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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Building Bridges, a Juried Art Exhibit between Del Ray Artisans and Six Degrees Consortium

Opening Reception: Friday, June 5 from 7-9pm

Show Dates: June 5 - 28, 2015

Alexandria, VA (released: April 5, 2015) – The “Building Bridges” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features artwork by Del Ray Artisans members and Mississippi Gulf Coast artists. Guest curator and juror, Lori K. Gordon, along with Del Ray Artisans curators Linda Elliff and Barb Boatman, present works of art that visually interpret the building of bridges between peoples and cultures. Join the curators and artists on Friday, June 5 from 7-9pm for the reception, which will include a brief talk by Ms. Gordon.

Building bridges between cultures is increasingly important in our ever-shrinking but tumultuous world. Empathy and understanding can bridge a path across cultural barriers, broadening our worldview and encouraging compassion. This exhibit invites viewers to explore each artist's interpretation of the theme – whether building bridges that connect cultures and countries, nature and human nature, religious views, or the vastness of individual experience. “Building Bridges” runs from June 5-28, 2015; and two special events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit:

- The “**Bridging Worlds**” **Artist’s Talk** on Thursday, June 4 at 7pm is a special opportunity to hear about Lori K. Gordon’s personal journey (www.lorikgordon.org) as an artist in the ten years since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The past decade has been filled with exhibitions, artist’s talks and workshops across the U.S. Her journey has also expanded to Haiti, throughout Europe, and to the Middle East and North Africa, where she recently opened an art café in the fabled city of Marrakech, Morocco.
- The “**Building Altars**” **Workshop** on Saturday, June 27 from 9:30am-5pm will be lead by Lori K. Gordon. The traditional role of altars is to remind oneself of sacred ground. Altars can be created around traditional religious themes, or they can focus on very personal ideas of the sacred. Participants will create small altars from tins or boxes. The workshop is \$80 for Del Ray Artisans members and \$95 for non-members, plus a \$20 supply fee. You must be at least 18 years old to participate. For more details and registration, please visit: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/Altars

Lori K. Gordon is a visual artist, writer and founder of Six Degrees Consortium. Her work is in collections around the world, including the Smithsonian Institution, Mississippi Humanities Council, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Art Across Arkansas—a joint venture of the Thea Foundation, William J. Clinton Foundation, and President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama. She is well known for her Katrina Collection, a body of mixed-media work that incorporates detritus from one of the United States’ worst natural disasters. Six Degrees Consortium (www.sixdegreesconsortium.org) is based in Mississippi and dedicated to the idea that visual art can be a powerful means of education and cross-cultural understanding among people. Artists are donating a percentage of each artwork sale during “Building Bridges” to both Six Degrees Consortium and Del Ray Artisans—both 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

The artist's talk, exhibit and workshop will be held at Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. Regular gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6pm, First Thursday (May-September) 12-9pm, Fridays & Saturdays 12-9pm, and Sundays 12-6pm. The gallery is free, open to the public and handicap accessible. For more information, please visit: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows

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:



“Building Bridges” Art Exhibit

Calendar Entry Blurb – 35 words or fewer:

“Building Bridges” juried art exhibit (June 5-28, 2015) at Del Ray Artisans (Alexandria VA) in partnership with Six Degrees Consortium. Artists interpret bridge-building across peoples and cultures. Opening Reception: Friday, June 5, 7-9pm. Details: www.TheDeRayArtisans.org/shows/

Synopsis Blurb – 75 words or fewer:

“Building Bridges” juried art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) runs June 5-28, 2015. The exhibit is in partnership with Six Degrees Consortium, founded by Lori K. Gordon. Del Ray Artisans members and Mississippi Gulf Coast artists interpret the building of bridges between peoples and cultures. Opening Reception: Friday, June 5 from 7-9pm. Artist’s Talk: First Thursday at June 4, 7pm. Building Altars Workshop: Saturday, June 27. Details: www.TheDeRayArtisans.org/shows/

“Bridging Worlds” Artist’s Talk with Lori K. Gordon

Calendar Entry Blurb – 35 words or fewer:

Join Lori K. Gordon at Del Ray Artisans gallery on Thursday, June 4 at 7pm for her talk on “Bridging Worlds,” a discussion about her journey as an artist. Free event. Details: www.TheDeRayArtisans.org/Gordon

Synopsis Blurb – 75 words or fewer:

Join artist Lori K. Gordon for her talk on “Bridging Worlds” at Del Ray Artisans on Thursday, June 4 at 7pm. She will discuss her personal journey as an artist in the ten years since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The past decade has been filled with exhibitions, artist’s talks and workshops across the world. Most recently, she opened an art café in the fabled city of Marrakech, Morocco. Free event. Details: www.TheDeRayArtisans.org/Gordon

“Building Altars” Workshop with Lori K. Gordon

Calendar Entry Blurb – 35 words or fewer:

Join world-renowned artist Lori K. Gordon as leads the hands-on workshop “Building Altars” on Saturday, June 27 from 9:30am-5pm at Del Ray Artisans. Fee: \$80 members/\$95 non-members, plus \$20 supplies. Details: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/Altars

Synopsis Blurb – 75 words or fewer:

The “Building Altars” workshop is on Saturday, June 27 from 9:30am-5pm at Del Ray Artisans. The traditional role of altars is to remind oneself of sacred ground—altars can be created around traditional religious themes or focus on personal ideas of the sacred. Instructor is world-renowned artist Lori K. Gordon. Fee: \$80 Del Ray Artisans member / \$95 for non-member, plus a \$20 supply fee. Must be at least 18 years old. Details: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/Altars