

McLean Project for the Arts



Save the Date: (Not) Strictly Painting Opening Exhibition Reception Thursday, September 23, 7pm

Mark your calendars and join MPA on Thursday, September 23 at 7pm for our (Not) Strictly Painting Virtual Opening Exhibition Reception.

"Now in its 13th incarnation, (Not) Strictly Painting will exhibit works by some of the most interesting and innovative artists currently active in the Mid-Atlantic region," explained MPA Exhibitions Director and Curator Nancy Sausser. "The exhibit was expertly juried by both Virginia Treanor and Foon Sham, a curator and an artist, respectively. Their choices will be displayed separately on-line and blended together in the gallery."

Visit our website for a complete list of (Not) Strictly Painting featured artists.

Visiting Our Galleries

Beginning September 18, 2021, the MPA Emerson Gallery will be open for viewing Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-3pm. Viewing will be limited to six visitors at a time to provide social distancing. The Atrium Gallery is available to visitors during MCC hours of operation. Due to new guidance on COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Fairfax County Health Department, McLean Community Center (MCC) is requiring all patrons to wear masks that cover their mouths and noses while they attend programs in its facilities. In addition, patrons are requested to do their best to observe six feet of social distance from other patrons as often as possible and to wash their hands often. Hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout MCC facilities for its patrons' convenience.

The safety of our visitors, staff, and community is at the forefront of our minds as we redesign our in-gallery experience in this environment.

(Pictured, from top left: Winston Harris, "Time for Change"; Daniel Merkwitz-Bustos, "Cactus"; Beth Cartland, "Hold Tight When All is Chaos")

RSVP Now



MPAartfest Soirée Celebration: Meet Our Soirée Co-Chairs!

MPA is thrilled to introduce this year's Soirée Celebration Co-Chairs, Lizzy Conroy (pictured above left) and JJ Singh!

A real estate professional since 2009, Lizzy Conroy is a Partner of the Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Group. Lizzy co-leads the HBC Group, which consistently ranks as the #1 team in the #1 real estate office in McLean. Lizzy currently serves on the AMI National Board of Directors, is a past member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society National Board of Trustees, and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Northern Virginia. She and her husband, Steve, live in McLean, Virginia with their two children.

An artist, jeweler, teacher, and self-proclaimed creative junkie, JJ Singh has been designing jewelry for more than 20 years. She enjoys working with clients on customized one-of-a-kind pieces and often collaborates with other designers of other art forms in her studio. When not creating jewelry, JJ can be found feeding her chickens, tending to honeybees, or working as her children's private Uber driver in the DC metro area.

Sincere thanks to Lizzy and JJ for their work on behalf of MPA! We hope you will join Lizzy, JJ, and all of MPA on Friday, September 10, 2021 as we reconnect community and the arts at our MPAartfest Soirée Celebration! This artsy and fun-filled evening gives guests a unique preview of MPAartfest, showcasing artists and their work. Our 2021 Soirée Celebration will take place in the backyard of the home of Drs. Victoria & Lonnie Davis. Our tequila sponsor, 21 Seeds Tequila, will also be on hand to provide signature cocktails.

Important Soirée Update

COVID-19 continues to present new hurdles, and MPA is thankful for your partnership and understanding as the situation, and thus, our policies and practices evolve accordingly. As a result of the ever-changing health landscape and in line with the practices of other arts venues in the region, MPA will be requiring each guest at Soirée Celebration on September 10 to present their vaccine card and ID at check-in. It is the responsibility of the Soirée ticket purchaser to comply with and to communicate these requirements to their guests. MPA Soirée 2021 will take place outdoors, but please bring a mask should you need to use an indoor space during the event.

Sponsorships and Luck of the Draw Tickets Still Available

Limited sponsorships and Luck of the Draw tickets are still available, but going fast. Our much-loved Luck of the Draw raffle offers first-time and seasoned fine art collectors access to more than 25 artworks by top emerging and established talent. Each ticket purchased receives one chance to win a piece of art. All proceeds benefit MPAartfest. Please note: You do not have to attend Soirée to participate in Luck of the Draw.

New this year, photographer Tony Powell will join us at our Soirée Celebration VIP Reception. Mr. Powell's photographic clients include Facebook, Google, Hermès, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., Gucci, and many others. Soirée guests at our VIP Reception will have a chance to take photos in Mr. Powell's portrait booth. Secure your VIP sponsorship here to take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Purchase Your Tickets / Sponsorship



Call for Youth Art Entries: MPAartfest 2021 Children's Art Walk

MPA currently seeks submissions for our 15th Annual MPAartfest Children's Art Walk. A perennial favorite at MPAartfest, the Children's Art Walk is an open-air gallery of student art proudly sponsored by the New Dominion Women's Club (NDWC) of McLean.

The show will be juried and open to students in the Langley and McLean Fairfax County Public School pyramid, as well as students at private and parochial schools. Student artwork submissions are welcome Saturday, September 18 and 25, 2021. Submissions may be dropped off at McLean Project for the Arts (1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101) from 10am-3pm. Limit one submission per student. Artwork may be any size 11x14 or smaller. Please include student's name, grade, and school.

Save the Date! MPAartfest 2021 is October 3!

MPAartfest 2021 returns to McLean Central Park on Sunday, October 3, 2021 from 10am-4pm. In addition to the Children's Art Walk, the 2021 MPAartfest Music Stage will feature performances from some of the DC-area's best musical talents, including Nataly Merezuk's Hot Band, Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra, Sheyda Doa Band, Project Locrea, Irene Jalenti, and Jeanne Francis. Visit our website to learn more about this year's MPAartfest musical lineup. During MPAartfest, McLean Central Park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of 43 juried artists from throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

MPAartfest 2021 sponsorships are currently available. MPAartfest will be promoted to an audience of 100,000+ online and in print. Visit our website to learn more or to secure your sponsorship.

And follow us on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube) to check out our Meet the Artist segments, featuring artist interviews with our MPAartfest 2021 featured artists.

MPAartfest 2021 is made possible with the help of the McLean Community Center, and our partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

MPAartfest Sponsorship Information



It was a Busy Summer for MPA ArtReach

With the COVID-19 situation still in flux, a new school year already underway for FCPS and other schools starting soon, we took a few minutes to reflect on an amazing summer for MPA's ArtReach! We are proud of the way the program and Director Sharon Fishel continue to adapt to the changing public health situation and find new ways to connect with our community ArtReach partners.

Summer 2021 ArtReach by the Numbers:

6 Community Partners (Second Story, Best Buddies Citizens, Lewinsville Seniors, ServiceSource, Glen Forest Elementary School and Graham Road Elementary School)

410 People Served (May-August 2021)

As we look ahead to fall, we are excited to engage in small group in-gallery visits with FCPS school groups and community partners, as well as continuing much of our virtual ArtReach programming. We hope you enjoy the work above, a photo collage created by one of the seniors in Sharon's Transformations—Painting, Drawing & Collage virtual classes.

As always, your generous support makes MPA's ArtReach program possible. To make a gift, click here.

MPA ArtReach



MPA Faculty Member Spotlight: Lubna Zahid

"MPA has played a vital role in keeping creative people connected through this difficult time, for which I am grateful."

-Lubna Zahid

Lubna Zahid is a classically trained fine artist. She expresses herself in a variety of media including transparent watercolor, gouache, graphite, charcoal, ink, acrylics, and clay.

Lubna began her career as an artist in Pakistan, she immigrated to the United States in 2000. Typographic elements in her works rely heavily on the progressive post-colonial movements in the Muslim world in the 20th century.

The philosophical works of thinkers like Rumi, Allama Iqbal and Faiz Ahmed Faiz shaped her generation and their ideas are evident in her pieces.

Lubna has been teaching in MPA for many years now and continued teaching classes virtually during Covid. She has found virtual classes to be very practical and refreshing, and these have been appreciated by her students as well.

Lubna's work can be viewed on her website: www.LubnaZahid.com or Instagram account: @LubnaZahidArt.

Join Lubna this fall on Wednesdays from 5-7:30pm for Techniques and Textures in Watercolor (begins September 22.) Registration is now open for all fall art classes. Visit our website to explore offerings and sign up.

MPA Fall Art Classes

Thank You to Our Community Partners, the Rotary Club of McLean and Bloomies

MPA extends our deepest gratitude to the McLean Rotary for their recent Rotary gift in support of our MPA ArtReach Program, and to Bloomies for their generous grand-opening donation. Your generous support makes our important work possible. Thank you!



MPA in the News

Inside NOVA: Raffle Aims to Boost Support for MPAartfest (8/28/2021)

Tyson's Reporter: McLean Project for the Arts Announces Fall Classes (8/18/2021)

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1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101
View modified gallery hours here.

Hours and Directions | www.mpaart.org | 703.790.1953