



**Office of Cultural Affairs
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NEWS RELEASE

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Oil Paintings on display at the Sandler Center *Sandler Center Art Gallery Showcases Artist Sarah Parks*

(VIRGINIA BEACH, VA) – Chesapeake fine artist Sarah Parks’ compelling oil paintings will be on view at the Sandler Center Art Gallery from May 1-June 29, 2012.

Parks is an artist who skillfully blends Impressionism with Classical Realism. She received her Bachelor’s degree in both Art History and Studio Art from Old Dominion University in 2001. She is a member of the Oil Painters of America, Portrait Society of America, and the American Society of Portrait Artists. Parks’ love of other art genres has motivated her to continually refine her technique through intense study and guidance by some of the foremost landscape, still life and figurative painters today.

In her exhibition at the Sandler Center Art Gallery, she hopes “to provide not only a clearer, more compelling reality, but the lens through which to view it.” Whether it is a portrait, figurative, still life, or landscape, Parks’ aspiration is to capture the perfect play of light, shadow, and color in her paintings.

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Parks' conte drawing, "The Shawl," was one of 30 out of 1,100 entries juried into the American Woman Artist Association Exhibit in Pasadena, CA in 2008. She has most recently exhibited at the Richard Schmid Fine Art Auction in Colorado, the Brazier Gallery in Richmond, and locally at Beach Gallery in Virginia Beach, Nansemond Suffolk Academy, and Norfolk Collegiate School.

Sarah Parks' oil paintings can be seen at the Sandler Center Art Gallery from May 1 through June 29, 2012. The gallery is free and open to the public on Monday through Friday from 10am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 2pm, or during any performance at the Sandler Center. There will be an opening live results soccer today matches reception held on Tuesday, May 1 from 6pm to 8pm celebrating the Sandler Center Art Gallery's newest exhibit. The reception is free and open to the public and Sarah will attend to speak about her artwork.

ABOUT THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH'S OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS: The City of Virginia Beach Office of Cultural Affairs fosters an environment that encourages innovation and excellence within the local arts community. Cultural Affairs, along with the Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission, funds programs and services that build community and transform lives by enhancing enjoyment, understanding, and participation in the arts. For more information on the Office of Cultural Affairs, visit www.vbgov.com/arts. For more information on the Sandler Center Art Gallery, visit www.sandlercenter.org/artgallery.

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