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A message from our Artistic Director



Artistic Notes

Dear MPA Friends and Supporters,

I am delighted to report that a cluster of new visual art classes have been added to the MPA Fall class schedule. Several of our longtime teachers have recently retired or moved from the area, necessitating a broad outreach effort to add new classes and teachers to our arts education line-up.

To find excellent instructors who are excited about teaching with us, we sent out a Call for Proposals far and wide. We were delighted to receive a healthy number of interesting ideas, sent by some impressively experienced artist/teachers.

We are excited to share that we've hired six teachers who are new to MPA for the Fall. More classes are being developed and considered for the Winter schedule as well.

The first wave of new classes taught by dynamic new teaching artists include Pastels, Abstract Painting, 2-Dimensional Design, Fashion Illustration, Introduction to Oil and Figure Painting, Cyanotype, Memory and Mixed Media and Photography.

Check the MPA website or the McLean Community Center (MCC) Guide later this summer for details. We hope to see you in our classroom and galleries soon!

Nancy Sausser MPA Curator and Artistic Director

The Washington Post ΞQ

Sign in

In the galleries: Artworks serve as gateways to private worlds

Also: A mash-up of collectibles and video, a multi-artist show of abstracts, and illuminating the spaces between myth and reality.



Review by Mark Jenkins

May 31, 2024 at 6:00 a.m. EDT



"Undercurrent," by Abol Bahadori included in his show "Inner Gardens" at McLean Project for the Arts.

Spring Solos Reviewed in Washington Post

"While the three shows at McLean Project for the Arts differ stylistically, each functions as a portal to an alternate universe."

--Mark Jenkins, The Washington Post

Our Spring Solo exhibitions-- Toys in the Hands of History: Paintings by Osvaldo Mesa, Return to the Library of L.E. Grothaus: Altered Books by Laura Grothaus, and Inner Gardens: Works by Abol Bahadori--were recently reviewed in The Washington Post. Sincere thanks to Mark Jenkins for his thoughtful review, which you can read here.

Stop by our galleries to experience our Spring Solo Exhibitions before they close next Saturday, June 15, 2024.

Visiting Our Galleries

The MPA Atrium Gallery is available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The Emerson Gallery is open for visitors Mondays through Saturdays from 10am – 4pm.

MPA's 2024 Spring Solo Exhibitions are funded in part by ArtsFairfax.

Read The Washington Post Review



Spring Benefit Success -- Thank You!

Thank you to all who joined us for our 2024 MPA Spring Benefit. Endless gratitude to our Spring Benefit co-chairs Cynthia Steele Vance and Mandy Mafi, and all of our community partners and sponsors. It was a joy to be together at the beautiful home of Mark Lowham and Joseph Ruzzo, where we were thrilled to share Chee Keong Kung's beautiful work, and to enjoy the music of DC Martini.

We wanted to share access to the fabulous Tony Powell photos from the event. Please click here to access our Spring Benefit 2024 gallery. It should allow you to view and download photos. Sincere thanks to Tony Powell for these beautiful shots.

By supporting MPA Spring Benefit, you make the mission of MPA possible every day: supporting established and emerging artists along the East Coast, introducing hundreds of children in Title I schools to contemporary art, expanding the world of special needs individuals through art and bringing art and classes to seniors.

Thank You to Our Spring Benefit Sponsors!



MPA Summer Art Camp Teacher Feature: **Suzanne Parrish**

MPA is excited to welcome Suzanne Parrish to our 2024 summer art camp faculty! Suzanne looks forward to making amazing art with MPA campers this summer! Join her to explore interesting techniques and different materials to help spark creativity!

Suzanne has been teaching in camps, classes and in schools around Northern Virginia for over two decades, and has exhibited in galleries and spaces throughout the area. Suzanne's work is in collections around the world, including acrylics, altered photography, prints, handmade paper and fiber arts.

Join Suzanne and the rest of our MPA summer camp team starting June 24.

MPA's weekly themed camps are a great way to discover and explore a different art medium, make new friendships, and create artworks for friends and family to enjoy. Our camps have something for everyone, from ages 3 to 18.

Offerings include MPA Art Camps (ages 6-13) and Abrakadoodle Camps (ages 3-6), as well as our CIT program. Sessions run June 24-August 9. Sign up now to secure your spot--popular weeks are filling fast!

Please review our MPA Summer Camp Policies & Procedures. Contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org for more information.

Register for MPA Summer Art Camps



Coming This Fall: Sculpture NOW 2024

MPA's Fall 2024 exhibition will be a juried exhibit with the Washington Sculptors Group, juried by MPA Curator and Artistic Director Nancy Sausser.

McLean Project for the Arts exhibitions are regularly reviewed by The Washington Post and our gallery spaces are highly regarded in the DC area arts community. Click here to read an excerpt from the Post's review of the 2020 Sculpture NOW exhibition (pictured above).

Upcoming Exhibitions



Spring Solos Exhibitions Extend Into Community with MPA ArtReach

MPA's ArtReach and Director Sharon Fishel has had a fantastic Spring of programming around our Spring Solos exhibitions with our many community partners. For the ArtReach Winter/Spring Season, the program presented a total of 62 events and engaged with 1,242 participants.

Here's a sampling of our Spring programming:

Pictured – Our partnership with McLean High School special ed concluded with a special colorful collage project based on the artwork of Yasmine Iskander – who was a McLean High School graduate and artist who also exhibited her art at MPAartfest for many years.

Groups from our ServiceSource Wellness Center for Older Adults partners visited our gallery for two tours and workshops – creating magic boxes in the style of Spring Solos artist Laura Grothaus.

Sharon visited the MCC's Old Firehouse Teen Center for a workshop based on our Spring Solos ArtReach gallery guide /activity booklet, creating magic books in the style of our Spring Solos artists.

Sharon also completed a series of visits with Longfellow Middle School's 3-D Art Explorations class – using the Gallery Guide in working with Ms. Gibson's students to create Mystery Landscapes.

Finally, Sharon recently completed a three-workshop series with our new partners at the Arlington Mill Community Center, where she worked with participants on painting and mixed media projects, again based on our Spring Solos gallery guide.

Spring Solo exhibitions were funded in part by ArtsFairfax, which allowed us to create the ArtReach Come, Look & Discover Gallery Guide, extending our Spring Solos exhibitions into the community, as well as enhancing the experience of visitors to our galleries.

To make a contribution towards this outreach, visit our website at https://mpaart.app.neoncrm.com/forms/22.

MPA ArtReach

McLean Project for the Arts MPA



NEW Summer Portfolio Class for Teens and Adults!

A NEW Portfolio Building Studio class will be offered on six Saturdays this Summer to give students the opportunity to build their portfolios with the guidance of our instructor. Students will be offered critiques of their work as well as studio time to work on projects or with mediums missing in their portfolios. Available for students ages 13 (register for teens here) through adult (register here). Learn more and register on our website. Contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org with questions.

Register Now



connecting art and community

Due to the Fairfax County Park Authority's revitalization project at McLean Central Park, MPAartfest is cancelled for 2024. We hope to see you next year!

MPAartfest 2024 Cancelled

Due to the Fairfax County Park Authority's revitalization project at McLean Central Park, MPAartfest is cancelled for 2024. We hope to see you next year! Many thanks to Fairfax County Park Authority for the work they are doing to beautify McLean.



MPA in the News

The Washington Post: In the Galleries--

Artworks Serve as Gateways to Private Worlds

FFXNow: Spring Art Exhibitions on Display in

GazetteLeader: New McLean Exhibitions

Spotlight Creativity of Artists (05/22/2024)



MPA Calendar of Events

Through June 15, 2024: Spring Solos 2024 September 12, 2024: Sculpture NOW 2024

Opening Exhibition Reception, 7-9pm

September 12 - October 26, 2024: Sculpture NOW 2024 -- Washington Sculptors Group Juried Exhibition





(05/31/2024)

McLean (05/23/2024)







1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101 Gallery Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10am-4pm Administrative Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm

Hours and Directions | www.mpaart.org | 703.790.1953