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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Get Sparked! Art inspired by writing

Opening Reception: October 7, 2011, 7 – 10 p.m.

Show Dates: October 7 – 30, 2011

Alexandria, VA (September 2, 2011) - Join *Del Ray Artisans* and *SPARK: art from writing/writing from art* as we embark on an artistic journey that pushes boundaries. This show is a first for Del Ray Artisans: seventy-two artists signed up to respond to poems and prose by seven SPARK writers. Each artist received one written piece (their creative “spark”) and then had approximately two months to create new work using the assigned story or poem as a jumping off point.

“There’s nothing like a deadline to get the creative fires burning,” said Amy Souza, show co-curator and SPARK founder. “Plus the story or poem gives you an immediate starting point, something to ponder and delve into for images and ideas. In essence, the written work becomes the artist’s muse.”

Co-curator Amanda Wright is running a *Get Sparked!* round for students at Greenbriar East Elementary. Students will be given a story or a poem to be inspired to create a new piece of art, a select group of work will be displayed at the gallery, and the rest will be included in a school-wide spring art show at GBE. “It’s such a fantastic opportunity and experience for children to share their creativity and imagination with others and to see their work in a gallery setting!” said Wright.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 7, from 7 – 10 p.m., and SPARK writers will read aloud their inspiration pieces on Friday, October 14, at 7 p.m. A kid-friendly student reception will be held on Friday, October 21, from 7 – 9 p.m., and will feature light refreshments and an art project to take home.

The show will be at the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. The gallery is free, open to the public, and handicap accessible. All events are free and open to the public. Visit our website (TheDelRayArtisans.org) for gallery hours.

SPARK is a quarterly creativity project in which artists, writers, and musicians from around the world use each other’s work as inspiration. Started in 2008, SPARK has resulted in 781 new works of art, writing, music, and video during 12 rounds. The project is open to all who wish to participate. getsparked.org

Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote art for the benefit of artists and the community. DRA appreciates the continued support from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria. DRA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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