



RockvilleArtLeague.org

Vol. XXX No. 10

June 2021

NEXT MEETING: Virtual Meeting: Thursday, June 3, 7—8:30 PM
Glen Kessler, “The Art of Critiquing Fine Art”
On Zoom

Message from the President, Patrick Sieg

Dear Rockville Art League Artists,

Our 2021 Spring Juried Show is up and running, virtually.

It is beautiful and I hope you will view it many times (there is a lot to see and it gets better every time) and that you will share it with your family, friends and neighbors.

Lisa Sieg devoted many, many hours leading, organizing and polishing this exhibit and without her efforts we would not have a show like this, thank you.

Our judge Renee Sandell made very difficult choices regarding which pieces would be included and then deciding which would be recognized with awards. That work was hard and her choices were inspired.

And so much credit for our beautiful show goes to you, our artist members who took the chance and entered this juried show. You knew from past shows that there would be much competition for acceptance and that the standards would be high. You entered your best work and crossed your fingers. Lisa and I viewed the work as it was entered and we can honestly say that all submissions were prize

worthy...those that were unfortunately juried out, those that were included and, of course, the outstanding pieces that were recognized with prizes.

I am feeling confident that in the winter, our next juried show will be both virtual and displayed in person at the Glenview Mansion art gallery.

The spring show is usually the final event in our RAL September to August year.

This year we will have a bonus event. Award winning artist and member Paula Zeller has organized a peer art review and critique process titled “Critique Seek.”

On June 3rd noted artist and owner of the Compass Atelier, Glen Kessler, will meet with us via Zoom to share his thoughts on what makes a critique helpful and how the feedback provided by your friends and fellow artists can make a real difference.

Personally, my work benefits enormously from (and really needs) honest feedback and a different point of view. The opportunity for me to step back and listen is a gift (so is the advice). I am grateful when someone is willing to take the time to share their thoughts and help me to become better.

More on “Critique Seek” is included later in our newsletter.

I like to include quotes in my President’s messages. I hope you don’t mind if I repeat quotes that I find meaningful once in a while. As we emerge, finally, from a year of pandemic and lockdowns, I find that the quote below is particularly meaningful...

“Rich colours actually look more luminous on a grey day, because they are seen against a somber background and seem to be burning with a lustre of their own. Against a dark sky all flowers look like fireworks” -- G. K. Chesterton, “The Glory of Grey.”

Your art has made our world a better place and will continue to do so moving forward. Beautiful art lifts the spirit, inspires us and your creativity is a simply a joy to behold.

Patrick Sieg
President

Rockville Art League 2021 Speaker Series

“The Art of Critiquing Fine Art” by Glen Kessler: Zoom, Thursday, June 3, 7-8:30 PM

Glen Kessler, renowned artist, teacher, and founder of The Compass Atelier, will share his techniques and tips for critiquing art during a special Zoom presentation on **Thursday, June 3, at 7 PM**. You will come away with a new understanding of what works and what doesn’t – not only in others’ artworks, but in your own as well.

To demonstrate his process, Glen will critique some works-in-progress by RAL members. If you would like to participate, please send a photo of your piece to critiques@rockvilleartleague.org no later than **May 31**. Please also submit any questions you might have for Glen about

critiquing. There will be opportunities for Glen to answer additional questions during the evening.

Glen is helping us kick off a new RAL initiative, **Critique Seek**. Please check out the article in this issue, and watch your inbox, for more information. Questions? Contact critiques@rockvilleartleague.org.

Renee Sandell Judge’s Statement for RAL Juried Members’ Spring Show 2021

I am deeply honored to be guest juror of The Rockville Art League Spring 2021 Member’s Show. I enjoyed reviewing the wide range of visual explorations and processes, categorized by oils and acrylics, watercolors, pastels and drawings, mixed media, collage, and experimental, sculpture, photographs. My goal in judging the art was to look deeply and listen carefully to the expression of each artist’s “visual voice”—its clarity, passion, depth, and relevance in 2021.

As an artist and educator, I am concerned with a Balanced Way of Seeing[®] of the Form+Theme+Context (FTC)[®]. Perhaps some of you heard my October 1, 2020 RAL evening Zoom presentation to explore Resilience as revealed in Hokusai’s *The Great Wave* and our Pandemic-influenced lives. We used FTC to decode a work of art in search of discovering its deepest meanings.

As I reviewed the wide range of submissions, I sought to understand these pieces by discerning the following features:

- **Formal Qualities** including actual composition, art elements, design principles, size, scale, use of media, processes, technique, skills, and style.
- **Thematic Qualities** including the concepts, subject matter (people, places, and/or things) expressed through the artist’s unique point of view, along with relationships to ideas in art history, literature, and other subjects.

- **Contextual Qualities** including the fact that these submissions were created, submitted, and reviewed during this time of Pandemic isolation and its aftermath, while seeking different aspects of the significance and relevance of this artwork. Ultimately, it is the unique combination of **how** each artist's Form+Theme+Context work together to create a powerful visual statement that will deeply engage the viewer in meaningful

thought and feeling. Congratulations to all RAL members for contributing to such a special spring art exhibition. Because it was hard to choose award winners with so many inspirational images revealing personal vision and skills, I want to emphatically encourage everyone to keep creating and showing your artwork.

Rockville Art League Spring 2021 Show - Award Winners


Award	Title	Artist:
Best in Show	Sun Flowers No. 3	Patricia Zannie



<u>Oils and Acrylics</u>			
First Prize	<i>Haven</i>	John	Weber

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Second Prize	<i>Determined</i>	Isabella	Martire
Third Prize	<i>Hope Exists Above</i>	Robin	Lazarus-Berlin
Honorable Mention	<i>Beautiful Dissonance</i>	Michele	Morgan
Honorable Mention	<i>Cliff Walk</i>	Jennifer	Howard
Honorable Mention	<i>Making Marks</i>	Ruthann	Uithol
Honorable Mention	<i>Rising Tide</i>	Sally	Davies
Honorable Mention	<i>Sunrise at the Lake</i>	Ken	Bachman

<u>Watercolors</u>			
First Prize	<i>Shadows on Display</i>	Cecile	Kirkpatrick
			
Second Prize	<i>Great Grandmother</i>	Lily	Kak
Third Prize	<i>Remembrance</i>	Barbara	Bell
Honorable Mention	<i>Milan Red Carpet Walk</i>	Angela	Lacy
Honorable Mention	<i>Swallowtail's Feast</i>	Alexandra	Treadaway Hoare

Drawing, Pastels and Hand-Pulled Prints

First Prize

I Found Myself in a Boat in the Middle of the Woods

Linda

Sherman



Second

Self-Portrait During the Pandemic

Kathleen

Carroll

Third Prize

Lost in Thought

Joanie

Grosfeld

Honorable Mention

River of Gold

Joanne

Lamm

Mixed Media, Collage, Experimental and Original Computer-Generated Art

First Prize

In the Garden Again

Myra

Ryan



Second Prize

Tower of Babel

Stacy

Yochum

Third Prize

Ray and Billy Go Hunting the Horny Back Toad

Bill

Johnson

Honorable Mention

Back Home After School

Sarah
Maria

Sohraby

Honorable Mention

Healing

Teresa

Comacho Hull

Sculptures and Ceramics

First Prize

Petulance

Pearl

Chang



Second Prize

The New Normal

Floyd

Roberts

Third Prize

Celtic Form

Barbara

Meima

Honorable Mention

Solitude: Morning Practice during COVID-19

Pearl

Chang

Photographs

First Prize

Guardians

Cecelia

Laurendeau



Second Prize	<i>Snake River with Tetons</i>	Howard	Clark
Third Prize	<i>Bouquet of Butterflies</i>	Lisa	Sieg
Honorable Mention	<i>Bulsby "Buzz" Duncan, Abstract Artist</i>	Larry	Levine
Honorable Mention	<i>Hiking in Arizona</i>	Merry	Lymn

Introducing “Critique Seek”

Have you ever asked for feedback on a piece you knew needed work, but all they said was, “It’s great!”? Or, the comments focused only on what was “wrong”? Neither is very helpful, and neither is what a real critique is all about.

If you want to improve your ability to give and get productive feedback; establish ties with RAL artists with interests similar, or complementary, to your own; and enhance your artistic vision and output, consider participating in Critique Seek.

Critique Seek is:

- An ongoing, frequently updated list of RAL artists who wish to form or join small (2+ members) critique groups.
- A source for expert advice (such as Glen Kessler in his June 3 Zoom talk; see this issue for more info) and resources.
- Open to RAL members only.

Here’s how Critique Seek works:

- To become a Critique Seek (CS) member, interested RAL members answer a series of questions (such as preferred subjects and materials), which will be entered into a spreadsheet. The CS application will be emailed to all members soon.
- New CS members will be sent the most recently updated spreadsheet. CS members may request updated spreadsheets at any time.
- CS members contact others on the spreadsheet, form groups, and make group-related decisions on their own.

- If a CS member joins a group and finds it is not the right fit, they can request an updated list and continue looking. There is no obligation for CS members to join a group, though we do hope you find a group that is helpful for you.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact critiques@rockvilleartleague.org Watch your inbox for your Critique Seek application. We hope you will give it a try!



Art by: Karen Merkin, Simin Parvaz and Stephanie Gustavson

Pandemic Paintings & Corona Creations



Cecelia Laurendeau created an oil painting, “Stage Ready,” during the pandemic. Her comment about it is as follows: “This is not my typical landscape subject. I was drawn to the cheeriness of the bright colors and softness of the fabric. More subconsciously though, I was probably missing closeness.”

Requirements:

- Please send one image of a piece of art that you have created during the pandemic. (It does not have to be about it, but it could.)
- You may include a brief comment or a title along with your name.
- Please share something you are proud of.
- If selected, your work would appear in the next newsletter.
- Please send to: Susan Dunnell
newsletter@rockvilleartleague.org
and Patrick Sieg
president@rockvilleartleague.org

(Note: inclusion in the newsletter does not preclude work from being entered into our Juried Shows.)

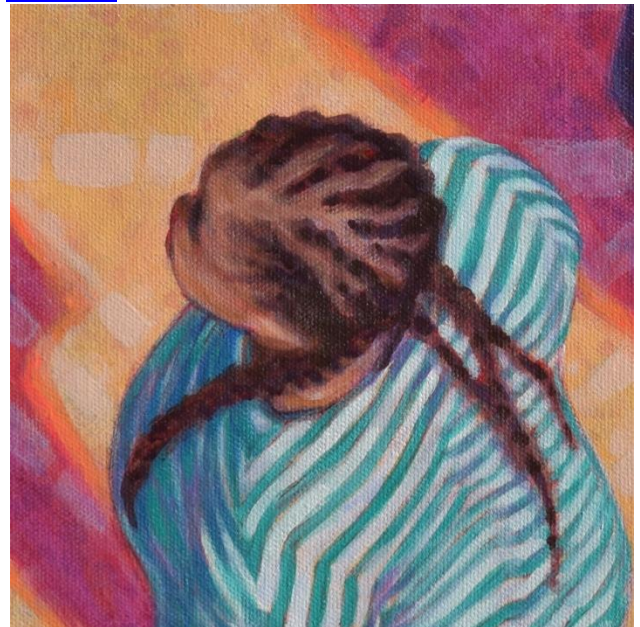
MEMBER NEWS

Sally Davies has a solo exhibit at Publick Playhouse Gallery, Cheverly, MD from April 1- May 20, 2021. The hosts, Maryland National Parks and Planning MNCPPC, made a video tour of the exhibit. Here’s the link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FzJOJRNyJA25sqrFB8Bvtsybdn44WGgf7/view>

Sally’s time-lapse film, “Labyrinth of Life,” was awarded a Rose Video Award by Greenbelt Access Television. It also was awarded Honorable Mention at the National Juried Exhibit at Delaplaine Arts Center, Frederick, Maryland. Link to the film:

https://youtu.be/tlSz3JMT_a4 The National Juried Exhibit is on display from May 1 – July 11, 2021. The juror was Margaret Winslow (Curator of the Delaware Art Museum. The gallery is open to the public with masks and social distancing. Here’s the link to see a virtual tour of the exhibit and to hear the juror talk: <https://delaplaine.org/exhibitions/current-exhibits/>



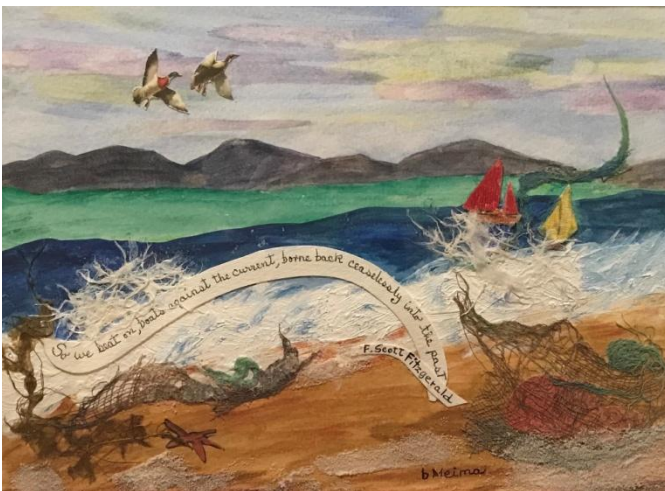
Sally’s canvas painting, “Hope: Thank you Stacey Abrams,” was awarded Honorable Mention at the Line by Line Juried Exhibit, The

Art League, Torpedo Factory (Mar 11 - Apr 4, 2021) Juror: Jordann Wine.



In addition, her painting, “Hidden Treasure,” was juried into the LAG Open which is on display at Montpelier Arts Center, Laurel, MD from May 4-30, 2021.

Barbara Meima received ‘Honorable Mention’ for “The Currents,” mixed media/collage, in the April 2021 Chevy Chase Women’s Club Art Show judged by Jack Rasmussen, Director/Curator of the Katzen Art Center, American University.



Mike Kuchinsky has a piece entitled, “Stitched Light,” in the digital “Joseph Miller exhibit” show—near the end—and another RAL member **Cecelia Laurendeau** has two pieces, “Assembly Line,” and “Zapped” in this exhibit as well. Here is the link for the show: <http://nvacc.org/home/11th-annual-joseph-miller-abstract-photography-exhibit/> Viewers are invited to vote for one piece.

Sarah Sohraby’s painting, “Sliver,” is showing at the 52nd annual Laurel Art League Juried Exhibition in the Montpelier Art Center until the end of May. Acrylic on wood panel, 15"x25".

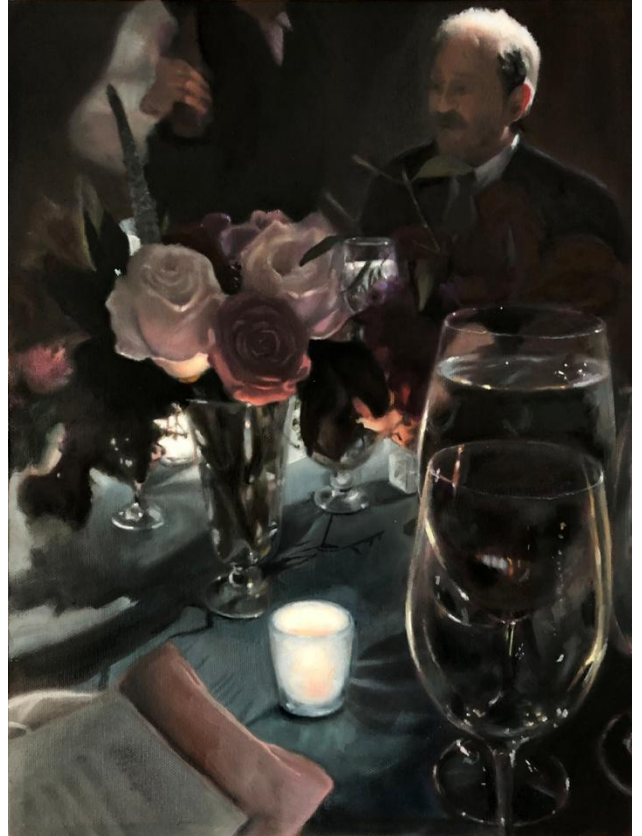


Lily Kak received an Honorable Mention Award for her watercolor painting, “Black Lives Matter: Vote for Change,” at the 2021 Woman’s Club of Chevy Chase Community Art Show.




Along with the RAL Juried Spring Show, **Paula Zeller** is participating in three additional shows. The South-Atlantic Juried Exhibition (Montpelier Center, VA, until July 14) includes the three works she submitted.




“Reflective,” shown here, is one of three of Paula’s paintings on view in the [Oil Painters of America Spring Online Showcase](#). Paula’s painting “Checking In” is part of the Montgomery Art Association’s Creative Expressions online exhibition, June 1-July 31.




Howard Clark recently donated 180 of his matted and framed exhibition photographs to Blue Star Families – a military service organization with a chapter in the D.C. area.

 **The Compass Atelier**

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Is your art included in a show? Have other news you wish to share with RAL members? Please send your submissions by the **15th** of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter, to: newsletter@rockvilleartleague.org

GLENVIEW MANSION CONFERENCE ROOM SHOWS

Please note: Glenview Mansion will remain closed until further notice and all shows scheduled for the 2021 winter/spring have been cancelled - and will be rescheduled once Glenview can safely open up again.

Structure of Monthly Shows: Conference Room Shows run concurrently with Main Gallery Shows, opening and closing on the same dates. Reception is same date and time as Main Gallery Shows.



RAL Ongoing Show List

Currently all these venues are closed due to COVID-19 social distancing policies.

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>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Open		

Thomas Farm Community Center – 700 Falls Grove Drive, Rockville, Maryland

12-16 medium to large paintings, Contact person: Melinda Norton (240) 314-8842.
email: mnorton@rockvillemd.gov

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Open		

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		

RAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Position	E-mail
Patrick Sieg	<i>President</i>	president@rockvilleartleague.org
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