

July 2008

**This will be The Art League's last paper issue of Tidings. We are now moving to e-Tidings - a new, interactive, "green" version that we hope you will find informative, timely, and helpful.**

## July Solo Artist Show, "Neighborhood Watch" by Eva Jacob



Eva Jacob captures and reintroduces the ambiance of Washington and its iconic neighborhoods through her distinctive painting style. "Living in the city, I am surrounded at all times by a lively mix of potential paintings," Jacob says. Historic row houses, old boats on the Potomac, and vendors on K Street are just a few of the motifs seen in Jacob's work, familiar sights made compelling by sunlight or mysterious behind a scrim of falling snow.

"I am a tonal painter -- my paintings are mostly about light," she says. Light is the source of structure in Jacob's paintings, transforming streets, houses, boats and trees into shapes, directions and contrasts. Free, loose brush strokes enhance her abstracted compositions and explore the character of each place. Jacob's adept handling of the medium allows her to convey each painting's unique quality of light.

*Jacob's work will be on view in the solo artist room July 10 - August 4. The opening reception will be held Thursday, July 10, 6:30 - 8:00pm. (Above, "Glover Park Porches.")*

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## Important Gallery Notes

**Membership dues are due!** All exhibiting gallery members must renew their membership at the beginning of our new fiscal year (July 1). \$65 to The Art League Gallery.

**New Gallery Hours:** Monday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday, 12:00 noon - 6:00 pm. Open every Thursday until 9:00 pm. The Torpedo Factory hours have also changed. The building is now open from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm daily, and is open until 9:00 pm every Thursday evening. The Torpedo Factory is testing these extended hours, so stayed tuned for any changes!

## Late Fees for the Storage of Artwork!

Due to our very limited storage space beginning July 1, 2008, work left longer than two weeks following the jurying (i.e. after July 22, 2008) for any given show, will be charged at the rate of \$1 per day per piece. This includes bin wall pieces, sculptures, pieces not accepted into the monthly show and work taken off the wall from previous months. It does not include shrink-wrapped work. The maximum charge per piece will be \$25 per month. We will continue to call and remind

members of work left behind but the late fee will still be assessed. Work left before July 1 will not be charged but PLEASE come and get it or it will become the property of The Art League and might appear in our annual Patrons' Show fundraiser.

### **Last chance for Bin Gallery Orientation**

Thursday, July 31 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Please contact Rose O'Donnell if interested in attending 703-683-1780, roseo@theartleague.org

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## **Gallery News: Upcoming Shows, June Award Winners, Juror's Dialogues, & More**

### **Upcoming Shows**

#### **July**

##### **All-Media Show, Juror: Nan Haid**

Nan Haid last juried for The Art League in June 2006. Professor of Art at NOVA's Woodbridge campus, Haid has juried many shows throughout the region. Her own work is featured in the collection of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She exhibits extensively throughout the region.

#### **August**

##### **'Scapes, International Landscape Show**

##### **Juror: Walter Bartman**

(right: "Rock Creek by Lisa Neher. Winner of the 2007 Dominion Sponsor Award, International Landscape Show.)

Bartman has worked in the Bethesda, MD area for over thirty years. Nationally acclaimed landscape painter and instructor, he received his BA in Art Education from the University of Maryland and his MFA from American University. He is the Founder and Director of the Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery at Glen Echo Park in Maryland.

Our landscape, the world around us, has been rendered through out art history since the beginning of time. 'Scapes, our annual "International Landscape Show," invites members to submit works inspired by all environments around the globe - urban and rural, industrialized and primitive, coastal and arid, and the beauty and destruction created by Mother Nature.



#### **June Shows**

##### **Sculptors of The Art League, Juried by Erwin Timmers**

##### **Award Winners**

*The Norbert G. Brinker Award: Guy Rando*

*Honorable Mention: Betty Baumgartner, Shanti Chandra-Sekar, Francesca DiLorenzo, Sherry Trachtman*

##### **Juror's Dialogue**

"I first look for work that generates an emotional, gut reaction, something that intrigues me and makes me want to further study and examine the piece," states Erwin Timmers, juror for the June 2008 **Sculptors of The Art League Show**. Execution, presentation, and cohesion are all important in creating a successful work. For Timmers, subject matter is of significance. A compelling subject matter or statement can make a work of art stronger.

"Cohesion is what's most essential in creating successful three-dimensional work," he remarks. All the technical elements need to work together to make a strong statement. Technique is a supporting element; it should take a backseat in the eyes of the viewer. You want to be marveled by the whole picture – the message, the statement, and not be hung up on technique.

The way three-dimensional work engages an observer is different than that of two-dimensional work. "For the viewer, viewing three-dimensional works is more involved than viewing two-dimensional works. It's more interactive. For this show, I want the viewer to be engaged and drawn into further investigating the works they see."

Timmers selected "Buddha Harmony" by Guy Rando as Best in Show, recipient of the Norbert G. Brinker Award. "This piece is very intriguing, it drew me right in. It is well executed and has a good aesthetic overall. I particularly like the blend of organic wood with the machine-like insertions and marks."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to four pieces. The layers and various elements in Sherry Trachtman's "Medium Rare," intrigued Timmers. "As you investigate this piece you continually discover something new." Timmers was drawn to the humor in Betty Baumgartner's "Gender." Shanti Chandra-Sekar's "Creation-4" captivated Timmers for the interaction of shapes, and transitions from rough to smooth surfaces. "If Only....," by Francesca DiLorenzo, was selected for its strong composition, strong pose, and introspective feel.

## **June All-Media Show, Juried by Howard Paine Award Winners**

*The Urquhart Award: Diane Weiner*

*Honorable Mention: Tory Cowles, Ellen Delaney, Gunnel Gyllenhoff, Kathy Guzman, Michele Hoben, Diane McClaugherty, Teresa Oaxaca, Michele Rea, Nancy Reinke, Anna Shakeeva*

### **Juror's Dialogue**

Howard Paine has juried for The Art League on a number of occasions. "The Art League does a great job teaching, and building enthusiasm for the creation of art." He was pleased to find an exciting mix of work submitted. He strived to select a show that showcased the wide variety of work that he reviewed.

"I am drawn to color, action, abstraction, and works that depict human interest. Subject matter is important. I wanted to select work that portrayed the wide variety of subject matter submitted. Few individuals who come to see a show are going to be interested in the way in which paint is applied to paper or canvas, or other such technical aspects, but subject matter, the message is what's important." Paine steered away from selecting works that depicted traditional, 'clichéd' images that have been repeatedly appeared throughout art history.

"Having worked for National Geographic for 30 years as their art director, I have a particular interest in human interaction and education." Paine feels that, "the most important part of art is to communicate." Artists need to communicate what's going on in the world around us, whether by rendering poverty, illness, images of wartime, or images of beauty. "I am interested in artwork that portrays the world – its complexity, confusion, and its beauty."

Paine selected "Spring Offering" by Diane Weiner as Best in Show, recipient of The Urquhart Award. "This piece is big and bold. I like the color. The image is compelling, and I have an affinity for the square format." The pieces to which Paine awarded Honorable Mentions were his other favorites in the show. "Abstract art has a liveliness, a mystery to it that is very appealing to me," states Paine. Several abstract works are among his 'favorites.' He selected "Decanter and Cloth," by Diane McClaugherty for its extraordinary technique. "Hibiscus" by Anna Shakeeva was selected for its detail, light, and 'magical quality.'

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## **Gallery Volunteers**

Thank you to all of the individuals who are volunteering in the gallery this month! We are always looking for enthusiastic new volunteers to help with every aspect of gallery operations - from helping at the desk as a gallery aide, to helping hang shows, and assist with hospitality at our dynamic opening receptions. If you want to get involved, please contact Rose O'Donnell, Gallery Director, [roseo@theartleague.org](mailto:roseo@theartleague.org).

## **A Special Thanks to our July Gallery Aides:**

Pat Meyerson, Jill Brantley, Sue Helmken, Ann Cardoni, Judy Grumbacher, Debbie Conn, Mike Carter, Della Belle Quilian, Dan Huddleston, Carolyn Town, Brenda Barthell, Olene Albertson, Nar Steel, Marilyn Milici, Elizabeth Marshall, Katherine Sullivan, Margitta Hanff, Joe Schubert, Drew Parris, Anne Madden, Alice Kale, Torrey Watson, and Judy Livermore.

## State of The Art League for July 2007 to June 2008 A Message from the President and the Executive Director

Thank you for the honor and privilege to report on the state of the organization and its progress in fulfilling our mission:

*"By nurturing the artist, we enrich the community. The Art League develops the artist through education, exhibition, and a stimulating, supportive environment, while sharing the experience of the visual arts with the community."*

**Education:** Our prestigious Art League School, with 115 instructors, continues to provide the most comprehensive offering of visual arts workshops and classes in the Northern Virginia area. We provided instruction to more than 5500 students taking 10,664 classes annually, and provided 1,576 workshop opportunities locally and abroad to nearly 1,200 individuals. Our after-school program continues to provide satellite children's art classes in several area public elementary schools. Our corporate "creative retreat" program provides local businesses with the opportunity to explore the visual arts and provide a unique and creatively stimulating experience for their employees. More than 480 children and young adults took advantage of 559 art camp classes. We were proud to host world-renowned Japanese ceramic artist Ken Matsusaki for a sold-out pottery workshop and a lecture that drew over 175 attendees. More than 100 participating artists and hundreds more "observers" took advantage of our second annual "Paint Alexandria" all media, plein-air event, which included demonstrations by members of our renowned faculty.

**Membership and Exhibition:** Membership provided entry to a fellowship of more than 1,100 artists, as well as new and exciting opportunities to exhibit and sell work. In addition to our Virginia/Maryland/D.C.-based members, our membership also includes artists from 13 other states (including Alaska and Hawaii) as well as Italy and the Czech Republic. This year, more than 1,800 works of art were exhibited in the monthly juried shows, with 12% of them purchased. These patrons visited the gallery from 26 different states, the District of Columbia, and 3 other countries. The gallery presented more than 25 exhibits, including 14 Membership Shows, the Ikebana Show, Patrons' Show, Student-Faculty Show, and 9 Solo Artist Shows. Off-site activities included two City Hall exhibits, the Washington Square Sculpture Show and participation in Art-o-matic and Wolf Trap's "Art Uncorked" Celebration.

The gallery has recently expanded its hours; we honor the Torpedo Factory's new evening hours until 6pm daily, and every Thursday until 9pm. Planned activities for Thursday evenings, such as lectures and other events, promise to attract larger crowds in the gallery. The "renovation" of the website, currently in progress, will include a cyber gallery component.

**Outreach:** Our outreach programs, valued and supported by our community, have inspired other communities to follow our lead. Operated in collaboration with Alexandria's Court Service Unit, our "Space of Her Own" (SOHO) program is an art-based mentoring program for low income, at-risk girls in Alexandria. To date, the program has provided a meaningful engagement in the arts, coupled with mentoring and life-skills development, to more than 65 young girls. Thanks to individual donors and foundations, we have awarded several scholarships for Art League classes.

**Support:** We recently received a significant donation with which to establish a second endowment for the League. We are grateful for this gift, which was made in honor of one of our instructors, Robert Liberace. Benefactors continue to expand our Museum Circle of Giving and join our Masterpiece Society. Our 41st Annual Patron's Show was immensely popular and we were able to exhibit and sell more than 519 pieces of donated artwork. The "Soup Bowl Bonanza" was very successful, highlighting the work of League ceramicists and benefiting the Ceramics Program. A significant donation to the ceramics department allowed us to upgrade the studio's air filtration system, and add a spray booth. For a second year, we promoted our beautiful desk calendar that showcased our art instructors and provided additional advertising, public relations and marketing opportunities for The Art League. We are excited about corporations who continue to return and contribute to our efforts. We are also very gratified with the support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA), the Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA), and the Alexandria Youth Fund, in the form of grants and other assistance.

**Community:** The Art League continues in a leadership role providing the popular "Art in City Hall" exhibits, and several staff members have been included in the Chamber of Commerce's "Leadership Alexandria" program. Our "SOHO" program was recognized in the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Best Practices Guide on Programs for At-Risk Youth. Art League staff is engaged in many community activities and organizations, including the Art Commission's Public Art

Committee and the city's Waterfront Committee, and serve on the boards of the Torpedo Factory Artists Association, the Old Town Business & Professional Association, and the Alexandria Arts Forum. The Art League was invited, as one of the major arts organizations in the state, to join with the Virginia Commission and the other "majors" to spearhead a statewide initiative to promote the arts with the "Minds Wide Open" campaign in 2010 celebrating Women in the Arts. We hosted/presented programs to many groups, including the Women's Committee of the Smithsonian Institution, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and a delegation of trompe l'oeil painters from Denmark. The League engaged with the ACA in the development of the "Lord Report" study of the arts in Alexandria and the Americans for the Arts' study on the Economic Impact of the Arts.

**Facilities:** The Board and staff continue to pursue both near- and far- term facilities options and plans. The Art League is working with a local Alexandria architect to develop a charette of a building concept that might consolidate the school operations of both Duke Street and Madison Annexes and include additional exhibition space. This coming year we will be working toward positioning the organization for a successful capital campaign in the years ahead.

**Governance:** The Board of Directors completed and recently approved a major revision to the bylaws. The changes further delineated the roles and responsibilities of both the staff and the board. This coming year, the Board and staff, with the assistance of a professional consultant will undertake a major strategic planning initiative to renew our vision, mission, values, and goals for education, exhibition, and outreach.

**Budget:** For the first time in several years, despite our best efforts, The Art League did not meet all of its financial goals and we anticipate a loss for 2008. Less income was generated than was budgeted for in school tuition, workshops, and sales, which indicate that the economy may be affecting performance in those areas. Fortunately, the gains that we experienced last year will help to offset our losses. Cost reduction and income generation strategies are in place for next year. These measures will be relatively invisible to the members and students, and they will continue to enjoy the same benefits and quality of classroom instruction that they have come to expect and enjoy at The Art League. To keep pace with inflation and rising operating costs, the Board has approved a small increase in tuition and bin gallery fees in 2008, and will likely approve a small increase in membership dues in 2009.

**Marketing:** Significant new marketing initiatives this year included advertising and an article in United Airlines' Hemispheres magazine (partially funded by an Alexandria marketing grant), radio advertising on WETA and Metro Station ads (partially funded by a Virginia Marketing grant), and a Marketing Partnership with the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington on CultureCapital.com.

**Supplies:** Our store continues to provide high-quality art supplies at minimal cost for the League's constituencies. Despite a dip in sales this past year, we hope that artists will continue to value and support the store by taking advantage of the convenient location and the expert advice offered by store staff.

**We look to the future:** a permanent location, sustainable funding for current and future programs, and better ways to serve our members, students and the community. We face many challenges and opportunities and everyone plays an important role in our continued success. Our growth into a large and professionally managed organization has allowed us to refine our systems and build on the good work of volunteers and dedicated staff. We are committed to offer classes at an affordable cost to everyone who wants to learn. As you know, this requires commitment from those who recognize and value our mission, and are able to offer additional support through our Benefactor Society and our new Masterpiece Society. We are most grateful to those who have stepped forward, and we invite all who share our appreciation of this wonderful organization to participate.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this outstanding nonprofit organization and its membership for this past year. We are honored to have served you and our community!

Michelle (Miki) Guilmain  
President, Board of Directors

Linda Brinker Hafer  
Executive Director

## SOHO Reception held for 2008 Graduates

On June 5th, we held a reception for the 2008 graduating class of SOHO – Space of Her Own, The Art League’s community outreach program. For the first time this year, we lowered the age of participating girls to 5th grade, and what a success! All twelve girls who participated in the program this year graduated, three with perfect attendance across entire nine months of the program. Last fall the girls were each paired with an adult mentor, and they met weekly at The Art League to have art lessons, eat a balanced meal, do homework, and learn valuable life skills. The program culminated with room renovations “Trading Spaces”-style, where girls and mentors redesigned other girls’ rooms. Each girl’s new room incorporated the artwork she had made across the year into her new, personal space



of her own. At the reception we revealed a video of these renovations and the girls’ reactions to their new rooms. The SOHO girls also told attendees first-hand what they learned from the program and how it impacted them.

*SOHO is run through a partnership with the Alexandria Court Service Unit. If you are interested in becoming involved or supporting SOHO, please contact Alice Merrill or Kate Gelatt, 703-519-1741.*

## Annual Used Book and Ceramic Sale to Benefit The Art League

September 13, 2008, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Duke Street Annex

We’re now accepting donations of books! Call 703-519-1741 for more information.

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## School News

Here’s a sampling of summer classes that are still available:

### Painting:

Mastering Color with David Carter starts July 10

Oil Painting with Scott Hutchison starts July 8

Plein Air Landscape with Fred Markham starts July 12

### Drawing:

Basic Drawing with Malone Samuels starts July 11

Figure Drawing in Varied Media with Priscilla Treacy starts July 12

### Clay:

Handbuilding Ceramics with Carlos Beltran starts July 13

Intermediate/Advanced Ceramics with Damien Yanessa starts July 20

### Youth:

Sculpture for Teens with Rebecca Adams starts July 13

Painting & Drawing for Teens (ages 14 & up)

July 7-11 or July 28-August 1

Photography for Teens (ages 12 & up)

July 21-25

*Visit our website, [www.theartleague.org/school](http://www.theartleague.org/school), for more information.*

## Fall Travel Workshops

### New Dates!

#### Santa Fe, New Mexico: Painting From Within

with Dominique Samyn-Werbrouck

September 15 - 21, 2008

This workshop is for artists who are ready to take risks with their work. Through simple exercises, walks in the high desert, and meditation, your approach to painting will be more meaningful. Your artistic strengths will be explored. You will trust your intuition and paint without fear. Open to painters of all media. Tuition: \$775 per person. For information concerning accommodations and other details, please contact Margaret Cerutti.



#### Southwestern Ireland: Plein Air Painting and Sketching

with Avis Fleming

October 3 – 12, 2008

Experience the wild and beautiful Dingle Peninsula and the scenic seacoast town of Kinsale in County Cork, deemed the "culinary capital of Ireland." Painting and drawing excursions will feature scenic, historic, and prehistoric coastal sites. \$2,385 per person, double occupancy. Limited singles available for an additional charge.

#### Napa Valley, California: Plein Air Painting in the Vineyards

with Bobbi Pratte (see image above on page 7)

October 6 – 12, 2008

This Napa Valley workshop will combine the worlds of art and wine. Paint the vineyards and visit impressive art collections. A day at Copia, The American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts is on the agenda. An exclusive Taste of Copia Luncheon is included. \$1,685 per person, double occupancy. Limited singles available for an additional charge.

*For additional information or questions, please contact Margaret Cerutti, 703-683-1780 x 13, margaretc@theartleague.org.*

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## News from the Store

### On Special This Month in the Store:

Wood Art Panels: non-warping basswood, ready for paint with or without ground. 6X6 to 12x20, \$2 to \$11-- what a great deal!

Thanks for shopping at The Art League Store--your patronage helps keep tuition, dues, and prices low while supporting great outreach and educational programming.

### NEW Store Hours:

Open 9:15 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Saturday, while classes are in session. The first two weeks of each term, extended and weekend hours are 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 10:00 am - 4:00 pm on Sundays. For the remainder of the term, evening hours are 6:30 - 7:30 pm Tuesday and Wednesday. Hours between terms are 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday. The store may close for lunch if there is only one staff person on duty.

## Opportunities for Artists at The Art League and Beyond

### Open Critique With Lisa Semerad

Join Art League drawing instructor Lisa Semerad Friday, July 18, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in The Art League Gallery for an open critique. Artists of all media and styles may bring up to two pieces each for a group critique. Space is limited so please sign-up right away! RSVP to the gallery, 703-683-1780 or roseo@theartleague.org.

### Have Your Artwork Professionally Photographed

Pete Duvall, of Anything Photographic, Inc., offers special rates for Art League members. Drop off your work, unframed, on the third Monday of the month (this month, July 21) between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. The gallery will provide an information form for you to complete. Work and images will be returned in a week to the gallery. Contact the gallery at 703-683-1780, roseo@theartleague.org, or Pete Duvall at pete@anythingphoto.com for more information.

### Columbia Pike Artist Studios Accepting Applications

Columbia Pike Artist Studios in Arlington is accepting applications for upcoming membership and sublet opportunities. Applicants are reviewed as space becomes available. For an application or more information, please contact Nancy Fortwengler, npfpastels@yahoo.com.

### Art Studios for Lease

In the City of Alexandria, 2.5 miles from the Torpedo Factory  
Artists' Warehouse

200 sq. feet to 1000 sq. feet

Free on-site parking

Accessible 24/7

Contact Liz Boynton for more information, 703-759-4227, boyntonliz@yahoo.com.

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## Calendar

### July

July 4/Fri.: Gallery CLOSED

July 7/Mon., 6:30 – 8:30 pm: RECEIVING for All-Media Show and Bin Gallery

July 8/Tues., 10:00 am – 12:00 noon: RECEIVING continues

July 8 /Tues., 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works

July 10/Thurs., 6:30 – 8:00 pm: Opening Reception for Neighborhood Watch, Eva Jacob's solo artist show, and All-Media Show. Awards presented at 7:00 pm.

July 18/Fri., 10:30 am - 12:30 pm: Open critique in the gallery with Lisa Semerad.

July 24/Thurs., 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Silkscreen printing demo and folk/rock band performance by Raise the Roof Beams in the gallery.

July 31/Thurs., 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Last bin gallery orientation in the gallery.

### August

August 4/Mon., 6:30 – 8:30 pm: RECEIVING for 'Scapes (No Bin Gallery)

August 5/Tues., 10:00 am – 12:00 noon: RECEIVING continues

August 5/Tues., 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works

August 6/Wed. 'Scapes opens

August 11/Mon.: Fall Registration begins in the School.

August 14/Thurs., 6:30 – 8:00 pm: Opening Reception for 'Scapes. Awards presented at 7:00pm.

# theartleague

Membership Renewal Form

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

\$65 - Regular, exhibiting membership

Friend of The Art League (non-exhibiting membership) any donation of \$20 or more

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Opportunities: Please indicate how you may be able to help!

Anything

Exhibit installation

Show week receiving

Jurying/selections crew

Bulk mail

Gallery Aide

Painting the gallery

Carpentry

Patrons' Show

Hospitality/Opening Receptions

Weekends

Weekdays

Short Notice

Please note any special skills or any additional ways in which you would be willing to contribute: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form with check payable to The Art League and return to the Gallery.

*No person will be denied membership on the basis of race, color, religion, ageism, sex, ethnic origin or any other basis prohibited by statute. However, The Art League reserves the option of refusing or discontinuing membership to any person deemed incompatible with the process of gallery operations due to disruptiveness or any behavior inconsistent with the policies set forth for the Board of Directors as well as the employees. A gallery policy manual is available for your review in the gallery library. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with all our policies. Applicants, by the signature affixed below, attest to the understanding that this is a cooperative endeavor and that they will be expected to help in some capacity. While we make every effort to protect artwork in the gallery, artists understand that they exhibit at their own risk. Permission to photograph any work in the exhibition for publicity purposes or for documentation is considered granted.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**theartleague**  
105 North Union Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Gallery: 703.683.1780  
School: 703.683.2323  
[www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org)

July 2008 **tidings**