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McLean Project for the Arts Winter Exhibitions Open December 2 Featuring abstract wood sculpture by Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham and Norma Schwartz; Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will open its two newest exhibitions on December 2, 2021. *Give and Take: Building Form* (Emerson Gallery) will showcase abstract wood sculpture by Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham and Norma Schwartz. The Atrium Gallery will feature *Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider*. Two [Opening Exhibition Receptions](#) will take place on Thursday, December 2, 2021, one from [4-6pm](#) and the second from [6:30-8:30pm](#). Underwritten by Pamela and David Danner, both shows run through February 19, 2022.

"I am particularly excited about these two exhibits, as they will present an exploration of three-dimensional art making in such a variety of ways," said MPA Curator and Exhibitions Director Nancy Sausser. "This is where the art exists wholly in the world we inhabit—allowing us to meet, respond to and co-exist with each piece."

Give and Take: Building Form

featuring Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham and Norma Schwartz

Emerson Gallery

Featuring dynamic abstract sculptural works by four artists who work primarily in wood, this exhibit will explore each artist's personal vision along with their methodology of



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Norma Schwartz, Sheila Crider, Foon Sham, Emilie Brzezinski, and Rachel Rotenberg

McLean Project for the Arts.

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making. By employing varying degrees of adding and subtracting material—laminating or carving, sawing and sanding—these artists build form by either giving or taking away. With this mind, process is highlighted, understood and demonstrated with an eye towards clarifying the genesis and emergence of form.

Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider

Atrium Gallery

Artist Sheila Crider will exhibit works from an ongoing series that combines painting, drawing, braiding, stitching and weaving to create three-dimensional abstract forms. Through these works, which are both beautiful and evocative, Crider has found an inventive and original process that enables her to visually explore multiple intersections between material, place, tradition, race, gender, history, culture, narrative, art, painting, object and picture.

The Opening Exhibition Receptions will take place on Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 4-6pm and 6:30-8:30pm. These events are free and open to the public, but each session is limited to 30 attendees. Reservations are required. Proof of vaccination or a same-day negative COVID-19 test is required of all attendees to these two December 2 opening receptions, along with a government-issued ID for visitors 16 and older. Masks are required to be worn at all times inside the galleries and building. [Visit the MPA website to make a reservation](#) and for complete information on our health and safety guidelines.

A virtual artist talk is scheduled for Thursday, January 20 at 7pm on Zoom.

The Atrium Gallery Exhibition (*Intersectional Painting*) will be available for viewing during [McLean Community Center operating hours](#). The Emerson Gallery exhibit (*Give and Take: Building Form*) will be open for visitors Tuesdays through Fridays from 1-4pm and Saturdays from 10am – 3pm. Online exhibitions will also be available for viewing in mid-December.

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About MPA

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 art camps, 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.

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