



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Alert: To schedule an interview or preview the show, contact Nancy Sausser, Director of Exhibitions, 703-790-1953 or nsausser@mpaart.org.

EXHIBITIONS OPENING JANUARY 14

Gallery Hours: Monday – Fri 10 am-4 pm; Sat 11 am-5 pm. Free and open to the public.

Location: McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean VA. 22101.

Opening Exhibit Reception, Thursday, January 14, 7 – 9 pm

Join us in viewing our new exhibits, meet the artists, and enjoy a special wine tasting provided by The Vineyard!

Emerson Gallery: *Absence and Presence: Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here*

Artists worldwide have created work in response to the 2007 bombing of Baghdad's historic book-selling street, exhibiting in venues all around the world as part of the Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here project. This exhibition features a selection of prints, broadsides and artists books from the project that commemorate this event and celebrate the free and creative exchange of ideas and knowledge everywhere. This exhibition is part of a diverse coalition of DC-area universities and arts and literary organizations taking part in the project. Other exhibition sites include the George Mason University School of Art Gallery, the Gelman Library and the Corcoran School of Art and Design at the George Washington University, the Brentwood Arts Exchange, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, Olly Olly Gallery, and the Smithsonian American Art/Portrait Gallery Library.

The Exhibition also includes:

➤ **Atrium Gallery: *Hushed Revolt: Works by Nasrin Navab and Nahid Navab***

Sisters Nasrin and Nahid Navab have collaboratively produced this exhibition as an exploration of the social and cultural spaces they have occupied as two Iranian-American artists. In homage to the mythological sisters Shahrezad and Shahrnavaz, Nasrin and Nahid embarked on an intimate journey of sharing their stories and creating art that captures those experiences in the form of drawings, prints, artist books, and installations. The many-textured and multi-layered array of influences and interests leading on this body of work include Persian calligraphy and miniature painting, mythology from around the world, contemporary spatial and urban experiences, and individual and communal identity.

➤ **Ramp Gallery: *Les Fleur de Livre: New Paintings by Carol Barsha***

In this exhibition, artist Carol Barsha shows paintings that playfully explore the role of the book as an entry-way into the world. Executed in a dynamic combination of mediums, including watercolor, ink, pastel, oil paint and pencil on paper, this exhibit features a series of works, both large and small, that situate the book within the landscape. In this way, the complexity and exuberance of the natural world is thereby considered along with the open territory of the imagination and the age-old practice of storytelling.

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is a leading contemporary visual arts non-profit organization located within the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA. For more information, visit <http://www.mpaart.org> or call (703) 790-1953. MPA is supported through grants from the **Arts Council of Fairfax County**, the **National Endowment for the Arts**, and **The Virginia Commission for the Arts** and other generous sponsors and individuals.



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