



Nicholas A. Colasanto Center  
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301-1124  
703.838.4827  
[www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Put a Bird on It!* Art Exhibit at Del Ray Artisans**

**Opening Reception: Friday, September 5 from 7-9 pm**

**Show Dates: September 5 - 28, 2014**

**Alexandria, VA (released: June 28, 2014)** – “Put a Bird on It!” opens on Friday, September 5, with an artists’ reception from 7-9 pm at Del Ray Artisans gallery. This art exhibit is a juried mixed-media exhibit celebrating the art of embellishment and was open to all area artists. Jurors are Laura Perritt (Architect Emeritus, printmaker, and fiber/mixed media artist) and Mikeual Perritt (Architect Emeritus, printmaker, and photographer).

On the TV show *Portlandia* (<http://youtu.be/0XM3vWJmpfo>), Carrie and Fred spoofed art and design when they descended on a home décor shop and embellished everything in sight with a bird motif. “Put a Bird on It!” they squealed, slapping birds on artworks, tote bags, pillows and pottery, and this quickly became a catch phrase for over-used, over-embellished DIY design. The “Put a Bird on It!” art exhibit sets out to prove that embellishment can be art. Co-curators Linda Elliff and Barbara Boehm with Lauren Kotkin challenged artists to embellish everyday objects, recycled items, or even their own artworks, to transform them into new soaring pieces. The exhibit features all media artwork that incorporates, either thematically or literally, a ‘bird’ of some kind as interpreted by the artist.

In conjunction with this exhibit, the curators are offering the “Make a Bird on It!” workshop led by local mixed media artist Laura Hummel on Saturday, September 6 from 9 am - 1 pm. Participants will make bird sculpture mixed-media pieces from recycled and vintage materials. The workshop fee is \$50 for Del Ray Artisans members and \$60 for non-members. You must be at least 18 years old to participate. For more details, including the supply list and registration form, please visit: [TheDelRayArtisans.org/BirdWorkshop](http://TheDelRayArtisans.org/BirdWorkshop)

The art exhibit and workshop are at Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. View the art exhibit from September 5 through September 28, 2014 during gallery hours: Thursdays 12-6 pm, Fridays & Saturdays 12-9 pm, and Sundays 12-6 pm. The gallery is free, open to the public and handicap accessible. For more information, please visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows) or contact curators Barbara Boehm ([boehmbarb@gmail.com](mailto:boehmbarb@gmail.com), 703-838-6265) and Linda Elliff ([lleliff@aol.com](mailto:lleliff@aol.com), 703-360-1265) or Lesley Hall, Del Ray Artisans’ Director of Curating ([Curating@TheDelRayArtisans.org](mailto:Curating@TheDelRayArtisans.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.*

*Del Ray Artisans (DRA) appreciates the continued support from the City of Alexandria, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts. DRA is a 501(c)(3) organization.*

Supported in part by:





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**Calendar Entry Blurb – 35 words or fewer:**

“Put a Bird on It!” juried art exhibit (Sept 5-28) at Del Ray Artisans gallery. Artists repurpose objects or artworks, incorporating a ‘bird’. Thursday 12-6pm; Friday & Saturday 12-9pm; Sunday 12-6pm. Reception: 9/5, 7-9pm. [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

**Synopsis Blurb – 75 words or fewer:**

Embellishment can be art. “Put a Bird on It!” juried art exhibit opens Friday, September 5 (opening reception 7-9pm) at Del Ray Artisans gallery. Artists in all media were challenged to repurpose everyday objects or artworks to transform them into soaring new works, each incorporating a ‘bird’. Show runs September 5-28, 2014. Gallery hours: Thursday 12-6pm; Friday & Saturday 12-9pm; Sunday 12-6pm. 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

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