



McLean Project for the Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 9, 2016

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Gallery Talk & Poetry Reading

Join us for an evening of storytelling and poetry with an Artist Talk by exhibiting artists Nasrin and Nahid Navab and a reading by poet Safia Elhillo. Nasrin and Nahid will share the stories behind their collaborative exhibit "Hushed Revolt," currently on view in McLean Project for the Arts' Atrium Gallery. Including storytelling and music in their presentation, these two sisters will discuss the ideas and shared memories that lead to this exhibition, which came about as a response to the Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here project.

Thursday, February 11, 7 PM

This event is free and open to the public. [RSVP](#) requested.

For more information about the event visit our [website](#), [Facebook](#), or call 703.790.1953

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 multilayered 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.

Safia Elhillo comes to McLean Project for the Arts through *Split This Rock*, as part of the Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here project. Elhillo is Sudanese by way of Washington, DC. A Cave Canem fellow and a poetry editor at *Kinfolks Quarterly: a journal of black expression*, she received an MFA in poetry at the New School. Safia has been nominated for a 2015 Pushcart Prize and was joint winner of the 2015 Brunel University African Poetry Prize. Her work appears in several publications and in the anthologies "The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop" and "Again I Wait for This to Pull Apart."



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 bookselling 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.



McLean Project for the Arts

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.

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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