of art be available to participate in a silent auction with proceeds benefiting RAL. This auction will run throughout December, with the winning bidders taking home each masterpiece at the end of the month. (If you would prefer that we not auction your entry, be sure to let us know.)

If you plan to create for Snowmageddon 2022 please contact RAL at 804-436-9309.

HOLIDAY SHOP DATES AND HOURS

The holiday shop will be open from November 29th thru December 31st, Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am to 4pm each day.

The Ornament Trees will be open from now thru December 31st.

Santa's Village for Kids at Town Centre Park

SHARE IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT: RAL will once again participate in Kilmarnock's "Santa's Village" for kids at Town Centre Park on **Friday, December 2nd (5-7:30pm)**, and **December 3rd (5:15-7:30pm)**. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to our tent and assist them in creating a small craft (furnished by the town). If you would like to assist, please contact Karen Williams at larkarwillfish@gmail.com, 804-435-1758.



Creating with Santa!

Once again, Santa will visit the RAL Art Center to bring cheer to young and younger!

On Saturday, December 10th from 10am to 12pm, children ages 4 to 12 are invited to create a fun holiday craft with Santa and his helpers in the Pike Studio. Children must be accompanied by an adult and parents are welcome to take photos of the event.

This activity will coincide with the First Annual Northern Neck Gallery Crawl, sponsored by the Northern Neck Office of Tourism. RAL Art Center is one of seven area art galleries participating and this is a great opportunity for your friends and family.

So come enjoy light refreshments, meet Santa, shop for holiday gifts, and enjoy amazing art!



Try It Tuesday and Other Classes

For more information, including, if applicable, supply lists, go to:

www.ralartcenter.com or call

804.436.9309

December Try It Tuesday: Finger Weaving

Artist/Instructor: Sharon Stone

Date: Tuesday December 13

Time: 6-8PM

Did you know you can weave all sorts of items like scarves, shawls, blankets and more without investing in a loom or other expensive equipment?

Come learn the technique of finger weaving! You will receive all the materials and instruction needed to make your own neck warmer - or make it a gift! Sharon will walk you through the steps needed to get from a bundle of



pre-cut yarn to a beautiful and cozy scarf you will love wearing throughout the colder months.

Member fee: \$35

Non-member fee: \$40

January's Try It Tuesday: Sock Monsters

Artist/Instructor: Martha Gilbert

Date: Tuesday, January 10

Time: 6-8PM

Have you seen these adorable new residents of the RAL Art Center Gift Shop? Using socks, buttons, rickrack, felt, and other embellishments, instructor and fiber artist Martha Gilbert will guide you in making one of your very own monsters to take home!



You should bring some socks – the funkier, the better – as well as a pair of scissors, a sewing needle and thread. Participants are welcome to bring other items for decorating their monsters, but the instructor will also have these on hand. Start off the New Year with a whimsical project! As always, classes are more fun with friends, a snack, and a beverage of your choice.

Member fee: \$35

Non-member fee: \$40



CLASS: Cartooning for Adults

Artist/Instructor: Bob Casazza

Dates: Six Thursdays (1/12/2023 through 2/16/2023)

Time: 10AM-12:30PM

Artist and Cartoonist Bob Casazza presents a hands-on creative class on the art of cartooning. For beginners and professional artists, we will review the history of cartoons and highlight their influence on culture, politics, and entertainment. This will include the evolution of styles, mediums, techniques, and today's digital options. We will revisit many of your favorites. Each of the 6 classes is designed to unlock your cartoonist potential!

Member fee: \$240

Non-member fee: \$276

CLASS: Celebrating Your Creative Talent

Artist/Instructor: Kathleen Noffsinger

Dates: Saturday, January 28 and Saturday, February 4

Time: 10AM-3PM

Skill level: Intermediate to advanced

Let the watercolors flow in this exciting new workshop taught by award-winning Virginia watercolor artist and teacher Kathleen Noffsinger. "Celebrating Your Creative

Talent” explores the use of clear transparent color to create paintings that are exciting in value, color dominance and choice of subject.

The artists will complete challenging exercises designed to push them to try new aspects of using the fabulous medium of transparent watercolor and take them out of their current comfort levels of painting. Demonstrations as well as one-on-one instruction will be presented throughout the workshop.

Member fee: \$225

Non-member fee: \$240



Upcoming Exhibits

December 2022 ~ Photography Exhibit

The RAL Art Center Annual Photography Show exhibits favorite artwork, whether it is landscapes, water scenes, flowers, portraits of people or pets, historical buildings, towns and scenes of the Northern Neck or from travels. Photographers have many choices for the style that best expresses their vision. Documentary, realistic, abstract, and artistic photographs, including the many creative effects from in-camera to post-processing that offer many choices for them to tell their story and share their art with viewers.

Mike Geissinger is the Judge for the RAL Art Center Photography Exhibit. A graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology, Mike became a staff photographer at the White House during Lyndon Johnson’s presidency and did freelance photography for various publications throughout his career. He has been an instructor for several hands-on workshops at RAL and judged one of the earliest RAL annual photography exhibits. He continues to photograph for clients and organizations in the Northern Neck of Virginia.



Receiving: Monday, November 28, 10AM-12PM

Exhibit Dates: November 29 to December 31

Reception: Friday, December 2 from 5 to 7PM

Cathedral Rock by Ron Granstra



January 2023 ~ You Be the Judge

RAL Art Center Artists are creating their entries for one of the best shows of each year. You, our visitors, get to choose the winner of the exhibit.

The show opens January 4 and runs through January 28. Paintings in every medium, photography, pottery, glass, fiber art, sculpture and jewelry will be represented. Expect to have to choose from multiple

favorites!

Receiving: January 2, 10AM-12PM

Exhibit Dates: January 4 through January 28

Reception: Friday, January 6, 5-7PM

2022 You Be the Judge Winner, *Fish Relief* by Laurie Breakwell

January 2023 ~ Creative Still Life

Push the bounds of tradition! Our second January exhibit is entitled Creative Still Life in the hopes that our members will paint, stitch, or photograph groupings of objects from a new perspective or in some unconventional way. Use non-traditional subject matter or try a new approach – your choice. We are looking forward to your point of view!

Receiving: January 2, 10AM–12PM
Exhibit Dates: January 4 through January 28
Reception: Friday, January 6, 5–7PM

Tart by Deborah Bull



February 2023 ~ Touch of Red

Red symbolizes powerful emotion: anger, love, passion, courage, and joy as examples. Or, it can appear in a child's cheek, a wildflower, or a channel marker. Where do you see touches of red?

This exhibit gives members the opportunity to represent many different emotions or experiences through use of color.

Receiving: Monday, January 30, 10AM–12PM
Exhibit Dates: Wednesday through Saturday February 1 – 25
Reception: Friday, February, 5 – 7PM

Nicobar Island Fishing Boats by Sarah Elliott

February 2023 ~ I Love

The month of romance is the perfect time to exhibit work of our beloved pets, loved past times, treasured possessions – and, oh yes, the friends and family members we adore. This exhibit offers ample opportunity for you to show the world a visual example of love.

Receiving: Monday, January 30, 10AM–12PM
Exhibit Dates: Wednesday through Saturday February 1 – February 25
Reception: Friday, February, 5 – 7PM

Me and My Shadow by Cate Kauffman



2023 Upcoming Exhibit Schedule

January ~ You Be the Judge and Creative Still Life

February ~ Touch of Red and I Love

March ~ Weather or Not and Down Memory Lane

For the full 2023 calendar of exhibits click [here](#).

December Gallery Window Artists

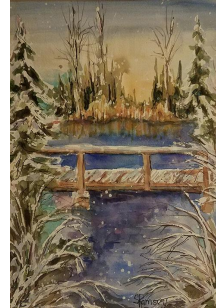
This December, the RAL Art Center celebrates the Winter and Christmas Seasons with two well-known artists: Mary Ellis and Sue Ramsey.

Mary and Sue's snow scenes in watercolor and acrylic will help bestow the joy of the season upon you! Their artwork will also reflect the seasonal event called "Snowmageddon", when artists use their imagination to make their most creative version of a Snowman.

A full article about these artists, written by Ellen Huddy, will appear in the *Rappahannock Record* and on the RAL Art Center website at www.ralartcenter.com/blog. Be sure to check it out!

Top right: *Snow Scene* by Sue Ramsey

Bottom right: *Snowman* by Mary Ellis



RAL ART CENTER OUTREACH

Serving our community through art



On November 9, RAL made a return visit to Irvington Baptist Church to lead their youth group in an art project. Twenty-three kids participated in creating a Thanksgiving turkey in the style of Picasso. This was our fourth visit to IBC and we greatly appreciate the opportunity to creatively interact with these kids

To volunteer for any of the opportunities above, youth programs, please contact the gallery at 804-436-9309 or email us at ral@ralartcenter.com.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the RAL Art Center is to organize, sponsor and encourage educational and cultural activities in the visual arts and crafts. The RAL Art Center's activities are focused on the lower Northern Neck and Lower Middle Peninsula of Virginia. It is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. The RAL Art Center is a community partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and is partially supported by grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the River Counties Community Foundation.

Officers 2022

President: Barbara Kershner, Vice President: Julie Austin,
Treasurer: Deirdra McLaughlin, Secretary: CarolAnne Taylor



Executive Director: Doug Mock

Gallery Manager: Sharon Stone

ral@ralartcenter.com

www.ralartcenter.com

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Phone: 804.436.9309



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