

April 2011

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Cindy Packard Richmond's "Food, Glorious Food"

For Cindy Packard Richmond, novelist and food writer turned painter, food has always been a central interest in her life. So when her creative passion grew to include the visual arts, it was only natural that she paint the subjects she wrote about for so many years. Richmond's sweeping food-scapes are bursting with color, flavor, and an innovative perspective. Her solo exhibit, "Food, Glorious Food," will be featured at The Art League Gallery, April 7 - May 2, 2011.



"I am drawn to the bulbous shapes of food: the sweeping curves, tightening spirals, rounded edges, plumply ovate and corpulent." For Richmond, design is the key element in her work, followed by color. Her choice of what to paint is purely visual - it's all about the composition, color, and the strong design elements that form as a result of a particular composition.

"The variations of shapes, colors, and patterns within a single subject intrigue me, which is why I tend to focus on only one subject within a painting." She takes numerous photos of her subjects, searching for a unique perspective with a distinct abstract quality. The subject fills up the canvas, creating a larger-than-life still life. She works quite large, almost treating her still lifes like vast sweeping landscapes. The result is a bright, vivacious still life that's anything but traditional.

Exhibition Dates: April 7 - May 2, 2011

Opening Reception and Meet the Artist: Thursday, April 14, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Visit richmondlikethecity.blogspot.com to read musings from the artist and learn more about her process.

April Gallery Exhibits

April 2011 will offer two exhibit opportunities for members: an **All-Media Exhibit** and a second exhibit titled, "**Remains.**"

"Remains"

For the last several years, The Art League Gallery has presented an exhibit in April tied to an environmental theme. For 2011, "Remains" broadens the scope of the exhibit to not only include works made out of recyclable materials, but works centered on the idea of "things left behind." Artists are encouraged to explore the concept of loss – whether a physical loss (of something tangible, or material objects) or an emotional one. We encourage members to take a broad interpretation of this word.

Juror, J.W. Mahoney. Mahoney has his BA in Fine Arts from Harvard University and has done graduate work at George Washington University. He has exhibited widely throughout the DC region, most recently at the Curator's Office in Washington, DC. Mahoney retired from the Hirshhorn Museum and has served as the regional arts editor for Art in America magazine. He is a well-known artist, juror, curator, art professor, and one of the most influential visual arts voices in our area.

Awards:

The Marshall Award, \$125. The Marshall Award was established in 1957 by The Art League Board in memory of William

Douglas Marshall, first Treasurer of The Art League. Marshall served as the guiding force for a traveling exhibition known as "The Circulating Show," which was a popular feature of The Art League's early years. This award is presented by the juror to the piece deemed "best in show."

All-Media Exhibit

Juror: Farar Elliott, Chief and Curator, Office of History and Preservation, US House of Representatives. Elliott has worked as a curator at the US House of Representatives, and at museums and galleries throughout the eastern United States. She received her BA in Art History from Bryn Mawr College and her MA at George Washington University.

Awards:

The Carol Bruce Pastel Award, \$125. This award is funded by donations from the many friends, family, and colleagues of Carol Bruce, who was a member of The Art League from 1986 until her death in 2003. Carol worked in the Art League Store for ten years. A member of the Pastel Society of America and the Maryland Pastel Society, Carol had a studio in the Torpedo Factory from 1989 to 2003. This award is presented by the juror to the best pastel piece.

The Board of Directors Award, \$125

Creative Advice from Instructor and Board Member Diane Tesler

While I serve on the Board of Directors, my primary relationship with The Art League has been as an instructor. Here are some things I have learned after years of painting and teaching:



by Diane Tesler

What you put on the canvas gives you true feedback – honest and unvarnished. Learn to trust what you see – the good and the bad. One of the beautiful things about a work in progress is how directly it communicates back to the person holding the brush.

The anxiety that builds up prior to working is a natural phenomenon – use it as a fuel, not a reason to quit. After many years of painting, I still experience it. As I have told my students – it isn't sky diving, though it sometimes feels that way.

You will learn your style by looking back at what you have done over time. As you do the work, one painting will influence the next and the vision that is uniquely yours will unfold organically. There is no need to strive to be different.

Balance the desire for innovation with the desire for safety. Strike out in new areas where you will test yourself and combine that with work that builds upon prior accomplishments. Keep a number of projects going simultaneously and there will always be a place to turn to when you are stuck.

It is better to make a correction and do it over than to gloss over a problem. Once that you are aware that something isn't working there is no way to erase that knowledge. View it as an opportunity to grow and you will be rewarded. If you are one who actually enjoys the process of adjusting and correcting, as I do, choose media and techniques that make that possible.

Allow yourself the time and space to do your work. Set up your easel where the light is best. Use the best materials you can afford.

Identify your mentors and heroes. Your own work may differ from that of the artists you admire, but their philosophies and choices can guide you. Friendships with other working artists provide support and inspiration. Here, the membership of The Art League is a treasured resource.

The painting life exists as an alternate universe that overlaps the 'real' world in many ways, but has its own values and priorities. Once you have stepped through into this space, it feels like coming home. So throughout the now forty years I have been painting, I have followed one simple rule: If it is good for my painting, I do it. If not, I don't. This has helped to maximize the time I spend in my chosen world.

Diane Tesler
Art League Instructor and Board Member-at-Large

Opportunities: Exhibits, Community Building, Art in City Hall, and More

The Nest Project

All members of The Art League are invited to participate in this collaboration with the Target Gallery, the Torpedo Factory, and Habitat for Humanity. "Nest" includes a juried exhibition in the Target Gallery, ten outdoor installations along the waterfront by local arts organizations and artists, a community-built nest in the main hall of the Torpedo Factory, and in-studio nests created by Torpedo Factory Artists. The Art League's "Rookery" will be installed on the roof of the Potomac Riverboat Company ticket booth on the Alexandria dock. We invite everyone in The Art League community to participate by bringing in old road maps to cover our nest. Please bring them into the gallery between now and April 5.

The goal of "Nest" is to inspire people to look more closely at their own habitat. Coinciding with Earth Day and Mother's Day, the project hopes to increase environmental awareness and encourage care for the planet we all call home. We will highlight Habitat for Humanity's work for building decent and affordable homes.

Free maps will guide visitors on a nest-spotting walking tour, along the waterfront, through a park, into the Torpedo Factory and ending at Target Gallery, where the exhibition "Nest" can be seen.

Art in City Hall Calendar

Pick up of work in current exhibit: Saturday, April 16, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Any work not picked up during these hours will be charged a \$5 per day, per piece late fee.

New Exhibit: Digital entry only, three entries per artist, no entry fee unless work is accepted. \$3 per piece for accepted entries. Digital submissions due no later than 6:00 pm, Friday, May 6. Artists will be notified within one week of acceptance. This exhibit counts toward Art League Bin Gallery membership. Work must be delivered only on Saturday, May 21 between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm to the Alexandria City Hall.

Theme: "Around Town."

Awards: Alexandria Commission for the Arts, \$200; Del Ray Artisans, \$200; The Art League, \$200; Torpedo Factory Artists Association, \$200.

The Art League Library

Tucked in the corner of the gallery is The Art League's library. This collection of art-related books is available to members, students, and faculty to check out. You can now look up books on our online library database: www.librarything.com, login: "artleague," password: "gallery." Between the gallery and our Madison Annex we have over 1,700 titles. We thank Ann Heising, a volunteer and member of The Art League, who spent many hours entering and categorizing all our books.

Donations of books are welcome at any time. However, we have limited space and are now looking specifically for books about art and artists from World War II to the present, female artists, art of other cultures, and museum catalogues from the museums in Washington, DC.

May All-Media Exhibit

Juror, Lillian Fitzgerald

Lillian Fitzgerald is the director of Fitzgerald Fine Art (FFA). Established in 1983, FFA is an art consulting firm specializing in the collection and exhibition of original works of art. In 2006 Fitzgerald was awarded a fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She is the curator for National Institutes of Health. She received her BFA from East Carolina University.

Executive Director Linda Hafer Receives Cultural Affairs Award

Each year, the Alexandria Commission for Women recognizes the community's most outstanding women who go above and beyond to improve the lives women and the larger Alexandria community. On Monday, March 28 during the 31st Annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet, Executive Director Linda Hafer was presented with the Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award. This award recognizes a woman for her artistic endeavors in facilitating creative expression and personal growth in women and girls in the community. This year, the award has been named after Donna Bergheim, who passed away in 2010, so that we may remember her significant contributions to the artistic community in Alexandria for years to come.

Congratulations Linda!

Sidney Platt Memorial Reception and Art Sale

Saturday, April 9, 1:00 - 5:00 pm & Sunday, April 10, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
4000 Lorcom Lane
(Corner of Lorcom Lane and Military Road)
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Sid Platt, watercolor artist, passed away in December 2010. As a memorial, his artist friends are holding a reception and show of his works, most of which will be for sale (cash and check only). The proceeds from this sale will be donated to The Art League to establish the Sid Platt Memorial Watercolor Award. This award will be given out annually at one of the Art League All-Media monthly membership shows. A short program with some stories and memories from friends and family will be held on Saturday, mid-afternoon.



by Sidney Platt

Sid was a long time member of The Art League where he exhibited his work receiving many awards for his watercolors. Sid graduated from the University of Miami Film School and worked his way up the ladder at the National Geographic Society for over 30 years. He became the manager of educational films, travelling the world and working with many legends such as Jacques Cousteau. He began painting while travelling and took up painting full-time upon his retirement. Don't miss this opportunity to see his work and remember a fine artist.

March Juror's Dialogue and Awards

Artist and instructor David Page had never juried for The Art League before, but when he came to jury the March 2011 Carnivalé exhibit, he knew he was going to find diverse work, and that he would have a humbling task before him.

Page hoped to see a variety of lively, energetic work and his expectations were met. He was most interested in the "communication of energy." When jurying an exhibit, Page first looks for the artist's personal vision in the work. He is attracted to works with freshness – whether it is in the style, medium, or subject matter. He also wants to be moved by the work – to experience some sort of emotional/psychological shift. In this case, he wanted to experience "delight." Visit our website to read the full article.



by Susana de Quadros

Awards:

The Evelyn Turner Award: Susana de Quadros

The Jane McElvany Coonce Award: Jacqueline Saunders

Honorable Mention: Diane Blackwell, Wayne Guenther, Richard Hayes, Cindi Lewis, Shelley Lowenstein, Doris Rogers

School News

Spring Workshops – Last Chance!

April 2 and 3 is our last spring workshop weekend! There is still an opportunity to enroll in one of our offerings.

Gouache for Field Studies and More with Diane Tesler

Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, \$170

Figure Painting in Watercolor with Steve Fleming

Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, \$170

Thinking Inside the Box: Stories from Scrap with Rosemary Lockett

Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, \$170

The New Silver: Precious Metal Clay with Paula Coupe

Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, \$170



by Paula Coupe

Impressionist Painting in Acrylics and/or Water-based Oils with Peter Ulrich

Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, \$170

Spring Classes Begin the Week of April 4

Spring Term is just around the corner and there are still plenty of spaces available in many of our classes as well as our popular summer art camp for kids. Although many classes begin the week of April 4, many start later on in the month or in May. Be sure to check out our new or changed offerings on the school's home page.

Remember, the school is closed on Easter Sunday and makeup classes will follow at the end of the term.

Art Camp Internships Available

As the school gears up for a big summer season, we will be interviewing intern candidates for our summer camps. Summer-long internships for college credit are also available. High energy is a must! For details please contact Art Camp Coordinator, Ali Procopio, in the school office at 703-683-2323 or by email at aliw@theartleague.org.

Upcoming Art Travel Workshops - New Dates!

Visit our Travel Workshop webpage and download brochures and additional information.

The Coastal Towns of Southern France: Le Cote de Vermeille, "Vermilion Coast"

Plein Air Painting with Peter Ulrich

May 22 - 29, 2011

"... nowhere in France a sky more blue than that of Collioure..."

Be inspired and paint the French seacoast en plein air as masters in the past have done!

Just south of the French Riviera lies the rugged and indented coastline of the Cote Vermeille. The sienna-colored earth and rocky formations gives this locale its name. The Pyrenees sweep down to the sea, and nestled amongst the inlets lie charming little seaside towns and coastal villages that were frequented by French artists in the early 1900's. Collioure is one of these beautiful little coastal gems. Henri Matisse and Andre' Derain painted every corner of this scenic little port.



courtesy of the Collioure Tourism Office

Open to painters of all media, an emphasis will be placed on capturing the effect of light in this exquisite coastal locale. Good drawing, effective composition, clean color, and strong values will be stressed. Peter is an experienced international artist and his vast library of painting journals attest to this. He has painted in many locales – especially in the British Isles and France. A prolific and rapid painter, Peter is able to pass on a great deal of information in a short amount of time. Students will paint in at least two locations each day. Daily demos, individual guidance, and group critiques in a relaxed and productive atmosphere are on the agenda.

\$1,725 per person, double occupancy. Limited single rooms available for an addition \$355 in house, and \$440 gardenside.

"A Back Door Tour" – New Dates!

Santa Fe & Ghost Ranch, New Mexico

Exploring Art, Glass and Clay with Blair Meerfeld

May 18 - 23, 2011

**Information Night: Thursday, April 7, 7:30 pm in The Art League Conference Room
Room 220 Torpedo Factory, (after the Gallery reception)**

Join us for a unique opportunity to tour the best of Santa Fe and Ghost Ranch (inspiration for Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings) with a nationally acclaimed artist, born and raised in this area!

Blair Meerfeld, Chairman of the Art League's Ceramic Department and former Santa Fe local, will offer you a "behind the

scenes" experience to some of the finest artwork in the current market.

As a former artisan of Tesuque Glassworks (blowing glass and casting glass sculptures) and at Shidoni Foundry, Blair is well acquainted with many of the galleries and gallery directors throughout the area. On the agenda: The Ghost Ranch at Abiquiu with private guide (Georgia O'Keeffe lived and worked here), Shidoni Foundry, Tesuque Glassworks, and the famed Canyon Road Gallery District. There will also be a day trip to Taos, via the historic weaving community of Chimayo. On the way back to Santa Fe (being extremely familiar with the vistas and surrounding communities), Blair will guide you over the spectacular Rio Grande Gorge bridge (which spans 1000 feet above the water). Be prepared for some absolutely magnificent photo ops and proceed back to Santa Fe through the tiny old settlements of Tres Piedras and Ojo Caliente, site of the historical Santa Cruz Church – one of the oldest in all of New Mexico.

\$1,330 per person, double occupancy. Limited singles available at an additional charge.

"Having been born and raised in Colorado, I enjoy incorporating native clays and materials in my work. My forms are influenced by indigenous architectural structures, farm machinery and working vessels, such as granaries and oil cans. My interest in salt fired stoneware stems from years of studying and collecting historic salt fired pots from Europe and North America. Other influences include Asian ceramics, and architectural and natural land forms. The objective of my work is to unite traditional processes with contemporary color and form, resulting in a unique statement in clay." - Blair Meerfeld

Paint Solomons Island, Maryland
Plein Air Painting with Bobbi Pratte
Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22, 2011

Discover and capture on canvas the unspoiled and uncommon beauty of Solomons Island, a quiet waterfront fishing village where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay. Be inspired by all the Eastern shore has to offer: working crab boats, sailing vessels, native waterfowl, river otters and interesting seashore architecture, including Cove Point Lighthouse. Arrive early ready to paint the early morning light. The longer days of summer are perfect for plein air painting! This workshop will cover the fundamental skills necessary for painting outdoors, including simplifying and organizing large amounts of information, basic techniques, and the elements of design. Demonstrations and confidence-building exercises will be included. All levels are welcome and artists may work in oils, acrylics, or oil pastels.

\$190 per person.

Optional local lodging has been reserved at the Comfort Inn for \$46 per person, per night, double occupancy. All guest rooms are equipped with microwave, mini fridge, hair dryer, and cable TV. Complimentary coffee is available at the hotel and accommodations include a free breakfast. The Comfort Inn at Beacon Marina is located approximately 63 miles from The Art League.

NEW DATES!
Barcelona, Spain
Museum exploration/sketching with Jim Burford
October 2 - 10, 2011

Considered to be Spain's most cosmopolitan city, Barcelona is an art lover's dream. It's Old Town Centre contains the greatest concentration of Gothic Architecture in all of Europe with many preserved as World Heritage Sites. Many museums of ancient and contemporary art are also located here. We will explore and sketch in some of the best locations in Barcelona including, the Fundacio Joan Miro, the famed Picasso Museum, Guell Parc and La Sagrada Familia designed by Antoni Gaudi, and the Dali museum in Fuentes. Named by National Geographic as one of the best beach cities, Barcelona's scenic coast boasts almost three miles of spectacular waterfront and sunshine.

\$1,975 per person, double occupancy. Limited single rooms available for an additional \$325. Registration deadline: May 27, 2011.

For more information and to register, please contact: Margaret Cerutti, margaretc@theartleague.org, 703-683-1780 x13

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Featured in the 2010/11 Catalogue for Philanthropy.

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We appreciate the support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, United Way/CFC.



theartleague

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Calendar

April 2011

April 4/Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm: Receiving for "**Remains**," All-Media Exhibit, and Bin Gallery.

April 5/Tuesday, 10:00 am-12:00 noon: Receiving continues.

April 5/Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works.

April 7/Thursday: Cindy Packard Richmond's solo exhibit "**Food, Glorious Food**" opens.

April 14/Thursday, 6:30-8:00 pm: Opening reception for April exhibits. Awards presented at 7:30 pm.

April 16/Saturday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm: Pick up at City Hall of artwork in current Art in City Hall exhibit.

April 24/Sunday, Easter: Gallery Closed

May 2011

May 2/Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm: Receiving for All-Media exhibit and Bin Gallery.

May 3/Tuesday, 10:00 am-12:00 noon: Receiving continues.

May 3/Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works.

May 5/Thursday: Leslie Blackmon's solo exhibit "**Baa-merica: Icons Revisted**" opens.

May 11/Thursday, 6:30-8:00 pm: Opening Reception for May exhibits. Awards presented at 7:30 pm.