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Media Contact: Nancy Sausser / Lori Carbonneau

(240) 498-5034 / nsausser@mpaart.org

(703) 790-1953 / lcarbonneau@mpaart.org

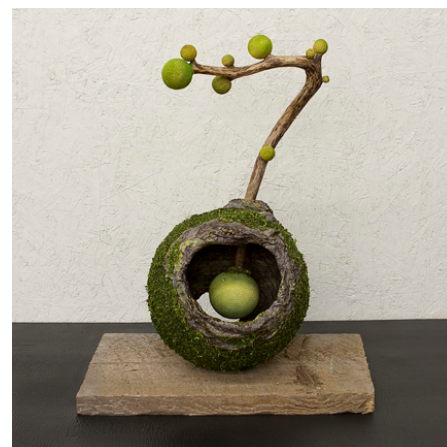
**MPA Announces “Methods of Inquiry: Fields of Discovery”
Exhibition Opening Jan. 11 at 7pm**

Curated exhibition will feature six artists whose work is influenced by science

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will open *Methods of Inquiry: Fields of Discovery* on January 11, 2018 in the Bullock | Hitt Gallery at MPA@ChainBridge (1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean). This curated exhibition features pieces by six artists whose work is influenced by science. The **Opening Exhibition Reception** will be held **Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 7:00 until 9:00 pm.**

Methods of Inquiry features work by **Michele Banks, Atsuko Chirikjian, Spencer Dormitzer, Leslie Holt, Susan Main, and Mark Robarge.**

Referencing both the methods of discovery as well as images and concepts related to scientific fields such as chemistry, microbiology, neuroscience, physics and genetics, *Methods of Inquiry* embraces the commonalities that exist between science and art. Exhibited together, the works of these six artists offer varied views of the wonder found in the natural world—both inner and outer—and the processes human beings employ in order to gain a greater understanding of these wonders.



"Burl Sprout" by Marc Robarge

“This synergistic combination of works by these six artists blend artistic and scientific thought and approaches in beautiful, intriguing, and unexpected ways,” said Nancy Sausser, MPA’s Exhibitions Director and *Methods of Inquiry* curator.

Ideas explored by the selected artists include:

- **Michele Banks** exhibits abstracted images that refer to basic biology, cell and microbiology and neurology.
- **Atsuko Chirikjian’s** Stain Project shelf sculptures look like especially elegant and beautiful scientific experiments. Using materials and processes from the laboratory, test tubes are filled with colored liquid that is transported via absorbent string to adjacent paper.
- **Spencer Dormitzer’s** drawings initiate intricate layers of accumulated marks with a circular format. Reminiscent of petri dishes or slides for viewing cells through a

microscope, the building up of marks within the structure mimic methods of scientific discovery, where findings and processes are repeated time and again to highlight patterns and prove results.

- **Leslie Holt** examines mixed media paintings from her Brian Stain series. These works employ an abstracted staining technique using acrylic paint and embroidery thread to interpret PET scan images of the brains' experience of different mental illnesses as well as diagrammatic images of neurons.
- **Susan Main** combines painting, drawing, video and projection to explore transitory phenomena, focusing on that which is on the periphery of our conscious attention.
- **Marc Robarge's** sculptures are rooted in a deep reverence for the forms and processes of nature. Biomorphic abstracted forms are built from tree limbs and bark, berries and leaf-like forms. The regenerative processes of nature are highlighted.

To learn more about *Methods of Inquiry: Fields of Discovery*, or to RSVP for the January 11 Exhibition Opening, please visit mpaart.org.

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About MPA

MPA Exhibits, Educates and Inspires

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is one of the mid-Atlantic region's most respected contemporary visual arts organizations. MPA provides high-quality art exhibitions showcasing the work of established and emerging artists, educational programs, art classes, MPAartfest, summer STEAM camp, and ArtReach, an award-winning program serving students in grades K – 12, seniors, and individuals with special needs. For more information, visit www.mpaart.org.

McLean Project for the Arts.

MPA@MCC: 1234 Ingleside Avenue ■ McLean, Virginia 22101 ■ 703.790.1953 ■ www.mpaart.org
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