



RockvilleArtLeague.org

Vol. XXVIII No. 3

November 2018

NEXT MEETING: November 1, 6:30PM

**Speaker: Michael Koren: Artistic Expression through Smartphone
Artists and Makers Studio II Building at 12276 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD**

Message from the President, Patrick Sieg

Dear Rockville Art League members,

Fall is finally upon us. I love this season and I am often inspired by the clear light and vivid colors, to get outside and paint (when it isn't raining). Albert Camus describes it well as a "second spring where every leaf is a flower." Not only a beautiful time of year but one that offers new perspectives and opportunities.



Given the atmosphere this time of year I found the words of American art critic Jerry Saltz fitting, "artists working for other artists is all about knowing, learning, unlearning, initiating long term artistic dialogues, making connections, creating covens and getting temporary shelter from the storm." Last month we were honored to host artist and gallery business expert Fran Abrams. Her talk was engaging and we all walked away with new and improved tips on presenting our work in competitive settings (which are most settings). Thank you, Fran.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." These words of Will Duran highlight something very important to me.

I enjoy taking art classes and I try to attend one or more classes at all times, not just in the fall but also throughout the year.

I have been doing this for the last four years. But why? The simple reason is that I much enjoy classes but there must be more. As I thought about this, I came up with three prevailing reasons:

1. I really enjoy being with other artists and we benefit from that association as we collectively practice our craft.
2. There is much more to be learned each time I take a class. That learning comes through observing demonstrations, hearing critiques (sometime less than “gentle”), joining the group in locales that are new or unexpected and by hearing about opportunities through the instructor and class members. Additionally, I enjoy taking from different instructors. Each artist has his or her own perspective and unique vision.
3. Classes add an element of discipline to my practice. I believe I would paint on my own but when I am enrolled in a class, I will definitely work on my painting...with a different sense of urgency.

I believe that the reasons for being involved in our Rockville Art League are nearly the same as my reasons for taking classes. We have fun together, we learn from our speakers and each other, and I know that I am motivated through the group to paint more.



I hope that you have renewed your RAL membership and that you will encourage your artist and art-loving friends to consider joining our league.

Regarding speakers, our November speaker will be photographic artist Michael Koren. Michael presented to RAL last year and shared his incredible work and some tips that aided in their creation. The comments on his 2017 talk were so positive that we reached out and secured him again for this season. This time Michael will be adding a hands-on portion to his presentation. Please be sure to see more about him and his talk later in this newsletter and note that there is a smart phone app that you should download prior to coming to the meeting. We will work with it together during the “workshop” portion of his presentation.



Photo by Lisa Sieg

Finally, I wish I had some good news to share regarding the Glenview Mansion parking lot renovations. Unfortunately, the work has been delayed due to weather and funding but is scheduled to start in earnest next week. I hope it will begin and be done quickly.

Regarding a replacement for Gallery Director Julie Farrell who retired this summer and who we consider to be truly irreplaceable. Over 100 applicants have submitted their resumes and the selection process has begun.

More to come on both of these Glenview Mansion initiatives.

Wishing you an inspired “second spring” this fall.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sieg
President

PS: A big shout out to Lisa Sieg for her editing and for finding the quotes included above...thank you.



“Spider’s Hammock,” photo by Lisa Sieg

REMINDER: RAL’s 2018-2019 membership year began September 1

Your dues support the excellent programming and opportunities RAL provides. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please take a moment and use PayPal via the RAL website.

Or, mail your check to:

Paula Zeller, Membership Chair
627 Crown Park Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dues are \$40.

Questions? Please email Paula at: membership@rockvilleartleague.org

We thank you for your support!

**Rockville Art League 2018-19
Speaker Series**

All events in the 2018 calendar year occur from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Artists and Makers Studio II Building at 12276 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville. Events are open to RAL Members and the General Public.

November 1, 2018: **Michael Koren**
“Artistic Expression through Smartphone”



A reminder: we are meeting at Artists & Makers 2 (12276 Wilkins Ave. Rockville) in the Hirsh Classroom, upstairs on the 2nd floor. Enter through Gallery 209 and take a moment to see what’s on display this month. (Parking is behind the building.)

Worldwide almost 5 billion people use smartphones among a population close to 7.5 billion. Conservative estimates guess that in one year about 1.1 trillion photos will be taken with those mobile phones. More than 98% of consumer cameras sold worldwide were built in to a mobile phone, the rest of the sales were compacts, mirrorless and DSLR cameras.

Because of the mobile device's camera, photography and picture taking is more popular than ever before in history.

Why all the excitement and move towards mobile? That's the question we'll attempt to answer. Join photographer and educator Michael Koren to learn about using the mobile phone as an artistic device. Michael will show examples of pictures from some of his favorite apps and you will have a chance to practice editing a picture we will take that evening. At the end of the evening you will learn about different camera and editing apps and ways to get better with your mobile photography.

To prepare for the class **please download** and install the editing app *Snapseed* **BEFORE** coming to the meeting. It's a free app made by Google and is considered many mobile photographers the one best photography app to have on a mobile device. Download from the app store for your device's operating system. *Snapseed* is available for both Apple and Android devices.



"Fabulous," photo by Michael Koren

Michael Koren is a free-lance sports and event photographer in the Baltimore Washington metro area specializing in youth sports game-time action and team portraits. Prior to this Michael worked professionally shooting model portfolios, corporate portraits, product

photography for catalogs, and client advertising campaigns.

Michael's passion for photography is shared through his skill as a photography educator. Michael teaches classes at Montgomery College on a variety of photographic topics from mobile photography to street photography. He also teaches smartphone, street and action photography at Capital Photography Center. Additionally, he has served as President, Director and Education Chair of the Silver Spring Camera Club in Maryland. He has led numerous seminars and workshops for local camera clubs, Ritz Camera, Calumet and the Washington School of Photography with topics ranging from beginner photography to hands on advanced level workshops and classes.

As well as all the above, Michael still finds time to organize two Meetup groups dedicated to photography. The first is all about mobile photography. He leads the iPhone Photography Meetup Group on outings around the metro area and offers instruction on best techniques and the latest apps for the mobile camera. Secondly, the Photographers of the Washington/Baltimore Metro Area creates a fun, supportive, light-hearted community of people who want to share their passion for photography through photo walks and informal gatherings.

Visit Michael's website to learn more.

<https://www.michaelkorenphotography.com/>

December 6th, 2018: **Sally Davies**

"Talk and a demo on Acrylic painting process"

March 7th, 2019: **Maud Taber Thomas**

"Portrait demonstration"

April 4th, 2019: **Michael Shibley**

"Watercolor demo and talk"

Critique by Penny Kritt

Signs of Life

Do you ever put people or animals in your artwork? No? Why not? Does it sound like it may be well above your skill level?

Even if you do use them, perhaps you'd like to know a *different way to portray* them.

Sometimes, just the smallest indication that some breathing creature may be nearby is enough to change the whole feel of a composition. For example, a deserted beach with footprints in the beach sand tends to be a happier composition than one without. What if there are two sets of prints? Imagine how the story changes if one set was from a dog? Or an alligator? Add a blanket with a cooler and some chairs and you've now got a great picnic at the beach (minus the alligator), even if you don't know how to draw all those difficult people!

Now let's look at the back door of a house. It has a doggie door. How different is the feel if the door is small versus large enough for a German shepherd? *You didn't have to figure out how to depict the dog!* And all those German shepherd owners will "see" their dog in your artwork. Talk about a win/win. In researching images for this article, it became clear that the "creature" doesn't even have to ever have drawn a breath.



Figure 1

Take the case of BB-8 (Figure 1 above), in my opinion the most adorable Star Wars droid. Even if you only saw this little guy in a still ad instead of the movie, wasn't he cute? Now, think about what created this effect.

In case you can't figure it out, look at the two images below. What does this bring to mind?



Figure 2

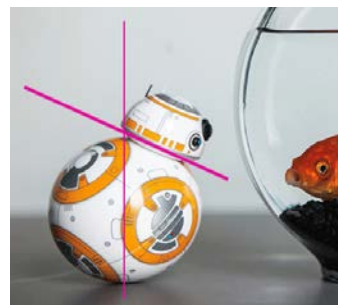


Figure 3

In case you need a little more help, here's a short video that shows BB-8 in motion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnOFN8agxsU>

What makes this little figure so cute is that he's like a toddler! He's rarely seen with his "head" centered over his body. In Figures 2 and 3 above, notice how far his "head" is tilted to look up or down. He doesn't have a neck to bend, so his whole body is off balance as observes the world around him. In the video, when he rushes forward, his head is first thrown back behind his body. Eventually, it moves forward down by his "stomach" and his "body" seems to wobble from side to side as he races along. Except his body is a ball, and they can't wobble, they only roll. What's going on?

I've talked a lot in past columns about how an "artist's eye" picks up details that others miss. I'll give you a clue to get you started. Pay attention to the orange circle graphics on his body. They enhance his "wobble". Can you tell how? Take a minute to ponder. . .

A quick glance might make you think that the graphic elements within each large orange circle are symmetrical, but they aren't. If you lined them up in

photoshop, you'd see that the various components are vastly different in size, shape and proximity to their neighbors within the orange boundary. To further enhance the wobble factor, the assumption that the orange circles are equally spaced around the body is also wrong! That means that, even when the "head" is directly over a large orange circle, BB-8 still seems off center.

Maybe you're not a sci-fi fan, so what good does this do you? The answer is it illustrates how using symmetry makes a composition "safer", quieter, less stressful. And if you want to create excitement or tension in your work, the merest indication of people or creatures lacking symmetry is the first thing to add.

If you'd like a gentle critique of your work, email me a photo at pennykritt@aol.com.

For classes or private lessons, contact Penny at 301/989-1799



MEMBER NEWS

Mike Kuchinsky has a couple of paintings in the Mixed media show at the Kentlands Mansion through November 4th.

Betsy Baden
Donna Baron
Jeff Bohlander
Marylou Bono
Jasmine Bryant

Laura Renee Davis
Sandra Davis
Jabari Jefferson
Roxana Rojas-Luzon
Michael Kuchinsky

Steve Mockrin
Karen Peacock
Michelle Puhl-Price
Shyam Rele
James Russell
Linda Statterly Sherman

Eneida Somarriba
Francine Stow-Sinkler
Jeanne Sullivan
Jenna Wright
Alexey Zoob

Exploring Mixed Media
Kentlands Mansion
 September 7—November 4, 2018
 Artists Reception
 September 27, 7-8:30 p.m.

Kentlands Mansion
 320 Kent Square Rd
 Gaithersburg, MD

Michael Auger has artworks included in an exhibit called "Fantasy, Sci-Fi, and Humor" which takes place Nov. 2nd through Jan. 15th at: 506 S Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877; with an artist reception on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 7 PM – 8:30 PM.

FANTASY, SCI-FI & HUMOR
Auger - Barr - Byron - Dillinger - Ellis
Heatwole - Kleinbussink - McDowell - Phan
Russell - Walsh

Activity Center
 at Bohrer Park
 506 S. Frederick Ave.
 Gaithersburg, MD
 301-258-6350

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
 November 2, 2018 - January 15, 2019
 Artists Reception November 8, 7-8:30 p.m.

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Painting Workshop in Bruges
August 5-9, 2019

Glen Kessler is currently gauging interest for running a 5-day painting workshop at The Flemish Classical Atelier in Bruges, Belgium. This 5-day workshop will take students on a walking tour through the city of Bruges to gather photographs, teach Photoshop techniques for readying images for painting, then take students step-by-step through the process of creating their own masterwork. If there is interest, our group can also coordinate trips to museums, dining, and accommodations together.


If you are interested in going or learning more, please e-mail Glen at TheCompassAtelier@gmail.com to be added to our pre-registration list. We would need 15 participants to run the trip.

Kritt Studio Classes

Drawing Animals
Tuesday, October 30
(Morning and Evening classes)

Painting Landscapes
Monday, October 29
(Morning and Evening classes)

Advanced Groups and Private Lessons
For more info: call Penny at 301/989-1799



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HOW DO YOU CAPTURE LOVE IN A PAINTING?

A pet portrait from master portraitist Glen Kessler gets pretty close.

Glen Kessler is accepting commissions now for the holidays. Glen has done over 200 pet portrait commissions including one for Cesar Milan, "The Dog Whisperer." Glen's work is known for its vibrant brushwork, elegant color, and emotional power.



It takes time to craft a work of art, so act now to get an UNFORGETTABLE gift for you and your family this season.

EMOTIONAL DEPTH

Glen Kessler's pet portraits are known for their emotional depth. Glen takes the time to get to know



you and your pet, then uses his skills to give you more than just a picture of what your pet looks like. You'll have a painting that captures your pet's spirit and mood.

QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP

Glen is a professionally trained artist with over 2 decades of experience. Glen uses only archival materials to craft your portrait. High quality oil paints and stretched canvas are used for each piece. Glen works to the highest standard of quality to create an image that will awe and inspire forever.

AN HEIRLOOM



When you capture a family member in paint on canvas, you are creating a family heirloom and a work of art that will be cherished for decades to come.



To commission your painting for the holidays, please contact:
glenkesslerart@gmail.com



GLENVIEW MANSION CONFERENCE ROOM SHOWS

You can show your artwork in Glenview Mansion for one month if you have received a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or honorable mention award in an RAL juried show. Artists may have both rooms to exhibit in if a second artist doesn't sign up for the same month within two months of the show's start date. The receptions at Glenview mansion are 1:30-3:30 PM on the Sunday after hanging. Preferred drop off and pick up times for Glenview Shows are from 9 am to 12 noon. Drop off/pickups are Mondays (unless a holiday). If you are unavailable on the date for pickup, please arrange for someone to pick up for you. There is no room to store your artwork at the Mansion. If you are unable to drop off/pick up on the assigned dates and you can't find someone else to drop off/pick up for you, please choose a month in which you can make those dates.

For artwork delivery, please unwrap your work and take the wrappings with you. Please bring pliers (needle nose are easy to work with). You may use the hand truck that is at the Mansion to move your artwork from your vehicle. There is no staff at the mansion available to help you move your artwork into the conference rooms. You are responsible for hanging your own artwork, with help from the Mansion staff. If you don't have labels for your work, please fill out the RAL cards that will be available. If you print your own, print them on card stock. Do not use the sticky Avery labels, unless you adhere them to foam core or card stock. **Contact Diane Jeang, Glenview Member Show Coordinator, (301) 871-1589 or chickendoc44@gmail.com with questions.**

Monday delivery and hanging: 12PM–2PM & 5-7PM/ Sunday Gallery Opening: 1:30—3:30PM

Monday Pick up: before 11AM

Glenview Mansion Schedule				
	Member(s)	Mon &/or Tues Deliver 12-2&5-7	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30-3:30	Monday Pick-up Before 11 am
2018				
	Member(s)	Drop-Off	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30-3:30	Pick-up
AUG/DEC	Closed			
2019				
	Member(s)	Mon &/or Tues Deliver 12-2&5-7	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30-3:30	Monday Pick-up Before 11 am
JAN	Closed			
FEB	RAL Winter Show			
FEB/MAR	Student Art Show			
MAR/APR	Joanie Grosfield/ Teresa Hull			
MAY/JUNE	RAL Spring Show			
JUNE/JULY	Lisa Sieg/Mike Kuchinsky			
AUG/SEPT	Board Members Show			
SEPT/OCT	Nighat Ahmed			
OCT/NOV	Cathy McDermott/ Susan Dunnell			
DEC	RAL Winter Show			

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2020				
JAN/FEB	Diane Jeang			
FEB/MAR	Student Art Show			
MAR/APR				
MAY/JUNE	RAL Spring Show			
JUNE/JULY				
AUG/SEPT	Board Members Show			
SEPT/OCT				
OCT/NOV	Stephanie Gustavson/ Sue Moses			
DEC	RAL Winter Show			

For additional information for members hanging in the conference rooms, please refer to the RAL web page: <http://www.rockvilleartleague.org/glenview.pdf>

At least one platter of finger foods (cookies, crackers/cheese, veggies/dip) should be supplied by the RAL artist on the day of the opening reception. Cups/napkins/water are provided by the City of Rockville for opening receptions. The Mansion will be open at 1 pm for the artist on the day of the opening reception.

RAL Ongoing Show List

Twinbrook Library – 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Shows for the library run from 1st of the month to the end of the month for 1 month shows. 5 medium to large paintings, Contact person: Christine Lundy, 240-777-0252.

Christine.lundy@montgomerycountymd.gov

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Open	Nov. 1, 2018	Dec. 1, 2018

Thomas Farm Community Center – 700 Fallsgrave Drive, Rockville, Maryland

12-16 medium to large paintings, Contact person: Martha Coester (240) 314-8842.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Open	Nov. 15, 2018	Dec. 15, 2018

Marilyn J. Praisner Library – 14910 Old Columbia Road, Burtonsville, Maryland

10 small to medium or 5-6 large paintings (10 hanging chains), Contact person: (240) 773-9455, Vera Ramaty

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Open	Nov. 15, 2017	Dec. 15, 2018

RAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Position	E-mail
Patrick Sieg	<i>President</i>	president@rockvilleartleague.org
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Michael Auger	<i>Webmaster</i>	webmaster@rockvilleartleague.org
Eileen Mader	<i>Founder</i>	

Rockville Art League
P.O. Box 4026
Rockville, MD 20850

