

McLean Project for the Arts

MPA Updates | April 16, 2021



MPA in the News

- Sun Gazette News: McLean Project for the Arts to Host Spring Soiree (4/15/2021)
- Fairfax County Times: The Arts Are In Fairfax (4/2/2021)
- Tysons Reporter: New McLean Project for the Arts Exhibits Open April 1 (3/30/2021)
- TysonsToday: McLean Project for the Arts to Open Two New Exhibitions April 1 (3/30/2021)
- Tysons Reporter: Weekly Planner-New McLean Project for the Arts Exhibit (3/29/2021)



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ArtSprings! Celebrates the Legacy of Emilie Benes Brzezinski

MPA hopes you will join us on **Thursday, April 29, 2021** from 8-9pm for an evening of fun, inspiration, and celebration of the arts. Hear from family of sculptor and longtime McLean resident Emilie Benes Brzezinski at our **ArtSprings!** celebration as they announce their gift to MPA of Brzezinski's spectacular body of work.

The widow of Zbigniew Brzezinski, and mother of Ian, Mark and MSNBC journalist Mika Brzezinski, Emilie recently relocated to Florida from her longtime home in McLean. She has had ~70 gallery and museum installations in the U.S. and overseas. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Corcoran Museum in Washington, D.C. and has been shown at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, D.C., and the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts. Her art can also be seen at sculpture parks across North America and Europe, including the Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey, the Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton, Ontario, the Stone Quarry Hill Art Park in New York and the Socrates Sculpture Park in New York. MPA and Exhibitions Director, Nancy Sausser, first showed Brzezinski's work in the 1980s.

"Mom's art has inspired my brothers and me throughout our lives," said daughter Mika Brzezinski. "Now with MPA's lead, her works can continue to inspire generations to come."

Ian Brzezinski, MPA board member, explained that "Given our respect for MPA's place in the region's art community, and Mom's longstanding and authentic relationship with MPA, my family and I are thrilled that MPA has accepted our gift of mom's many and magnificent sculptures. We are excited to continue and strengthen this relationship by giving MPA the lead in celebrating mom's incredible body of work."

We hope you will join us on April 29 as we come together to celebrate MPA, the resilience of the arts community, and the gift of McLean Artist Emilie Benes Brzezinski's work.

Sponsorships
Coming together and supporting the creative arts is more important now than ever. Show your support for MPA and the arts community by joining us as an ArtSprings! sponsor. Sponsorship opportunities exist at a range of levels to fit every budget. [Visit our website](#) to learn more.

Individual Tickets
Individual "Attending Sponsor" tickets for ArtSprings! are now available on our website. The \$250 sponsorship includes delivery of a bottle of wine, and recognition in event communications. A \$35 ticket option is also available for Artists, Students, and Young Professionals. These tickets will include a redemption coupon for a bottle of wine at event sponsor, Total Wine & More. [Click here](#) to secure your seat.



Now Showing: Navigating Climate Change, Extended and Initium Novum: Humanity's End As A New Beginning

Please visit MPA—either online or in our galleries—now through June 10 to experience our two **new Spring exhibitions—Navigating Climate Change, Extended** by Alonzo Davis (Atrium Gallery) and **Initium Novum: Humanity's End As A New Beginning** by artist Yuriko Yamaguchi and writer Minke Schipper. Both exhibitions were underwritten by Donna and Bruce Berlage.

Navigating Climate Change, Extended by Alonzo Davis

Atrium Gallery
Building exuberant raft-like works from a variety of materials including bamboo, sailcloth, paper, twine, wax, paint, and light, Alonzo Davis alludes to many things, including both his childhood along the windy shores of Southern California and the stick charts of Micronesia he encountered during a lifetime of open-eyed, curiosity driven world travel. A love of patterns, bright color, and an embrace of low-tech construction techniques is central to the improvisational look and feel of these works. But a long career as a gallerist, educator, and artist also brings a practiced and sure hand and deft feel for the structural, compositional, and interactive bedrock upon which each piece is founded. These works are unique, dynamic, and immediately relevant.

Initium Novum: Humanity's End As A New Beginning

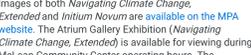
Featuring artist Yuriko Yamaguchi and writer Minke Schipper
Emerson Gallery

Organized around a concern about climate change and the future of our planet, *Initium Novum: Humanity's End As A New Beginning* is inspired by end-of-the-world mythologies from around the globe. Yamaguchi's expressionistic paintings alluding to these universal stories are paired with Schipper's writings, reached through QR codes on the wall. Also included are two site-specific installation works by Yamaguchi, making use of both physical materials, video, and light. Poetic in nature, the message is subtle and subliminal, the effect profoundly ephemeral and experiential, never didactic.

A recording of our Virtual Opening Exhibition Reception and Artist talk, as well as in-depth artist interviews, will be available on the [MPA website soon](#).

Images of both *Navigating Climate Change, Extended* and *Initium Novum* are available on the [MPA website](#). The Atrium Gallery Exhibition (*Navigating Climate Change, Extended*) is available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The Emerson Gallery exhibit (*Initium Novum*) is open for visitors with timed passes on Thursdays from 11am-2pm and Saturdays from 10am-3pm (and select Sundays). Visit mpaart.org to reserve your timed pass.

(Pictured: Clockwise from top left: Alonzo Davis, *Microclimate Series III*; Yuriko Yamaguchi, *Various Ends*; Alonzo Davis, *Microclimate Series V*; Yuriko Yamaguchi, *EUROPE: Deucalion and Pyrrha*)



MPA Summer Art Camps -- Spots are Filling Fast!

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will again be offering both in-person and online summer camp programming. Offerings include **MPA Art Camps** (ages 6 – 12) and **Abrakadoodle Camps** (ages 3 – 6), as well as our **Vosler Young Artists' Studio and Counselor in Training** program for teens. Sessions run June 28 – August 13, 2021. In-studio camps will take place at MPA's studios and galleries in the McLean Community Center. Join us for a variety of imaginative and fun week-long camps designed to ignite your child's creativity. See <https://mpaart.org/education/summer-art-camps/> to learn more!

Please note: The safety of our campers, staff, and community is at the forefront of our minds as we redesign our in-studio camps in this new environment. Please review our [MPA Summer Camp Policies & Procedures](#).



Spring Art Classes are Underway!

Registration still open for some classes

Spring has sprung—and so has the start of MPA's Spring Art Class lineup. MPA's spring class offerings include some of our long-time favorites, as well as exciting new options, including a **NEW Teen Painting class with Pamela Saunders**. Classes will take place online and in our DuVal Studio.

While some classes have already started, several sessions begin later this month, including:

- **Drawing and Painting Studio (Online) with David Carlson:** A working studio classroom for beginners, experienced students, artists seeking to improve their skills. This course covers the fundamentals of drawing and painting. More experienced artists will have the opportunity to develop a body of work and critique in a creative environment. Students are encouraged to explore their own concepts and style of expression. Classes meet Thursdays from 7-9:30pm beginning 4/22.
- **Teen Painting – NEW! (Online) with Pamela Saunders:** Join other teens for a calm and relaxing painting class. Students will paint with acrylic on canvas boards. Each class will focus on techniques in various brush strokes, color-mixing and blending to create original art, paint party style art, and more! No previous drawing or painting experience necessary. Classes meet Fridays from 5-6:30pm beginning 4/23.
- **Portrait and Figure Painting (Online) with Jordan Xu:** Come and learn figure painting in oils, acrylics or pastels from a live model. Students will learn about basic painting concepts and techniques such as value, color temperature, composition, and transition. Step-by-step instructions will walk students through the entire process of a painting. Classes meet Mondays from 7-9pm beginning 4/19.
- **Vibrant Flowers in Oil (Online) with Joyce Lee:** Capture the beauty of flowers with new techniques! Students will learn how to capture the quality, the feeling, and the spirit of flowers while gaining exposure to new techniques. Classes meet on Thursdays from 7-9:30pm beginning 4/22.
- **Freedom of Watercolor (Online) with Barbara Januszkiewicz:** Working with changeable subject matter, students will work to develop their ideal style as artists. Elements of design, composition, and balance will be discussed. Classes meet on Thursdays from 10am-12pm beginning 4/22.
- **Digital Photography (Online) with Rula Jones:** This course covers basic concepts and practices of digital photography, including understanding and using the camera, lenses, and other basic photographic equipment. Students will explore aesthetic principles as they relate to composition, apertures, exposure, light and color. Classes meet on Fridays from 10am-12pm beginning 4/23.

For our younger artists, our spring lineup includes two Abrakadoodle options:

- **Abrakadoodle Twoosy Doodlers (DuVal):** In this special art experience for toddlers and their guardians, little fingers will experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, printing, and creating while developing fine motor, language, and self-help skills. Classes meet on Saturdays from 10-10:45am beginning 4/17.
- **Abrakadoodle Mini Doodlers (DuVal):** Children will develop their creativity through lessons carefully designed to ignite their imaginations and development skills. Using real artists' materials, students will create truly unique masterpieces. Classes meet on Saturdays from 11:30am-12:30pm beginning 4/17.

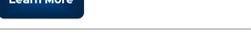


MPA ArtReach Spotlight

Community partnerships are key to our ArtReach outreach, and one of our favorite long time ArtReach partners is the nonprofit organization **Second Step**. MPA was pleased to recently share our most recent art [activity file](#) as well as art supplies with residents of their **Teens in Crisis** center in Vienna. The center's Assistant Program Manager, Elani Burchard, shared that "our residents enjoyed the latest art project... they all created one to two pieces of art work and said it provided them with calming thoughts."

During these times of social distancing, ArtReach Director Sharon Fishe's art activity files are created in conjunction with our current exhibitions and provide partner organizations easy to create art activities to share in multiple ways with their program participants.

Your generous support makes MPA's ArtReach program possible. To make a gift, [click here](#).



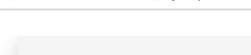
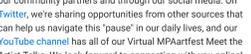
Don't Forget to Follow Us on Social Media

As we continue to social distance, stay connected with MPA through our social media—**Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube**. Join us as we revisit past MPA exhibitions and explore MPA ArtReach art activities, which we're sharing with our community partners and through our social media. On **Twitter**, we're sharing opportunities from other sources that can help us navigate the "pause" in our daily lives, and our **YouTube channel** has all of our Virtual MPA art events Meet the Artist Talks. We look forward to connecting with you online!



McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and ArtsFairfax.

Help MPA continue to connect Art and Community!



Please [visit our website](#) to reserve a **timed pass** to view our Emerson Gallery exhibit, *"Initium Novum: Humanity's End As A New Beginning."* Our Atrium Gallery exhibition will be open during MCC open hours.

MPA@MCC | 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101
Gallery visits by reservation only

Hours and Directions | www.mpaart.org | 703.790.1953



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