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McLean Project for the Arts

A message from Carolyn Gore, MPA Board Member

Artistic Notes

Dear MPA Friends and Supporters,

All around the country, March is Youth Art Month! At McLean Project for the Arts, in its partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools, the gallery spaces are turned over to the McLean High School Pyramid schools (March 4-16) and the Langley High School Pyramid schools (March 19-26) for their annual student art exhibitions. Students have been making art all year, and their teachers have been busy selecting and preparing the artwork for display. On the days of the art receptions, the gallery spaces are crowded with the students and their proud parents, celebrating and taking many happy photos.

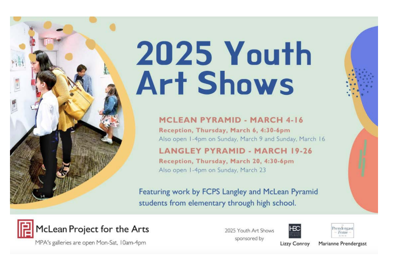
The FCPS Elementary Art Program's theme is a Sense of Place. Through the grade-level themes of Self, Family, Community, Culture, Time, Globalization, and Identity, students make art about their interests, families, and memories. Since the Fall of 2004, I have been an art teacher at Spring Hill Elementary School. In that position, I have the privilege of watching my students grow up and learning about their lives through their artwork.

Through coordinating the Langley Pyramid Art Show and teaching at the Summer Art Camps, I have worked with the supportive and talented staff at MPA. A few years ago, I joined the MPA Board, and I enjoy working with the larger MPA community. I love hearing the stories of board members who first learned about MPA and its mission by attending a student art show when their child had artwork on display.

For the art teachers and our students, we are so fortunate to see the artwork displayed in a professional setting. If you visit the galleries this month, I think you'll be amazed by the variety of artwork and the talent of our local school students!

With warmest regards,
Carolyn Gore
MPA Board Member

Learn More About Our Youth Art Show



Now Showing: Youth Art Show, McLean Pyramid

Join MPA now through March 16 for our McLean Pyramid Youth Art Show, featuring work by FCPS McLean Pyramid students from elementary through high school.

The McLean Pyramid exhibition will run from March 4-16, and the Langley Pyramid show will run March 19-26. Our galleries will also be open for extended hours on Sunday, March 9 from 1-4pm; Sunday, March 16 from 1-4pm; and Sunday, March 23 from 1-4pm.

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.

The 2025 Youth Art Shows are presented by Lizzy Conroy, HBC Group Keller Williams and Marianne Prendergast, the Prendergast Team.

Exhibition Information

Save the Date! Spring Benefit 2025 is May 8!

McLean Project for the Arts' signature spring fête, Spring Benefit, will take place on Thursday, May 8, 2025 in McLean, VA, at the home of Reggie and Dharini Aggarwal. MPA relies on the funds raised at Spring Benefit to further its mission to educate and inspire the community through contemporary visual arts exhibitions and arts education programs—including MPA ArtReach, which extends these exhibitions into the community through gallery tours and workshops for FCPS Title I elementary schools and other underserved groups who encounter obstacles in accessing the visual arts. Cindy Green and Christine Wang will co-chair this year's event.

Secure your Spring Benefit sponsorship now.

PS: This year's theme will be A Sea of Art!

We invite guests to embrace our theme *A Sea of Art*

Suggested colours:

Sponsor Spring Benefit 2025

Register NOW for MPA Summer Art Camp!

Registration for MPA's 2025 Summer Art Camps is now open. 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 6 to 18.

Offerings include MPA Art Camps (ages 6-13) and our CIT program, for students age 14-18. Sessions run June 23-August 8, 2025. Sign up early to secure your spot!

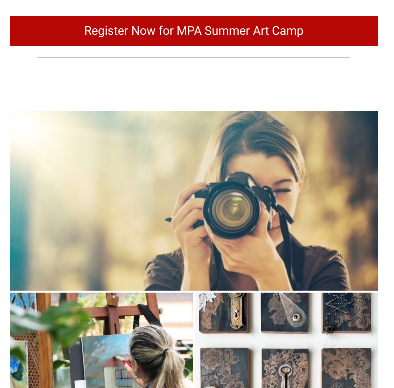
MPA Summer Art Camps (ages 6-13): Join us for a variety of imaginative and fun week-long camp sessions, all taught by experienced classroom art teachers! Each week will feature different art activities that will ignite your child's creativity. Themes include Art Across the World (***NEW!***), Mask-querade!, Comic Books, Hand Building with Clay, and more.

Sessions run from 9am-12pm (morning session) and 1-4pm (afternoon session). Campers have the option of attending both sessions for a full-day experience. All materials are provided. Camps will be held in our studios at the McLean Community Center. Tuition $295 per session/$280 MCC district residents

Teen Summer Opportunities (ages 14-18): Older students are invited to join MPA for our Counselor in Training Program (CIT). MPA's CIT Program was developed to enrich the experience of older campers at our summer artcamps, through encouraging teaching and leadership skills. CITs will assist in planning and leading activities for our young campers. Please contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org to fill out the CIT application.

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

Register Now for MPA Summer Art Camp



NEW Spring Art Classes Begin in April!

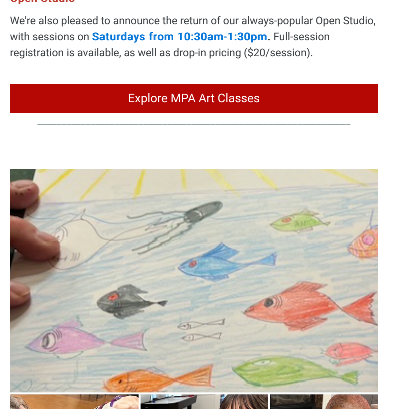
This spring, join us for one of our NEW MPA art classes, including Photography: Basics and Composition Class, with Tom Woodruff, Plein Air with Stephanie Chang, and Assemblage Alchemy: Turning Found Objects into Art, with Zofie King.

Additionally, many of your longtime favorite instructors are also beginning new classes for spring! Explore all of our class offerings on our website.

Open Studio

We're also pleased to announce the return of our always-popular Open Studio, with sessions on **Saturdays from 10:30am-1:30pm**. Full-session registration is available, as well as drop-in pricing ($20/session).

Explore MPA Art Classes



MPA ArtReach Establishes New Community Partnership

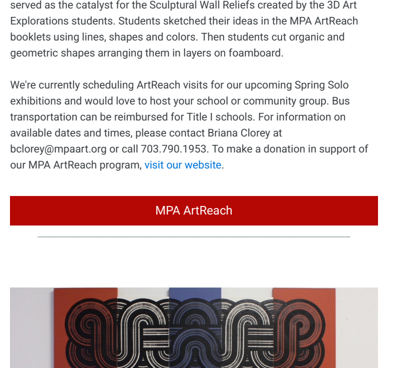
MPA ArtReach has enjoyed a busy winter season of in-gallery visits and workshops to our recent gallery exhibitions—*Pieced Together, We are Whole* and *Playing With Shadows: Works by Liz Lescault*—as well as ongoing virtual and in-person classes with our many community partners.

We are happy to announce a new partnership with the Kingsley Commons After-School Program, with ArtReach Director Sharon Fishel making weekly visits to their Falls Church area program for art workshops. The program is part of Fairfax County's Community Technology Program, designed to enhance digital literacy among underserved communities throughout the county.

And when you stop in to see our current McLean Pyramid Youth Art Show, don't miss the work by Longfellow Middle School art department students, created in partnership with ArtReach Director Fishel during a series of recent visits to the school's art classes. MPA's recent "Sculpture Now" exhibition served as the catalyst for the Sculptural Wall Reliefs created by the 3D Art Explorations students. Students sketched their ideas in the MPA ArtReach booklets using lines, shapes and colors. Then students cut organic and geometric shapes arranging them in layers on foamboard.

We're currently scheduling ArtReach visits for our upcoming Spring Solo exhibitions and would love to host your school or community group. Bus transportation can be reimbursed for Title I schools. For information on available dates and times, please contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org or call 703.790.1953. To make a donation in support of our MPA ArtReach program, visit our website.

MPA ArtReach



Coming Soon: Spring Solos

Featuring work by Jackie Hoysted, Emon Surakitkoson and Heidi Fowler
April 10 – June 14, 2025
Opening Exhibition Reception: Thursday, April 17, 7-9pm

A curated exhibition featuring the work of contemporary living artists working in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

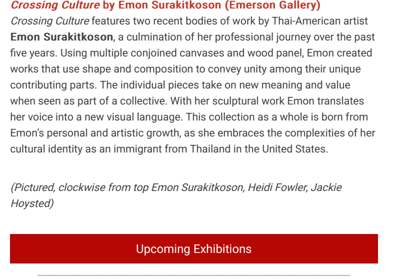
***Detrimorphose*, by Heidi Fowler (Atrium Gallery)**
In the exhibition "Detrimorphose", **Heidi Fowler** depicts the power of brokenness and redemption through mixed media paintings. The artist bring together discarded materials (junk mail, plastic, rustic pieces, and old computer parts) in assemblages to inspire a greater consciousness and creativity towards the paraphernalia we would otherwise discard; exploring the tension between the beauty of creation and the priorities of man.

***Rudimental*, by Jackie Hoysted (Emerson Gallery)**
Jackie Hoysted's *Rudimental* is an interactive immersive installation that evokes ideas of nature in interconnectedness. Using simple geometrical elements to generate imagery and meditative sounds, the installation harks back to undervalued ancestral connections with the land, the planet, the universe. It is a call for mutual respect, reciprocity and recognition of our minuteness in the universe.

***Crossing Culture* by Emon Surakitkoson (Emerson Gallery)**
Crossing Culture features two recent bodies of work by Thai-American artist **Emon Surakitkoson**, a culmination of her professional journey over the past five years. Using multiple conjoined canvases and wood panel, Emon created works that use shape and composition to convey unity among their unique contributing parts. The individual pieces take on new meaning and value when seen as part of a collective. With her sculptural work Emon translates her voice into a new visual language. This collection as a whole is born from Emon's personal and artistic growth, as she embraces the complexities of her cultural identity as an immigrant from Thailand in the United States.

(Pictured, clockwise from top Emon Surakitkoson, Heidi Fowler, Jackie Hoysted)

Upcoming Exhibitions



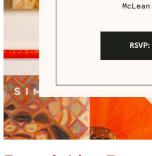
Back for 2025: MPAartfest!

MPA is thrilled to announce that, after last year's hiatus, MPAartfest will return to McLean Central Park on Sunday, October 5, 2025! The call for artists will open in late April. Stay tuned for more information and further details! We can't wait to continue this treasured tradition of connecting art and community.

Framebridge Event March 13

Please join the McLean Chamber of Commerce, MPA, and Framebridge on March 13 for a private shopping event to celebrate the McLean store opening.

RSVP



MPA in the News

Arlington Magazine: 21 Fun-Filled Things to Do in March In and Around Arlington (02/28/2025)

FFXNow: Annual Showcase of McLean Student Artwork to Return in March (02/27/2025)

TysonsToday: McLean Project for the Arts Youth Art Shows Open March 4 (02/21/2025)

DisCerning Eye, by Mark Jenkins: Movable Parts (*Playing with Shadows*) (02/17/2025)

Arlington Magazine: The Best Summer Day Camps In and Around Arlington (01/25/2025)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MPA Calendar of Events

March 4-16, 2025: Youth Art Show (McLean Pyramid)

March 13, 2025: Framebridge Shopping Event, 5-8pm

March 19-26, 2025: Youth Art Show (Langley Pyramid)

April 10-June 24, 2025: Spring Solos, featuring work by Jackie Hoysted, Emon Surakitkoson and Heidi Fowler

April 17, 2025: Spring Solos Opening Exhibition Reception, 7-9pm

May 8, 2025: Spring Benefit 2025, at the home of Dharini & Reggie Aggarwal

October 5, 2025: MPAartfest returns to McLean Central Park!

DONATE NOW!

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

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