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**McLean Project for the Arts Celebrates 60 Years with Gala
Celebration, Augmented Reality Installation by Joseph Cortina**

McLean, VA: McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will celebrate six decades of connecting art and community with a 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration on September 18, 2022 at Capital One Hall. In addition to a cocktail reception, hors d'oeuvres and light fare, live music and dancing, the celebration will feature *Illusion of Depth*, an augmented reality installation by Arlington artist Joseph Cortina.

"This augmented reality installation will explore the illusion of depth," explains Cortina. "For years, I have explored 3D visualization and multilayered storytelling using cycloramas, virtual reality (VR), 4D theaters, and Pepper's Ghosts."

Illusion of Depth examines Cortina's on-going fascination with the concept and dimensions of depth and its effects on visual experience. The installation is offered "as a reflection on the meanings of depth, from seeing into and beyond the obvious limits."

"We are delighted to include this new work by McLean area artist Joseph Cortina as we celebrate sixty years of exhibitions at MPA," said Executive Director Lori Carbonneau. "After exhibiting Joe's work in our MPA galleries and seeing his company's (Cortina Productions') installations in museums in Chicago, Boston, and New Orleans, we are thrilled for it to be a highlight of our 60th anniversary year and a centerpiece of our September 18 60th Anniversary Gala celebration at Capital One Hall."

The MPA 60th Anniversary Gala is a ticketed event and an important fundraiser supporting MPA's mission to make visual art and art education accessible to the community. Sponsorships and individual tickets available. For more information, visit www.mpaart.org.

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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

McLean Project for the Arts.

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About Joseph Cortina

Joseph Cortina is a painter and digital artist who lives and works in the Washington, DC area. Drawn to working in bold, thick strokes, he creates layer upon layer of paint, resulting in exceptional depth of color and line. These richly textured paintings are an expression of the intersection and tension between physical and digital landscapes. Cortina is the founder and Creative Director of Cortina Productions where he has created films and interactive experiences for museums around the world. His work has been awarded five National Emmy Awards, and his museum work has captured numerous CINE, Telly, THEA, and American Association of Museum MUSE awards. josephcortina.com

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