FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 25, 2025

Contact: Sandy Wright
contact@riverworksart.org
301.922.8507

"THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS IN PAPER"

Paper artist Ronni Jolles shares her eye for texture and depth in new Riverworks Art Center show

POOLESVILLE, Md. — When Ronni Jolles, the child of an artist, began searching for her own unique style, she explored drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and sculpture—but in the end, paper art called to her, giving her a long-sought outlet for expression.

"Here was a sculptural medium to satisfy my tactile nature," she recalls, "offering limitless possibilities for color and a story of its own to add depth to the meaning."

In "Rough Around the Edges," the latest Riverworks Art Center exhibition, Jolles shows that the possibilities of paper art are unlimited, whether in terms of composition, subject matter, or emotional content. Using collage techniques, she cuts, tears, and layers paper to create uniquely textured scenes. She then adds acrylic paints and sealants to add color variation, bring out textures, and protect the pieces of paper, which have fascinating stories of their own. Jolles finds rare papers from around the world, including some made only in small villages in Thailand, Tibet, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, or Egypt. Whether depicting nature, winter landscapes, seaside towns, or gentle moments of human activity, her work startles the viewer and makes it impossible not to move in for a closer look.

"Rough Around the Edges" will be on display from **Wednesday, December 17, 2025, through Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, Md.** This show is the 23rd Riverworks "Artist in the House" exhibition to be featured at the historic Veirs-Stevens House at Locals.

An artist's reception will be held at Locals on **Sunday, January 18, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** The reception is free and the public is invited to attend. Jolles will be speaking about her work at 5 p.m. and providing further insight into her artistic process.

To accompany “Rough Around the Edges,” Jolles will also offer a paper-layering workshop at Riverworks on **Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** The location and further details will be posted soon on the Riverworks website.

Riverworks co-founder Sandy Wright is eager to watch visitors’ reactions to Jolles’ work, especially the curiosity and sense of possibility she expects this show to inspire.

“Riverworks is all about expanding people’s awareness of what we can accomplish through art,” Wright says. “The public is going to be amazed by the subtlety and care that go into Ronni’s work and moved by just how beautiful it is. What many artists strive to do with painting, she achieves with paper.”

Understanding and even anticipating viewers’ reactions, Jolles still fondly recalls the moment she realized the potential of paper art.

“When I discovered paper as my medium, a whole new textural world opened up,” she says, adding that the specific paper-layering process she uses is her own creation. When she teaches her process at schools and art centers across the Washington, D.C., area, she finds that students are just as delighted to discover it as she was. “I had no idea it would be so accessible to people of all ages and artistic backgrounds,” she says. “I love teaching this, especially to total beginners.”

Jolles says that no matter how long she works with paper, she herself still finds the medium endlessly surprising.

“Whether it's the cyclical journey of trees or the simple beauty of a clothesline hanging outside a window, using paper delivers a painterly quality with textures that can't be achieved through paint,” she says. “I found the best of all worlds in paper.”

# # #

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Born in Rochester, New York, the child of a painter and a lawyer, paper artist Ronni Jolles began her art education very early both inside and outside the home. After her family moved to Washington, D.C., she attended Sidwell Friends in Washington, D.C., and graduated from Cornell University with a double major in Art and Psychology.

During college, Jolles worked in photography, drawing, painting, and wood carving, discovering how she responded to different media and what each drew from her creatively. Her subsequent work in publishing in the media division of National Geographic, along with graduate studies in art, led Ronni to the place she felt she could best contribute all she’d learned: the classroom. As a teacher, Ronni worked in all media. In 2000, she became a full-time professional artist.

Jolles currently lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where she is a member of Chevy Chase Artists. She teaches her art form at Glen Echo Park in Montgomery County, Md., and at the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean, Virginia, and she is a member of Great Falls Studios in Great Falls, Virginia.

See more of her work and learn more about her classes at **www.ronnijolles.com.**

# # #

Established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2022, Riverworks Art Center offers a wealth of arts and culture programs in a restorative rural setting, including art classes, introductory workshops, community roundtables, Storytellers presentations, theater and music classes for children, fine arts exhibitions, outdoor concerts, community festivals, weekly jam sessions, and more.

Riverworks is rooted in the small town of Poolesville, only 40 minutes outside the D.C. Beltway and just half an hour south of Frederick, with Sugarloaf Mountain rising eight miles to the north. The surrounding 93,000-acre Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve offers hiking trails, riverside views, farm-fresh produce, independent restaurants, African American historic sites, Civil War trails, local beer and wine, and more.

In its first three years, Riverworks has hosted more than 200 art classes, programs, and public events, many of them low-cost or free, with the goal of cultivating creativity and connection in the rural corner of Montgomery County and with visitors from across the D.C. region.

To learn more, visit the Riverworks website: www.riverworksart.org.

Established in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic, **Locals Farm Market at 19929 Fisher Ave., Poolesville, Md.** is a vital restaurant in the historic heart of Poolesville that serves as a welcoming first stop for visitors exploring the Ag Reserve, a community gathering place, an art gallery, and a marketplace for the work of local artists, writers, artisans, and farmers.

Locals is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Locals hosts Riverworks jam sessions open to musicians of all ages and experience levels

on Friday nights from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music-loving audience members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Locals menu emphasizes fresh ingredients from area farms. Guests can eat, meet, and relax in a shade-covered outdoor setting or indoors on two floors of the historic 1840s Veirs–Stevens House.

The second floor at Locals hosts rotating Riverworks "Artists in the House" exhibitions featuring the work of respected local and regional artists.

To learn more, visit the Locals website: www.localsfarmmarket.com.

# # #