

**For Immediate Release**

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UpBeat OffBeat Auction: A Whacky Celebration of Creativity

Auction: Saturday 10/17/09, 7 – 10 pm at the Durant Center, Alexandria, VA

Preview: 10/1 – 10/16 at Del Ray Artisans

Alexandria, VA (September 21, 2009) - Del Ray Artisans' (DRA) classic, whacky artful fundraiser, the *UpBeat OffBeat Auction*, will be held on Saturday, October 17th, from 7 pm to 10 pm at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA located near the King Street Metro.

The *UpBeat OffBeat Auction* is a much-anticipated event featuring a live auction of home furnishings "extremely made-over" by local artists, and a silent auction of artwork—all accompanied by live music and refreshments. In addition to a wide range of one-of-a-kind tables, chairs, nightstands and décor accessories, the *UpBeat OffBeat Auction* features the zany humor DRA artists are known for. A nostalgic pair of ice cream chairs conjures up childhood sibling rivalry in "I Scream, You Scream;" an end table whimsically presents Ogden Nash's verse on a fly, and "a river runs through" a landscape on a chest of drawers.

These and many other masterpieces can be "previewed" at the DRA gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, on First Thursday Del Ray (10/1, 6 – 9 pm) and during Art on the Avenue, which takes place along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray section of Alexandria, on Saturday, October 3rd (10-6). Admission to the DRA gallery and Art on the Avenue is free. The preview continues through October 16th.

Proceeds from the *UpBeat OffBeat Auction* help fund DRA community projects such as summer Art Camp and a full calendar of exhibits held throughout the year at the DRA gallery.

Tickets are \$15 (\$20 at the door) and are available online at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org, by visiting the gallery or by calling 703.838.4827. Refreshments are included in the ticket price along with live music by a local jazz combo.