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McLean Project for the Arts

A message from our Artistic Director

Artistic Notes

In response to our open call for Spring Solo exhibition proposals, nearly 250 artists from throughout the DMV submitted work for consideration—representing an extraordinary breadth of ideas, practices, and perspectives.

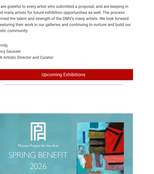
From this impressive pool, we selected three solo exhibitions for 2026 in the new McLean Community Center galleries and three exhibitions for 2026 in the new MPA Heritage Arts & Education Center galleries. For Spring 2027, we have selected three exhibitions in the Community Center galleries. These artists represent a compelling range of media, formal approaches, and conceptual concerns, reflecting the richness of contemporary art practice in our area.

We are especially excited to introduce exhibitions in the new Bishop galleries while continuing our long-standing presence in the beloved McLean Community Center galleries that have shaped MPA's history. These two spaces allow us to honor our roots while expanding our capacity to present ambitious work.

We are grateful to every artist who submitted a proposal, and are keeping in mind many artists for future exhibition opportunities as well. The process affirmed the talent and strength of the DMV's many artists. We look forward to featuring their work in our galleries and continuing to nurture and build our artistic community.

Warmly,
Nancy Sausser
MPA Artistic Director and Curator

Upcoming Exhibitions



Spring Benefit Sponsorships Now Available!

Please mark your calendars and join MPA on **Thursday, May 7, 2026** for MPA's signature spring fête, Spring Benefit. MPA relies on the funds raised at this event to support its mission to exhibit, educate, and inspire our community through contemporary visual arts. Sharnon Burrell and Martha Simons will co-chair this year's event.

Please consider joining us as a Spring Benefit sponsor. Spring Benefit plays a vital role in supporting MPA's mission to exhibit the work of emerging and established artists, foster understanding of contemporary art, and provide meaningful arts education to our community.

We invite you to join us as a Spring Benefit sponsor and be part of this special evening. For your convenience, you may make a secure payment online here.

We look forward to celebrating with you on May 7!

Spring Benefit 2026

Register NOW for MPA Summer Art Camps!

Registration is currently open for MPA's 2026 Summer Art Camps. 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 6-12) and our CIT program, for students age 14-18. Sessions run June 22-August 7, 2026. Popular weeks fill quickly. Sign up early to secure your spot!

MPA Summer Art Camps 2026

Last Chance to View Winter Exhibitions

Exhibitions close next Tuesday, February 24

If you haven't yet stopped by our galleries to visit our winter exhibitions, now is the time! Two exhibitions will close next Tuesday, February 24: *Bernard (Bernie) Bonnycastle's retrospective* will close next Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

We are excited to announce our winter exhibitions were just reviewed by Mark Jenkins on DisCovering Eye, his substack page. You can check out that review here.

Viewing the Exhibitions:
Bernard (Bernie) Bonnycastle Retrospective & *Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate, and Family Man* runs through February 24, 2026, and is on display in MPA's Atrium Gallery. A collaboration between MPA and the Friends of Historic Pleasant Grove Church in McLean, the exhibit is being held concurrently in MPA's Atrium Gallery and at the Historic Pleasant Grove Church.

The MPA Atrium Gallery is available for viewing during McLean Community Center operating hours. The final Historic Pleasant Grove exhibition will take place on February 22, 2026 from 2-4pm.

The MPA Emerson Gallery, which features the *PhotoGenesis 2* Exhibition, is available for viewing Monday - Saturday from 10am-6pm.

Exhibition Information

Register Now for a Winter Workshop!

Sessions underway!

Come in from the cold and join MPA for one of our winter and spring workshop offerings! MPA's workshop lineup includes favorites such as Ronni Jolles Layered Paper series, as well as exciting new options like Impressionistic Florals in Pastel with Nanette Caridge.

Workshop offerings include:

- **Perspective of Lavender Fields with Ronni Jolles** – Sunday, March 8, 2026
- **NEW! Pastel Landscapes for the Complete Beginner, with Bryan Mitchell** – Sunday, March 15, 2026
- **Creating Artwork with Layered Paper: Trees in Springtime, with Ronni Jolles** – Sunday, May 17, 2026
- **NEW! Impressionistic Florals in Pastel, with Nanette Caridge** – Sunday, April 12, 2026

Teen artists (age 14+) are welcome to join Ronni Jolles for her Layered Paper Series of workshops.

In addition to our workshops, registration is underway for our spring art classes. Whether you want to fine tune your skills or try your hand at something new, MPA has exciting offerings for every age and ability. For a complete list of adult classes, click here.

Open Studio

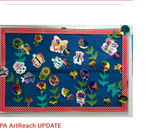
We're also pleased to announce the continuation of our always-popular Open Studio, with sessions on **Saturdays from 10:30am-1:30pm.** Full session registration is available, as well as drop-in pricing ($20/session).

For spring youth art class offerings, visit our website.

Visit our website to read all the details and to register: https://mpaart.org/education/art-classes/.

Contact Briana Clorey at bclorey@mpaart.org with questions.

Register for a Winter Workshop or Spring Art Class



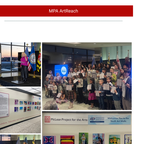
MPA ArtReach UPDATE

Nature continues to be the focus of ArtReach Director Sharon Fishel's classes with our many community partners. Her most recent visit to John Debbie's special ed class at McLean High School resulted in this terrific Butterfly Garden installation in their classroom.

We're also happy to share the process of hosting some wonderful gallery tours of our current exhibitions with recent groups including the Encore Learning program (for Arlington area seniors and the Seniors in Action group from the McLean Community Center.

To support our ArtReach program, which aims to make visual arts education accessible to all in our community, please visit https://mpaart.app.neoncrm.com/forms/ay-25-26.

MPA ArtReach



The Next Time You Fly Out of Dulles, Don't Miss the Youth Art Walk Exhibit!

Thanks to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and their Social Impact team for featuring artwork once again from our annual Children's Artwork in this wonderful Youth Art Walk exhibit at Dulles International Airport. This exhibition will remain on display this year on the ticketing level, across from the TSA PreCheck checkpoint.

We are grateful for this continuing partnership and the opportunity to share the work of these talented McLean area young artists, and travel celebrating them at the recent opening reception!

Upcoming Exhibition Information

Coming Soon: Annual Youth Art Shows!

March 5-15, 2026: (McLean Pyramid)
Sponsored by Transurban
Opening Exhibition Reception March 5, 2026 from 4:30-6pm

March 19 – April 6, 2026 (Langley Pyramid)
Sponsored by Alexiance Prendergast / The Prendergast Team
Opening Exhibition Reception March 19, 2026 from 4:30-6pm

March or fourth Month: Juno MPA for our Youth Art Shows featuring work by FCPS McLean and Langley Pyramid students from elementary through high school.

The McLean Pyramid show runs March 5-15, 2026, with an Opening Exhibition Reception March 5 from 4:30-6pm.

The Langley Pyramid show runs March 19-April 6, 2026, with an Opening Exhibition Reception March 19 from 4:30-6pm.

Please join us as we celebrate these talented young artists!

Upcoming Exhibition Information

MPA in the News

DisCovering Eye (Mark Jenkins): Photo Finishes (02/18/2026)

ARA News: Photobiennale 3 Artist Talk (02/06/2026)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MPA Calendar of Events

Through February 24, 2026:
Bernard (Bernie) Bonnycastle and Bernard (Bernie) Bonnie Retrospective; *Photojournalist, Social Justice Advocate and Family Man* (Atrium Gallery)

March 1-15, 2026: McLean Pyramid Youth Art Show

March 5, 2026: McLean Pyramid Youth Art Show Opening Exhibition Reception, 4:30-6pm

March 19-April 6, 2026: Langley Pyramid Youth Art Show

March 19, 2026: Langley Pyramid, Youth Art Show Opening Exhibition Reception, 4:30-6pm

May 2, 2026: Spring Solo Opening Exhibition Reception, 5-7pm at MPA's McLean Community Center and MPA Heritage Arts & Education Center (MFW)

May 7, 2026: MPA Spring Benefit 2026

May 13, 2026: The & Talk, 11am at MPA at McLean Community Center and at MPA Heritage Arts & Education Center (MFW)

May 30, 2026: Spring Solo Artist Talk, 11am at MPA at McLean Community Center and 2pm at MPA Heritage Arts & Education Center (MFW)

DONATE NOW

1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101
Gallery Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10am-6pm
Administrative Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm

Hours and Directions | www.mpaart.org | 703.790.1953

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