



RockvilleArtLeague.org

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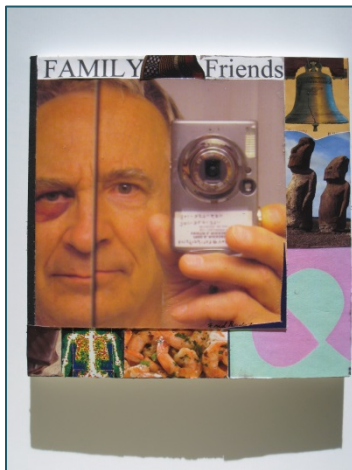
October 2015

**NEXT MEETING: October 1st, 6:30PM**  
**Jean Hirons, PSA: “Creating a Useful Underpainting:  
A Demonstration in Pastel”**

## Message from the President, Fred Ruckdeschel

Dear Fellow Artists and Art Lovers,

RAL member Jorge Bernal began RAL’s 2015-16 year with an educational and *useful*



presentation at our September meeting. With slides, he covered the basic materials and tools he uses with encaustic.

Following that, he demonstrated the use of a hotbox to melt waxes on the top surface of the box and then the actual printing of

an encaustic monoprint.

All those who wished to create a monoprint on the spot had the opportunity. I expect my own monoprint to be used as the base of a collage, somewhat akin to an underpainting, I suspect.

Which brings me to our program at the members’ meeting on October 1 from 6:30 PM to about 8:30 PM.

Jean Hirons, PSA, will demonstrate how to create a *useful* underpainting. A brief bio of Ms. Hirons and more on her presentation are in this Newsletter, below.

Personally, I expect Ms. Hirons will present information that I will be able to adapt to enhance my own collages, which usually include a variety of media, including oil pastels, and recently a bit of encaustic.

I am looking forward to her presentation, which, I believe, will compliment what I learned from Jorge about encaustic. I never know how new ideas or old ones from another person’s perspective can help me along in my artistic life or life in general.

I hope to see many of you at the Mansion on the First.

Fred Ruckdeschel  
RAL President

**October's Speaker: Jean Hirons, PSA**  
**CREATING A USEFUL UNDERPAINTING: A**  
**DEMONSTRATION IN PASTEL**

The use of an underpainting is one of the most popular ways of working in soft pastel.

There are many ways of doing an underpainting and few rules. The most important thing is that it be *useful*. Jean Hirons, an artist who has worked exclusively in the medium for over twenty years, will define what makes an underpainting useful to her. She will discuss the importance of value shapes, and the various possibilities of color choices. Jean will then complete the painting (as time allows).

Jean has been teaching pastel since 2004. She taught the pastel class at Montgomery College (Rockville campus) for seven years, between 2005 and 2012. She now teaches at Washington ArtWorks, where she maintains a large studio. Her upcoming classes begin on Monday Sept. 28, just before this demonstration.

Jean is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America and a member of the Master Circle of the International Association of Pastel Societies. Her work is represented in galleries in Fort Lauderdale and in New England.



**WE NEED YOUR HELP: JOIN THE**  
**MEMBERS SHOW COMMITTEE!**

It's time again to start planning for the upcoming RAL Members Show at Glenview Mansion. The show opens December 6, but there is lots of work to do up until then.

Please consider joining the Members Show Committee to get a behind-the-scenes look at how we create these shows and help out! The Committee has no formal meetings and conducts its business over email. Committee members agree to take on volunteer responsibilities leading up to the show including selecting and communicating with the juror, soliciting volunteers to help with registration and hanging, writing show announcements for the RAL newsletter, insuring all necessary materials are in place for registration & hanging days, calling winners, writing ribbons, etc.

The Committee is a lot of fun and gives you valuable insights into how these shows are organized. I hope you will consider joining us this year! (If being on the Committee seems like too much for you, please be sure to sign up for one of the general volunteer opportunities that fit with your schedule. Look out for the volunteer listings at the RAL meetings, in the newsletter and via email.)

Below are the dates for the December show so you can get them on your calendars (Runs from December 6-31):

Dec. 1 Tuesday: Registration (12-2 and 5-7)

Dec. 2 Wednesday: Judging, Ribbon Writing, Calling Winners (9 am – 2pm)

Dec. 3 Thursday: Hanging and Labeling (9-11 and 2-4), and Pick Up of Unaccepted Works (12-2 and 5-7)

Dec. 4 Friday: Finish up any work for hanging (9-until 12)

Dec. 6, Sunday: Opening Reception 1:30-3:30PM

\*Please contact Martha Campos:  
ximenace@verizon.net\*

Jan. 4, Monday: Final Pick-Up (12-2 and 5-7)

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Emily Pearce: [ekepearce@gmail.com](mailto:ekepearce@gmail.com)

### UNDERSTUDY WANTED!

Emily Pearce is looking for an understudy interested in learning how to lead the Members Show Committee. Due to family obligations, Emily will not be able to be Members Show Committee Chair after the 2015-2016 RAL programmatic year. Emily would like an energetic, detail-oriented person who is willing to take on the responsibility of chairing the Show Committee starting in the 2016-2017 RAL programmatic year. Emily is willing to work closely with this volunteer to demonstrate what the Chair does to help makes the RAL Members Shows a reality, answer questions, and assist with pitfalls along the way. Please contact Emily Pearce: [ekepearce@gmail.com](mailto:ekepearce@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for September 1, 2015 through 2016 are **\$35.00**. Dues increase to \$40 after October 31. Please pay on the web site or send your check (made payable to RAL) to: Susan Dunnell, 11215 Dewey Road, Kensington, MD 20895. Thank you!

*(Couldn't resist adding a little Hallowe'en cheer in this October newsletter.)*



### Critique by Penny Kritt

#### Should Brush Strokes Be Visible?

Put some paint on a brush and move it around in a shape. That's all there is to painting, right? Alas, no. How you use your brush, how it moves in your hand, how it's loaded with paint and what you're painting on all help determine what success you can achieve.

Choosing to eliminate brush strokes or use them to show form or a pattern is a option you can use to add a layer of sophistication to your work.

If drawing is your thing, your technique will be different, but the end result of whether to show "the artist's hand" is the same. Choose wisely!

#### Watercolor:

When you work quickly with a very wet brush, you won't see brush strokes. Working with less than large puddles may make your strokes visible.

#### Oils and Acrylics (O/A):

Although oil and acrylic paints *can* be thicker than watercolor, there are still a lot of similarities, especially when you're using paint that has been thinned down with medium or water to create a glaze.

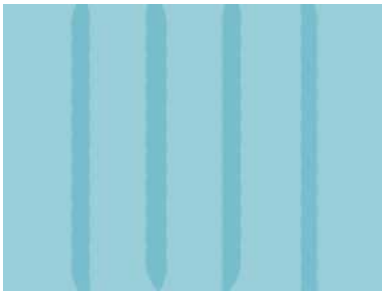
### Random movement vs. connected brush strokes

In *Fig. 1* below, I spread the paint randomly where I needed it to cover the “sky shape”. Brush strokes will be very visible whether you use a thin or thick application of paint.



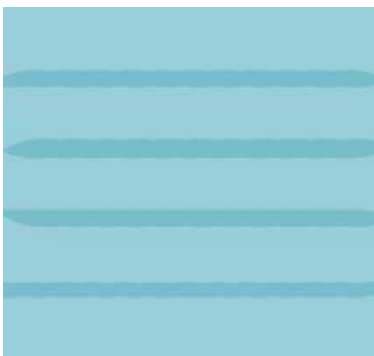
*Fig. 1*

Have you ever painted a sky, but it looked like a waterfall like in *Fig. 2*? In this case, it’s clear that you used vertical brush strokes. *Always paint skies with horizontal strokes.*



*Fig. 2*

When you use O/A, if you apply the paint heavily, you’ll see lines or stripes that show how you moved your brush.



*Fig. 3*

In *Fig. 3* above, now the brush strokes were done in the right direction, but those pesky stripes are back.

The best you can do is hope that you’ve caught the mistake early enough to blend and soften the edges

With watercolors, if you work slowly, paint will dry and leave hard edges before you can connect it to the next stroke. This is especially true when you didn’t make a large enough puddle. Your first strokes are drying while you try (usually unsuccessfully) to make a matching puddle of paint. But, at least with watercolors, you can try to soften the edges of each stroke with a damp (NOT WET!!!!) brush. Or try a small piece of paper towel that’s just damp and use it like an eraser to blend out those pesky hard edges. Before you gamble with the original, test your technique on the edge or on a similar sample to perfect your technique.

**Where blossoms bloom.** Do you sometimes get unwanted shapes like the one below (*Fig 4*). when all you wanted was smooth, consistent color? Those are called generously called “blossoms”. Watercolor paper can buckle and distort when you work really wet. The paper creates its own low spots where more pigment puddles and dries at a slower rate.



*Fig. 4*

You’ll see them start to form. To vanquish them, dry your brush really well and then it will suck up the extra paint in your puddle, just like a vacuum cleaner! Then, if hard edges have formed, use a *barely damp* brush to blend them out.

Here are a few simple ways to avoid visible brush strokes in the first place.

1. **Work quick and with relatively thin paint.** *Be sure you have twice as much paint as you think you’ll need before you start.* While you try to match a color, the paint you already applied is

drying and trying to leave hard edges. *Remember – watercolors tend to dry lighter and acrylics dry darker.*

**2. Prepare your surface before you start to paint.** For O/A, spread clear medium on your canvas or paper. That will make your paint more viscous and easier to spread. For watercolor, dampen the paper first. Wait until the shine disappears but the surface feels cool to the back of your hand. Now dump big brush loads of paint and carefully tilt the paper so the paint runs where you need it. *Voila!* No brush strokes.

Even when you are working on a small project, the directions of your brush strokes matter. In *Fig. 5* below, it's obvious that in petal **1**, the brush strokes moved from side to side. In petal **2**, you can see that the veins start wide where the petal connects to the rest of the flower and then converge down at the tip. And in the "trumpet", the veins start rising straight from the center of the flower and then change direction to show how those petals flatten and ruffle.



*Fig. 5*

**Why It Matters:**

If realism is your thing, visible brush strokes, no matter how subtle, provide important detail that keeps your work from being flat and "cartoonish". In addition to the subjects above, it's critical to show how hair flows in your portraits so you get an accurate hair style. The same works for fur; its movement implies the musculature of the animal.

If you prefer abstract art, brush strokes are even more important. In *Fig. 6* below, both upper sections are calming. Even with the yellow pattern, it is regular and doesn't demand much from the viewer. But when your brush strokes become more irregular, now the viewer becomes more engaged. In the lower left box, why isn't that line straight? Is it a river that meanders or someone staggering? And is the blue box supposed to be expensive granite or maybe it's just splatters from a child artist?



*Fig. 6*

I'm still offering free, gentle critiques for future issues. Just send a jpg of your painting or drawing to [pennykritt@aol.com](mailto:pennykritt@aol.com).

**For classes or private lessons, contact Penny at  
301/989-1799  
©Penny Kritt 2013**

## MEMBER NEWS

### Draw and Paint with Penny Kritt

#### Draw Pets and People

All levels. They're all in your pencil, just waiting to get out. Hair and fur, pudgy baby fingers and paws all use the same easy techniques. Classes at the Kritt Studio offered through Montgomery County Recreation Dept. Morning (No. 7003) and evening (No. 7011) 6 sessions start Tuesday, 11/10/15. For more information, call Penny Kritt at 301/989-1799.

#### Painting Landscapes

All levels. Watercolor and Acrylics. It's easy to paint your favorite season. Capture bright fall trees, ski slopes and then on to flowers in the spring. Classes at the Kritt Studio offered through Montgomery County Recreation Dept. Morning (No. 7008) and evening (No. 7009) 6 sessions start Monday, 11/9/15. For more information, call Penny Kritt at 301/989-1799.

## TWO DAY ENCAUSTIC MONOTYPES WORKSHOP

Jorge Bernal

*I love the encaustic monotype painting process. It is fun, simple and fast. I encourage you to experiment with this medium and make it your own.—Jorge Bernal*



Saturday & Sunday 10AM to 4PM  
Location: Washington Art-Works  
12278 Wilkins Avenue  
Rockville MD 20852  
October 3 & 4  
November 7 & 8



Giclée Printing & Photography  
Create Fine Art Reproductions of Your Artwork on Watercolor Paper or Canvas

A Work of Art by Debra Halprin

.11 cents per sq. inch on paper  
.14 cents per sq. inch on canvas  
\$35 Photography Fee - Includes Proofs and Color Enhancements

[For All Your Giclée Printing Needs](http://www.Halprinart.com)  
[www.Halprinart.com](http://www.Halprinart.com)  
301-260-9701

### Workshop will cover:

- Equipment required to do encaustic monotypes
- Materials, techniques, and knowledge needed to experience this process
- Making encaustic medium
- Encaustic color stick making process
- Paper types, quality and absorbencies
- Work surfaces: Wood cradled panel substrates, and gesso applications
- Painting & drawing techniques, color stick applications, mark making
- The creative process, ideas and concepts
- Health and safety

**Format:** Lecture and demonstrations: We will experiment with several types of papers and scrolls. Introduce new tools (mark making), stamps, soft lead pencils, charcoal, rubber tipped tools, stencils, plastic grid material, bubble wrap in a variety of sizes, soft kitchen utensils, scrapers, clay-modeling tools, etc. We will do additive and subtractive processes, and try various tools and plate temperatures in order to become comfortable with the many possibilities. All this will include plenty of time to paint! Each day we will have Q & A time and a critique of the work.

**COST:** \$325.00 tax and supplies included. A list of small tools and incidentals for students to bring will be sent prior to the class.

**Class limited to 8.** If you have any questions, please email me: [jorgeluisbernal@gmail.com](mailto:jorgeluisbernal@gmail.com)

**Jorge Bernal at ENO Wine Bar  
Exhibit**

2810 Pennsylvania Ave  
NW, Washington, DC

**Contemporary Landscapes  
October 1st to November 30th  
Reception Friday October 2nd,  
6:00 to 7:00PM**



“Varadero” 36”X 24” Encaustic Monotype on wood panel

## ART OPPORTUNITIES

### LANDSCAPE PAINTING WORKSHOP



**The Arts Club of Washington**  
2017 I Street NW, Washington, D.C.

**2015 FALL SESSION/Sept. 23 – Nov. 18**  
9 sessions - \$175, single sessions \$25 per class  
Wednesdays 10-1/Instructor Pattee Hipschen  
[www.patteehipschen.com](http://www.patteehipschen.com)

This class is structured to accommodate all artistic levels from the beginner to the intermediate. Students learn ways to improve their paintings through composition, color and technique using both oil and acrylic paint. Instruction includes individual focus as well as short demos. Students bring their own photographs or other reference materials, as needed. Please e-mail [patteepower@msn.com](mailto:patteepower@msn.com) with questions and/or to reserve a session.

**Northern Virginia Art Center's new Specials Exhibitions space.** The Northern Virginia Art Center is searching for talented professional artists with a cohesive body of work to exhibit in their new Special Exhibitions space in the heart of Crystal City's thriving restaurant district. 380 square feet of gleaming exhibition space available for monthly exhibits of 2D or 3D art! Their full time gallery staff will assist in exhibit installation, process sales of your work, and will coordinate your opening

reception, all for a small fee and low sales commission.

**Eligibility:** Open; **Deadline:** Ongoing  
**Entry Fee:** N/A

[http://novaartcenter.org/our-mission/show-opportunities/?utm\\_source=PROJECTOR%206-27-13&utm\\_campaign=Projector&utm\\_medium=email](http://novaartcenter.org/our-mission/show-opportunities/?utm_source=PROJECTOR%206-27-13&utm_campaign=Projector&utm_medium=email)

### **Rockville Innovation Center Call for Entries**

Rockville Innovation Center is interested in showcasing the work of local artists in their gorgeous location. The RIC is looking to fill its beautiful space with artwork by metro area artists and photographers.

<http://www.visartsatrockville.org/call-for-entries/feast>

**Eligibility:** Open; **Deadline:** Ongoing  
**Entry Fee:** N/A

**DC Photo Grid.** The DC Photo Grid is an aggregated map of the city generated from user-submitted photographs, and the DC Crowd-Sourced Video Project offers a constantly looping portrait of the city as viewed by its inhabitants.

[http://www.dcphtogrid.com/?utm\\_source=PROJECTOR+6-27-13&utm\\_campaign=Projector&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.dcphtogrid.com/?utm_source=PROJECTOR+6-27-13&utm_campaign=Projector&utm_medium=email)

**Eligibility:** Open; **Deadline:** Ongoing/**Entry Fee:** N/A



**GLENVIEW MANSION CONFERENCE ROOM SHOWS**

You can show your artwork in Glenview Mansion for one month if you have received a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 swinedoc@yahoo.com with questions.** If you need to contact Julie Farrell, please send an email tojfarrell@rockvillemd.gov.

Monday delivery and hanging: 9AM–12PM / Sunday Gallery Opening: 1:30—3:30PM

Wednesday-Monday Pick up: 9AM—11AM

<b>2015</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>	Monday (generally) Deliver and Hang Before 12 noon	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30 – 3:30 pm	Wednesday (generally) Pick- up Before 11 am
<b>SEP</b>	Lillian Blom (2)	Aug. 24	Sept. 1	Sept. 28
<b>OCT</b>	<b>Eric Gross (2)</b>	Sept. 28	Oct. 4	Oct. 26
<b>NOV</b>	Regina Price	Oct. 26	Nov. 1	Nov. 30
<b>DEC</b>	RAL Winter Show	Nov. 30	Dec. 6	Jan. 4
<b>2016</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>	Monday (generally) Deliver and Hang Before 12 noon	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30 – 3:30 pm	Wednesday Pick- up Before 11 am
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Sabiho Iqbal</b>	Jan. 4	Jan. 10	Feb. 1
<b>FEB</b>	<b>Carlos Garcia (2)</b>	Feb. 1	Feb. 7	Feb. 26 (9-11 am)
<b>MAR</b>	<b>Student Art Show</b>	Feb. 28	March 6	March 24
<b>APR</b>	<b>Fred Ruckdeschel (2)</b>	March 28	April 3	April 25
<b>MAY</b>	<b>RAL Spring Show</b>	April 25	May 1	May 25
<b>JUN</b>	<b>Board Member's Show</b>	May 31	June 5	June 27
<b>JUL</b>	<b>Diane Jeang</b>	June 27	July 10	Aug. 1
<b>AUG</b>		Aug. 1	Aug. 7	Aug. 29
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Jorge Bernal (2)</b>	Aug. 29	Sept. 11	Oct. 3
<b>OCT</b>	<b>Linda Greigg + Suzie</b>	Oct. 3	Oct. 9	Oct. 31

**Rockville Art League Newsletter October 2015**

	<b>Weiss (2)</b>			
<b>NOV</b>		Oct. 31	Nov. 6	Nov. 28
<b>DEC</b>	<b>RAL Winter Show</b>	11/28&29	Dec. 4	Dec. 30

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 is 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.

**Glenview/Open Show Coordinator:** Diane Jeang, (301) 871-1589 E-mail: [swinedoc@yahoo.com](mailto:swinedoc@yahoo.com)

***RAL ONGOING SHOW LIST***

**Twinbrook Library - 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville, Maryland**

Shows are now 1 month in length. 5 medium to large paintings, Contact person: Chris Lindy (240)-777-0240, [christinelundy@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:christinelundy@montgomerycountymd.gov)

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
open	Aug. 15, 2015	Dec. 15, 2015

**Thomas Farm Community Center – 700 Falls Grove 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>
Valthea Fry	Oct. 15, 2015	Jan. 15, 2016

**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	Oct. 15, 2015	Dec. 15, 2015

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**RAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<i>President</i>	Fred Ruckdeschel	301-320-3911	<a href="mailto:fred.ruckdeschel.and.art@gmail.com">fred.ruckdeschel.and.art@gmail.com</a>
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<i>Treasurer</i>	Patricia Zannie	301-962-8581	<a href="mailto:patriciacollages@yahoo.com">patriciacollages@yahoo.com</a>
<i>Secretary</i>	Emily Pearce	919-699-2547	<a href="mailto:ekepearce@gmail.com">ekepearce@gmail.com</a>
<i>Membership</i>	Susan Dunnell	301-949-1514	<a href="mailto:dunnz@erols.com">dunnz@erols.com</a>
<i>RAL Juried Show Coordinator</i>	Emily Pearce	919-699-2547	<a href="mailto:ekepearce@gmail.com">ekepearce@gmail.com</a>
<i>Publicity/marketing</i>	VACANT		
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<i>Open Shows</i>	Diane Jeang	301-871-1589	<a href="mailto:swinedoc@yahoo.com">swinedoc@yahoo.com</a>
<i>Glenview Member Shows</i>	Diane Jeang	301-871-1589	<a href="mailto:swinedoc@yahoo.com">swinedoc@yahoo.com</a>
<i>Historian</i>	Patria Baranski	301-424-6193	<a href="mailto:geowell7@hotmail.com">geowell7@hotmail.com</a>
<i>Hospitality</i>	Martha Campos	301-251-0643	<a href="mailto:ximenace@verizon.net">ximenace@verizon.net</a>
<i>Webmaster</i>	Michael Auger	202-670-2789	<a href="mailto:RAL@arty4ever.com">RAL@arty4ever.com</a>
<i>Founder, Honorary Lifetime Member</i>	Eileen Mader	301-762-6458	

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