

RAL ART FORUM
2009 Monthly Schedule

Monday, JANUARY 26, 1PM- Virginia Watercolor Society Show Winners

RAL member and VWS signature member, Mary Jo Beswick, will present projections of the complete exhibit of paintings accepted into the 2008 VWS Exhibition. Included in this prestigious exhibition are five RAL members, Jacquie Colligan, Anne Hayes, Rose Nygaard, Elise Ritter and Sue Crave Rosen, who will discuss their work with us.

Monday, February 23, 1PM – Andrew Wyeth Self-Portrait: Snow Hill.

This award-winning documentary, produced by Wyeth's wife, Betsy, gives us a treasured insight into the private world of this great American painter. Narrated by actor Stacy Keach, this intimate self-portrait explores over 60 years of Mr. Wyeth's personal drama through his work, family photographs, home movies, personal letters and never before seen footage of Mr. Wyeth in his home, on Snow Hill.

*** Monday, March 23, 1PM –Armchair Adventures with Henri Rousseau**

Jennifer Foley, a Paul Mellon Collection Educator from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will take us on a tropical adventure into the lush world of Henri Rousseau. Those of you, who are familiar with his paintings, will be surprised to learn that Rousseau never visited the tropics or even ventured outside of his native France. Discover the man behind the wonderful jungle landscapes.

Monday, April 27, 1PM -A Brilliant Disorder: The Works of William Blake.

Popular speaker, Jeffrey Allison, returns to the RAL with an enthralling lecture exploring the life and work of William Blake, 18th century English poet, mystic and artist. Blake's imaginative genius has influenced artists and writers throughout history with his poetry, prose, prints and paintings that illuminate an unusually vivid personal theology.

Monday, May 18, 1PM - Matisse & Picasso: Rivalry and Friendship

This fascinating PBS video explores the artistic dialog that took place between these two great masters of the 20th century. It illuminates the nuances of friendship and rivalry that took place between the "gentleman", Henri Matisse and the "roughneck", Pablo Picasso. Two very different men connected by their passion for art, the world in which they lived and the intriguing push-pull of competition.

* **Monday, September 28, 1PM –An Epic Journey: The Ramayana.** Art historian, Jennifer Foley, returns to us with an exotic story from ancient India. The Ramayana is an epic poem that has had tremendous influence on the culture and art of the Indian Subcontinent and much of Southeast Asia. The story of Rama, and his quest to rescue his wife Sita, from the demon Ravana is bursting with action, adventure, love, and life lessons. This lecture introduces the poem's narrative through an investigation of images from India, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia.

* **Monday, October 26, 1PM –Return to the Flame/ Retreat from the Heat**
It was a heady time for American potters who came of age during the “gallery vessel of God” period from 1978 to 1988. Clay art was selling to wealthy collectors while exhibitions toured the country to show how far clay crafts had evolved. Steven Glass, Resident Potter of the VMFA Studio School, will enlighten us about the precarious world of crafts in an investment-driven art market and its continuing impact on the tradition of functional pottery.

Monday, November 23, 1PM –River and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy

Andy Goldsworthy is a brilliant British artist/photographer who collaborates with nature to make incredible environmental art. His transient or ephemeral creations involve the use of natural and found objects such as twigs, leaves, stones, snow, ice, reeds and thorns that become site-specific sculpture and land art. He photographs each piece once, right after he makes it, which is only part of this global journey and visually intoxicating film.

* These programs are preceded by a casual catered lunch with the speaker. The cost is \$5 per person. If you wish to attend, please call the RAL Studio Gallery 804-436-9309 to reserve a place.