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PRESS RELEASE

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The Del Ray Artisans (DRA) and the T.C. Williams High School (TCW) Art Department jointly will present their 12th Annual Student Art show at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, from Friday, May 1, 2009 through Sunday, May 17th, 2009. Its opening reception will be from 7pm to 10pm on Friday, May 1st. All are welcome to come see the work of Alexandria's talented young artists. Admission to the reception and the gallery is free of charge and the facility is wheelchair accessible.

The exhibiting students, juniors and seniors in the high school art department, are all members of the National Art Honor Society, selected upon recommendation by their teacher after completing two years of art classes (Art 1 and Art 2) and showing exemplary achievement. Much of the work exhibited is retained for the student's portfolio, submitted in application to art schools after graduation from high school. Many past students are now working professionally in some aspect of the art business. Some individuals are now: special effects artist -- web designer -- fashion designer -- animator -- sculptor -- or art teacher. This annual event showcases Alexandria's artists of the future.

This is the valedictory year for Patricia Lewis, the energetic and inspiring TCW art teacher who for 12 years has helped her students rise to the remarkable achievements evident in this and previous exhibitions. Asked to summarize her experience with the annual DRA/TCW collaboration, Dr. Lewis writes:

> "One of the most inspiring things about this show is that it is community based. We are a public school art program working with a local community art center. Our programs are all about art as well as education, and we both strive to create a vibrant, productive and collaborative atmosphere. I am proud to live in a city that understands, appreciates, and recognizes the importance of the visual arts in our culture and for our children.
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> "Twelve years ago DRA member, Linda Silk, reached out to ACPS and over time, the DRA/TCW student show has evolved to become student directed. Our art students become involved in every aspect of putting together a quality exhibition from installation to break down. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have had such an inspirational venue in which to proudly show our students work."

Del Ray Artisans Gallery hours: Thursdays 12 noon – 4pm [First Thursdays 12 noon – 9pm]
Fridays 12 noon – 9pm
Saturdays 10am – 9pm
Sundays 12 noon - 6pm