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d'Art Center and NEON District Collaborate to Create New Art Workshops

NORFOLK, Va. – (May 29, 2018) – d'Art Center will host a new series of workshops for the public to create art that will be displayed in the NEON District. The first workshop runs June 2 to 23 from 10 am to 2 pm at 740 Duke Street. Artist Ryan Lytle will work with participants to create a wolf sculpture to add to the narrative of his existing installation, *The Chase*, on the *Virginian-Pilot* fence along Olney Road.

Lytle will create the armature ahead of time and prepare it for weaving. The participants will first be taught techniques for weaving unconventional surfaces, and then each person will be assigned a portion. The pieces will be sealed, assembled and affixed to the fence later this fall before the annual NEON Festival. There is a \$20 reservation fee to participate and a 10-person maximum per workshop series. Those who sign up must be committed to see the project through to the end. To sign up visit www.d-artcenter.org/mixed-media-art-classes.html.

"With this work I am interested in two things," says Lytle, "the first being exploring the idea of roles between predator and prey while creating a sort of playful narrative, and secondly experimenting with translating my fiber sculptures into acrylic yarn weavings, a form that can exist in an outdoor public space."

"We've been in the NEON District for over two years now," says Amanda Bradley, the d'Art Center's communications, marketing, and gallery manager. "We've always felt welcomed by the district and we're always happy to participate in as many NEON events and community projects as we can."

For those interested in mixed-media fiber arts, Lytle will also teach a mounted head needle felting class August 4 to September 5. "I am very excited to add the third part and for the opportunity to share techniques with the community," says Lytle, "I feel that anytime you can involve the community, especially in public art, that's a good thing because it gives people a stronger connection to the work, the site, and the city in general."

Located in the NEON District, d'Art Center has proudly served the greater Hampton Roads area for over 30 years by connecting the community with the visual arts. The d'Art Center is a non-profit 501c(3), houses 19 professional working artist studios, and offers art education, programming, outreach, exhibitions, and events, many of which are free and open to the public.

Norfolk's first official arts district, NEON (New Energy of Norfolk), is home to long-time cultural institutions like the Chrysler Museum of Art and Harrison Opera House as well as studio-based ventures like d'Art Center and the Rutter Family Art Foundation, all providing artists a place to make, create and show. Within a few short blocks you can see a muralist at work, take in an improv comedy performance at Push Comedy Theater, watch a live glass-working demonstration, shop for unique home goods, get a tattoo or dine out at an eclectic restaurant. Learn more at www.NEONNFK.com and follow along on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @neonnfk.

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