

the **artleague**

tidings

October 2010

Reminder: Artists with works in the September exhibits need to pick up their work early, on Sunday, October 3, from 3:00 - 6:00 pm. The Gallery will be Closed on Monday, October 4 for painting and repair. Thank you.

More Ice Cream Bowls at Art on the Avenue!

Our Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser at the Alexandria Festival for the Arts was such an enormous success that we're going to continue this fun fundraiser for the Ceramics Department on Saturday, October 2 at Art on the Avenue in Del Ray! We're once again partnering with ACKC Cocoa Bar, and the fundraiser will take place outside their shop, 2003A Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. The event will start at 11:00 am until the last bowl is sold! Once again, bowls are \$15 each and each bowl gets you a scoop of ice cream. Proceeds go to The Art League's Ceramics Department. Please join us!



Art on the Rocks Event

art
on the
rocks

Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 - 10:30 pm in The Art League Gallery. Tickets: \$25.

In conjunction with our October *Dinner Party* exhibit, this event invites local mixologists to select juried pieces from *Dinner Party* as their inspiration for creative cocktails. Bartenders from **Chadwicks, Columbia Firehouse, Jackson 20, Austin Grill, and Vermilion** are participating. On the 27th, ticket holders may taste all the cocktails and vote for their favorite. Drawings for prizes, demonstrations by Art League instructors, and appetizers from the restaurants will complete the evening. Don't miss it!

Tickets will go on sale October 1 at 10:00 am. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Must be 21 years of age. Contact the Gallery for more information or to purchase tickets.

We are looking for volunteers to help out with this event! Please contact the Gallery to sign up.

Upcoming Gallery Exhibits

October Gallery Exhibit: *Dinner Party*

Receiving: Monday, October 4, 6:30–8:30 pm; Tuesday, October 5, 10:00 am–noon

Juror: Susan Goldman

Awards: Gilham Award – \$125. The Gilham award is given in honor of Sigsbee Gilham, artist and teacher, who established The Art League in 1954 as a resource for local artists to show their work.

This exhibit is all about food, food that is consumed, the act of eating and dining, and the politics of food in contemporary society. For *Dinner Party*, we invite artists to explore our relationship with food. How does food and eating affect us and our environment? How do we enjoy food, worry about food, feel about food? Many famous artists have painted luscious still-lives including fruits and vegetables, fish and fowl. One of the most famous paintings about eating is located at the Phillips Collection in DC, Renoir's *Luncheon of the Boating Party*. Wayne Thiebaud, a California artist, painted cakes, pies, ice cream and candy in his unique pop style that catapulted him to fame. Many of our Art League instructors specialize in still-life

painting that involve food in unusual ways including Susan Abbott, Rachel Collins, Danni Dawson, Carolyn Gawarecki, and Diane Tesler.

Juror: Susan Goldman is a master printmaker. She owns and operates Lily Press in Rockville, MD. She is also a professor of printmaking at George Mason University where she operates Navigation Press. Goldman is a former instructor at The Art League School, a 2008 recipient of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County Special Projects Grant, and was coordinator for the 2005 Southern Graphics Council International Conference "Power in Print," held in Washington, DC. Her most recent collaborative print projects include artists such as William Wiley, Enrique Chagoya, Mindy Weisel, and Renee Stout.

November Gallery Exhibits: Small Works and Large Works

Receiving: Monday, November 1, 6:30–8:30 pm; Tuesday, November 2, 10:00 am–noon

Jurors: Emily Conover (Small Works) & Georgia Deal (Large Works)

Small Works Guidelines:

1. Image area may not be larger than 6" x 8" or 48" square, with an overall size no larger than 10" x 12" or 120" square, INCLUDING MAT AND FRAME. Three-dimensional work can be no larger than 216 cubic inches using all three dimensions (ex: 6" x 6" x 6" = 216 cubic inches).
2. Frames that add more than 1/4" to the total dimensions must be factored into the total size.
3. Subject matter is NOT restricted to "miniatures." Image content and scale are up to the artist.

Large Works Guidelines:

1. Image size must be no smaller than 21" X 29". Framed size – no smaller than 27" X 35".
2. Stretched canvas can be no smaller than 24" x 36".
3. There is no maximum size limit; however, there is a 40 pound weight limit.
4. Work must fit in the gallery doors and be prepared for hanging or display (Please contact the gallery with any questions or concerns about presentation of large works).

Special Exhibits:

Holiday Ornament Collection

November 23, 2010 – January 3, 2011

Open to all Art League members. Bring work in November 20 – 22. Artists can submit one or more handmade creations for our annual ornament exhibit. Work will be juried for prizes. No entry fee. No more than ten ornaments by an artist will be displayed at any time but more can be submitted, ornaments will be replaced as they sell. Artists will receive 75% of the sales price of all work sold.

Faye Carter, the owner of The Christmas Attic in Old Town Alexandria will jury ornaments for prizes. Established in 1971, The Christmas Attic is located in an 18th century tobacco warehouse situated one block from the Potomac River in Old Town, Alexandria, VA. The Christmas Attic specializes in hard to find, unique, and handmade items.

Greetings From...

The Art League Gallery is pleased to announce a new special exhibit opportunity in December for all members of The Art League in the solo room. *Greetings From...* will feature works 4" x 6" in size on paper, unmattd and unframed. Works can be on cardstock or board coated with gesso as long as they will fit into the clear plastic envelopes that will be provided. The clear envelopes will be suspended from the ceiling on long lines so each plastic envelope with the artwork inside will be attached to the line with clips. Sculptural works can only be 4" x 6" x 1" and ready to hang with mounting hardware attached as these will not be suspended from the ceiling. Artists are asked to explore the idea of places we have traveled, would like to travel, or places we can imagine. Any member can submit up to two pieces. No entry fee. All works will be displayed. The exhibit will be juried for prizes. Best in Show will receive a \$25 Art League gift certificate.

Opportunities for Artists

"The Art of Critiquing Art" With Rachel Collins

Friday, October 8, 1:30- 3:30pm

Members of The Art League and their friends are invited to participate in a mini-workshop on "The Art of Critiquing Art" presented by watercolor painter Rachel Collins at The Art League Gallery. Anyone wishing to come may bring a piece of art for critique. The session will begin with a general look at what makes a useful critique, what guidelines are helpful, what kinds of questions should be asked when critiquing a piece of art, and how we can learn to assess our own paintings. Then

the session will break into groups and everyone will have a chance to practice their skills at giving a constructive critique. The goal is to help everyone look at both their own work and the work of others with a reasonable objective eye, so that we all may make more meaningful art.

Collins considers herself a realistic painter of nature's abstract form. Originally trained as a librarian and archivist, she became a full-time painter in the mid-1990's. An interest in natural science illustration has influenced her work in watercolor as fine art, and is reflected in her choice of subjects. She paints regularly in her studio at the Torpedo Factory. Collins has taught watercolor since 1996 in both the U.S. and abroad, and shows her work regularly in local, regional and national exhibits. She has been awarded signature membership in the National Watercolor Society, the Watercolor USA Honor Society, and the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, among others.

To register please call 703-683-1780, or e-mail gallery@theartleague.org

Unlock Your Creativity!

Free workshop at The Art League Gallery on Thursday, October 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

- Does your muse ever abandon you?
- Do internal saboteurs get in your way?
- Do you yearn to play full-out in your creative work?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, come hear Coach Josephine Withers demonstrate how YOU can overcome limiting beliefs, stay motivated, and think way outside the box. Register in advance by calling 703-683-1780 or e-mail us at gallery@theartleague.org and you receive a FREE phone consultation with Coach Josephine.

Josephine Withers is a certified life coach with a PhD in art history. She helped found the Washington Women's Art Center; taught for many years at the University of Maryland College Park; and has presented throughout the country and abroad, including the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the Howard County Holistic Center.

For more information visit: <http://www.dreamcatcherlifecoaching.com>
Contact Josephine directly: (301) 283-0201
or visit her Dreamcatcher Life Coaching page on Facebook.

Young at Art: 24th Annual Juried Art Show for Artists 55+

Deliver art to The Durant Arts Center on Thursday, September 30, 10:00am – 12:00 noon.
Pick up pieces not in show: Friday, October 1, 10:00am – 12:00 noon.
Entry Fee: \$25 for up to three works; \$15 for each additional piece.
For more information contact executivedirector@seniorservicesalex.org

Alexandria Arts Safari! Saturday, October 9, 12:00–4:00 pm at the Torpedo Factory Art Center **Volunteers needed!**

Feel like a kid again at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's 15th annual Alexandria Arts Safari! We are looking for volunteers to help with our art activities and to help man our welcome tables. Art activity volunteers will work with an activity leader who is a Torpedo Factory artist to help kids get expressive with their favorite creative activities, including Papier Mache Animal, Fabric Collage, and Halloween Bats!

Bottled water and snacks will be provided. All volunteers will be entered in a volunteer-only prize drawing for a \$50 Torpedo Factory gift certificate that can be used in any studio or gallery in the building or at the gift shop.

Email eabernethy@torpedofactory.org to sign up or call 703-838-4565 x3. Volunteer check-in is at 11:30 am and check-out is at 4:15 pm.

Mixing Bowl Exhibit at the Torpedo Factory's Target Gallery

Exhibition Dates: January 8 – February 27, 2011
Deadline for Entry: November 8, 2010

Mixing Bowl is an exhibition that implores artists to think about the challenges, the struggles, the beauty and the richness of



by Rachel Collins

the diversity that makes our country so unique. Current affairs has the Immigration Policy in the spotlight for debate. This extremely sensitive and debatable topic will be open for interpretation and invites all artists nationally and internationally to respond to the theme. This is an all-media exhibition.

Jurors are Amy Cavanaugh Royce, Honfleur Gallery's Director of Representation, and Briony Evans Hynson, the Honfleur Gallery's Creative Director. Honfleur Gallery is based in Washington DC and is known for its socially-minded exhibitions and installations. For more information go to <http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/targetcallforentry.htm>

Exhibition opportunities are posted on our blog, theartleaguegallery.blogspot.com, throughout the month.

September Juror's Dialogue and Awards

Juror's Dialogue

With over 700 entries to select from, F. Lennox Campello had to make a lot of challenging decisions as this month's juror. However, he saw the high number of entries as a sign of the fierce competition in Art League exhibits. He views this competition as an opportunity for artists to work harder to be accepted into shows in addition to exhibiting alongside some of the best artists working in the region. Campello enjoyed selecting from such a high number of entries because it allowed him to pick a variety of both media and subjects. Visit our website to read the full article.

Award Winners:

The Shayna Heisman Simkin Award: Wendy Donahoe

Honorable Mention: Shanthi Chandra Sekar, Deron DeCesare, Tim Felker, Betsy Kellum, Louise Marlowe, Joe O'Neil, Jacqueline Saunders, Fierce Sonia, Jordan Xu.



Olivia by Wendy Donahoe

Upcoming Travel Workshops

Bahamas Winter Retreat

Elbow Cay, Bahamas

Plein Air Painting with Susan Abbott

February 9 - 14, 2011

When it is snowing on the East Coast, the Bahamas is the place to be!

Escape to an island known for its spectacular white sand beaches and aquamarine waters, pastel clapboard cottages, and white picket fences overflowing with tropical foliage, hibiscus, and bougainvillea. Escape to this little gem of inspirational beauty with internationally known artist and instructor, Susan Abbott. Located just off the coast of West Palm Beach, Florida are the islands of the Abacos, the northernmost section of the Bahamas. Elbow Cay is a tiny gem amongst these islands. Experience plein air seascape painting at its best in this beautiful locale.

This workshop is open to painters of all media. All painting activities will be conducted outdoors, as this is a plein air workshop. A typical day starts out with a lesson and demo by Susan in a location specifically chosen for the theme and light of day. Afterwards, students start on their own pieces or may continue to watch Susan continue to develop her own work. Students will paint at least two views or different locations each day, chosen specifically to capture the morning or afternoon/early evening light. Artists are guided in their work with individual consultations/critiques as well as group exercises and activities. \$1,595 per person, double occupancy.

Santa Fe & Ghost Ranch: New Mexico

Exploring Art, Glass and Clay with Blair Meerfeld

March 23 - 28, 2011

Immerse yourself in ancient culture and architecture while exploring working studios and galleries in Santa Fe. Join the Chairman of The Art League Ceramics Department and internationally known ceramic artist, Blair Meerfeld, for a unique trip

to the oldest capital city in North American and oldest European community west of the Mississippi. On the agenda: The Ghost Ranch at Abiquiu (inspiration for Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings), Shidoni Foundry, Tesuque Glassworks, the famed Canyon Road Gallery District, the tiny wool-weaving community of Chimayo' and Taos. \$1,280 per person, double occupancy.

**The Coastal Towns of Southern France:
The Distinctive Light of Matisse
Plein Air Painting with Peter Ulrich
May 22 - 29, 2011**

Just south of the famous French Riviera lies the rugged and indented coastline of the Cote Vermeille. The sienna colored earth and rocky formations give 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. Complete with castle (13c.) and little church with bell tower (1683) it is one of the oldest cities in Roussillon. Henri Matisse and Andre' Derain painted every corner of this scenic little port. and Matisse proclaimed that "... 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.



Collioure, France

This workshop is 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. A prolific and rapid painter, Peter is able to pass on a great deal of information in a short amount of time. Daily demos, individual guidance, and group critiques in a relaxed and productive atmosphere are on the agenda. \$1,725 per person, double occupancy.

For reservations or additional information on either of these workshops, please contact The Art League at 703-683-1780 x 13 or email: margaretc@theartleague.org

School News

Our **Fall Term** has begun; however many of our classes have not started and others have only met once – and still have space available! Consider joining one of our classes to explore something new, or to expand your knowledge in your current media. Be sure to check out our many new offerings. Visit our website to learn more.

Thank you to those who have donated still life objects for use in our classes. We could still use some more, so if any one has anything interesting to offer that they no longer use, please consider donating it. Just drop it off at the school office or at our Duke Street Annex.

Our loyal **Art League van** continues to dotter along – well, off and on – but desperately needs to go into retirement. If you have a functioning vehicle (van, SUV, or truck) that you would consider donating, please be aware that since The Art League puts it to use (rather than reselling), you may deduct the full value for tax purposes. Please contact Kathi Cohen in the School office, 703-683-2323, if you can help!

Look for our Ceramics Department at **Art On The Avenue** on Saturday, October 2 in Del Ray. We are continuing our Ice Cream Bowl fundraiser, paired with delicious ACKC ice cream.

Upcoming Workshops

- October 3, 10, & 17 2010: Mosaic Table Workshop with Gene Sterud, \$90
- October 24, 2010: Mosaic Mirror with Gene Sterud, \$45
- October 24 & 25, 2010: Monotype Explorations with Penny Barringer, \$155
- October 23, 2010: Halloween Clay Animation (ages 7 – 13) with Andrew Morgan, \$125
- October 27, 2010: Sculptural Needle Felting with Renate Maile-Moskowitz, \$75



by Renate Maile-Moskowitz

How "Theme" Exhibits are Chosen

The Art League Gallery, as an educational organization, seeks to challenge our member artists artistically and intellectually, and engage and stimulate our viewers visually. We want our exhibits to be diverse but cohesive, thought provoking, and intriguing. We strive to create a dynamic exhibition calendar for our artists and viewers, and to create an engaging atmosphere where viewers and collectors are eager to come back to the gallery to see what's going to be featured next.

The gallery staff begins discussing theme/focused show ideas for the upcoming year as early as April of the preceding year. When we began discussing the 2010 themes, we wanted our programming to coincide with Virginia's Minds Wide Open: Women in the Arts celebration. We developed the *Herstory* and *Curves* exhibits not only as a way to mirror other arts programming in the state, but to bring light to timely issues, push our members artistically, and engage our viewers. As a result, we received statewide recognition for these exhibits and excellent coverage by the local media, which brought in more visitors to the gallery and increased our visibility.

For 2011, we have decided to focus on Diversity in the Arts. The themes for 2011 will be taken from different cultural and religious holidays. You will see *Carnivale* in March and *Emancipation and Freedom* in June. October will feature a second exhibit, in addition to the All-Media Exhibit, titled, *Altars, Icons and Reliquaries*. 2011 is also the sesquicentennial of the Civil War so the June theme will tie in with that event. We know that the state of Virginia has selected 2012 to be The Year of Children and the Arts. So, you can be assured that we will have some programming to take advantage of that initiative.

We only have four to five theme shows each year; the remaining exhibits are open, All-Media exhibits. *'Scapes* and *Small Works* are offered every year. We are always open to member ideas for exhibits too. The 2009 exhibit, *Becoming Animal*, came from members requesting to have an exhibit centering on animals. If you would like to send me your ideas for theme shows feel free to e-mail the Gallery Director, Rose O'Donnell, at: roseo@theartleague.org

Missives from the Board Observations on the Jury Process by Betsy LeBleu Curry

It's a wonderful experience to have your work accepted in any juried art show, especially one as competitive as The Art League's. Most Art League shows average 580 works entered, with about 110-120 entries accepted. This September's All-Media Membership show received more than 700 entries.

In addition to my current duties as Secretary of the Board of The Art League, I have also volunteered on the Selections Committee for many years. I have learned that all jurors come with their own thoughts of the day. Selection is in the eyes of the juror on that particular day—perhaps depending on what he/she has been reading, how he/she has predetermined the show should look, or what his/her current muse happens to be. In other words, like each of us, they respond differently to the same stimuli on different days. Almost all of the jurors comment that they could easily make the works not accepted into two or three very good shows.

Each juror decides with which category (under glass/ photography/ 3-D/ canvas) he or she wishes to begin the task of reviewing the hundreds of works to be considered. Some jurors are very verbal and others are silent, but they all work to judge a well-rounded exhibit and follow the guidelines of The Art League. Obviously, the personal taste of the juror is going to be on display. Our most recent juror, expressing his thoughts about abstract work, said that he always looks for strong, clean color. Through the years, other jurors have consistently made comments that can be useful for all of us:

- * Framing and matting when poorly done can interfere with the visual enjoyment of the work
- * Lack of design understanding is visually displayed
- * Colors are not compatible or rhythmic
- * Artistic vision is too ordinary and not handled with excellence

Some jurors consider the variety of media or subject matter being included; some think about the size of the piece and how many other pieces that one would displace. However, we do not place limits on how many large pieces a juror may select, nor make comments or influence the selections in any way.

The volunteers always show multiples of an artist's work to the juror at the same time. [*Please place them next to each other during Receiving, unless one is a sculpture—if so, please indicate that on your 2D work.*] The Gallery Director determines the appropriate number of pieces chosen for the exhibit space available.

My advice—don't try to enter works that are "like the judge paints," in the hope it will get your work into the exhibit. Some jurors have higher standards for work like their own, and you would actually have a better chance with something completely different. You need to juror your own work first, and enter your best. You're the only one who works like you! If you feel that your work is lacking in certain skills, sign up for one of our excellent classes now! (Often, lack of drawing skills undermines painting of people and buildings, or even sculptural work. Some entries are very colorful and creative but are obviously void of the knowledge of the basic principles of design—balance, rhythm, emphasis, and unity.)

Often the juror returns when the show is hung to evaluate his/her own selections and see how the show looks. We always invite them to the reception to present the awards, and often they do attend. If you carefully read every juror's statement after each show, you can get a real insight into their world and have a tool that will prepare you for the next Receiving Day!

The Art League presents David Carter — Drawings & Paintings at Krekeler Brower Wealth Advisors

Currently on exhibit through mid-October

Reception: September 28, 5:30–8:30 pm
1800 Diagonal Rd, Suite F, Alexandria, VA

Artist's Statement

There are worse torments than reading an artist's statement. Some things ostensibly written for other people to read are even more tedious and less satisfying than a typical artist's statement. Insurance policies, for example. The writings of Hegel come to mind. But statements like this one are usually high on the list.

Verbal explanations about visual experience often seem to miss the point. We (artists) know that. We've read our statements, and we don't like them either. So, we clam up. It feels like less harm done that way. "Silence is so accurate," Rothko said.

But there's just no separating thought and sight. That's my premise. We think with our eyes; we see with ideas. Words do what they

can. And the images in my paintings are born of ideas – or questions – that, frankly, are difficult to express in any form. No mystery or distortion is invented along the way for artistic value; it's all there from the start. The struggle is to be direct, clear, and vivid in expressing notions that by nature resist description, shed clarity and elude precision.

And yet the questions expressed in my paintings are questions anyone might find familiar. Familiar, but regarded as unimportant. Or not regarded at all. Some may have occurred to us first (and last) when we were children. Since then we've probably come to dismiss them as mysteries so fundamental, and so difficult, they should be ignored. We are fish; they become the water we're unaware of.

Whatever your take on these images might be, I hope one or two stick with you. If they give you something to still think about later – that would be even better.



by David Carter

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theartleague

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Calendar

October 2010

October 1/Friday, 10:00 am: Tickets go on sale for **Art on the Rocks**.
October 3/Sunday, 3:00 - 6:00 pm: Early pick up of works from all September exhibits.
October 4/Monday: Gallery closed for painting and repair.
October 4/Monday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Receiving for **Dinner Party** Exhibit and Bin Gallery.
October 5/Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon: Receiving continues.
October 5/Tuesday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works
October 14/Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm: **Opening Reception** for **Dinner Party**. Awards presented at 7:30 pm.
October 18/Monday: Gallery closed for Solo Artist Jurying.
October 27/Wednesday, 6:30 - 10:30 pm: **Art on the Rocks** event in the Gallery.

November 2010

November 1/Monday, 6:30–8:30 pm: Receiving for **Small Works** and **Large Works**. NO BIN GALLERY.
November 2/Tuesday, 10:00 am–12:00 noon: Receiving continues.
November 2/Tuesday, 6:30–7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works.
November 8/Monday: Winter Registration begins in the School.
November 11/Thursday, 6:30–8:00 pm: **Opening Reception** for **Small Works, Large Works**, and Robert Keating's Solo Exhibit, **The C&O Canal: Places and Stories**. Awards Presented at 7:30 pm.
November 20-22/Saturday–Monday: Receiving for Ornaments in the Gallery.
November 25/Thursday: CLOSED for Thanksgiving.

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