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The Art of the Rings, the Fellowship of the Art Show at Le Chat Noir

Augusta, GA – Local Artist and Curator Heather René Dunaway organizes yet another themed visual art showcase. *The Art of the Rings, the Fellowship of the Art Show* is a group exhibition of artworks inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* novel series and subsequent film adaptations. To be held at Le Chat Noir, located at 304 8th St, Augusta, GA 30901 from July 1 – August 5, 2023, with a reception on Friday, July 21st from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This **FREE** reception will feature not only the amazing artworks, but also themed décor, food, cocktails, costumes as well as a free showing of the 2001 *The Fellowship of the Ring* film. This art show is a celebration of for the 69th anniversary of *the Fellowship of the Ring* novel’s release. Beginning with the release of *The Hobbit* in 1937, Tolkien’s work has inspired many books, films and artworks; including *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Game of Thrones* and *The Witcher*. *The Lord of the Rings* series has brought the fantasy genre to the forefront by having such a large cult following. Now it has inspired Augusta area artists to create a one-of-a-kind showcase.

Artists included in this exhibition are Aaron Bailey, Emma Bailey, Jeremy Cohen, curator Heather René Dunaway, Debra Estep, Joey Hart, Francie Klopotic, Dren Munitz, Cynthia Maria Panzella, PASC (Jon Paschal), Erica Pastecki, Christina Rice, Rhian Swain and Jacki Mayo Van Dyke. Guests are encouraged to RSVP on Facebook by visiting the event page at: <https://bit.ly/ArtoftheRingsRSVP>. Le Chat Noir opened its doors in 2006. As a performing arts theatre, they have produced over a hundred shows (most of which were Augusta premieres) and been host to over a thousand events. It has supported local artists and featured many visual art exhibitions over the years as well. Despite being one of the youngest performance arts groups in the CSRA, Le Chat Noir has established itself as a cultural pillar of the arts’ community.

As an artist and curator living and working in the Augusta River Region, Heather René Dunaway sees a need to unite the arts community. By creating showcases that speak to fandoms, Dunaway is able to connect arts lovers and artists in fun new ways by highlighting shared interests. In the past, she has organized shows such as *The Annual October Spooktacular* a Halloween themed art showcase in multiple Augusta locations, *Lucky 13* shown in Le Chat Noir, *Anime On My Mind* shown in the 600 Broad Gallery, *Winter is Here As Is the Beer* show in the Hive Growler Bar, and many more in her role as Gallery Director for the Greater Augusta Arts Council. In today’s world, sometimes a whimsical arts exhibition is needed as a break from the monotony. She hopes that *The Art of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Art Show* will do just this.

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