

For immediate release

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Mary B. Howard
Artist Member Exhibition
June 30 – August 27, 2016

Reston, VA: Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is pleased to present the Mary B. Howard *Artist Member Exhibition*, its second biennial exhibition highlighting the talents of regional artists who support GRACE's mission of enriching community life through excellence in contemporary visual arts. The *Artist Member Exhibition* has been renamed this year in memory of Mary B. Howard, an artist and longtime board member and supporter of GRACE. Mary's passionate advocacy of local artists, and her generous legacy bequest to GRACE, are perfectly aligned with the meaning and purpose of this exhibition.

These thirty artists selected by juror Stefanie Fedor show a compelling blend of form and content through their exploration of a wide variety of themes and diverse use of media. Their works have transformed the GRACE gallery into an invigorating space filled with dynamic forms and expressive colors. Moving through the gallery, subtle correlations can be found between the artists' aesthetic philosophies and working methods. The viewer will find rewarding visual and deeper explorations in concepts such as spirituality, fragility, bereavement, and atonement.

Ingrid Bernhardt's diminutive and obsessively beaded sculpture and **Gerardo Camargo's** meticulous enamel-on-vinyl paintings use a repeated method, with limited variation, in the creation of their art to achieve exacting result. **Russ Bailey's** swirling acrylic compositions and **Sylvia Witting's** surreal mosaic sculpture share a similar proficiency with detail and are suggestive of resolute practice.

Jason Axtell's mixed media drawing, **Stephanie George's** monotype, and the paintings of **George Kochev**, **Leslie Nolan**, and **Elaine Qiu** all feature figurative images that seem to be on the fringe of existence, evoking distant thoughts of fleeting memories or dreams. Other ephemeral works are devoid of the human figure and yet still hold a sense of presence. **Catherine Day's** ghostly digital print on fabric, **Ceci Cole MacInturff's** weighty installation, **Heidi Fowlers's** fragmented architectural paintings, **Ben Morse's** illustration of an enigmatic film, and the pensive photographs of sacred spaces by **Golié Miamee** and **Gabriella Rando** all share reference to the human condition. Elusive bits of the natural world appear to be in the process of escaping, exploding, or floating beyond their structural boundaries in the abstracted landscapes featured in the works of **John M. Adams**, **Lina Alattar**, **Alexandra Chiou**, **Andrea Cybyk**, and **Pam Rogers**. Quiet works, with a singular focus, recall the European still-life painting tradition of *vanitas*: a reflection of the decay of nature, the fleeting quality of

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sensory pleasures, and the acceptance of mortality. **Nancy Bass**'s exquisite oil paintings of domestic cattle, the dramatic, light-infused, photographs of **Nereide Ellis** and **Larry O'Reilly**, and the haunting photographic series by **Rahshia Sawyer** embrace this delicate aesthetic. More exuberant, action-oriented works like the mixed media painting by **Ann Barbieri** and the oil painting by **Craig Moran**, as well as **Jack Brennan**'s photograph of turbulent water, redefine the still-life tradition and depict a passion for the moment with a sense of spirited playfulness. Artists **Tom Dixon**, **Matthew Grimes**, and **Melanie Kehoss** share a humoristic sensibility and boldness for material experimentation in their graphically strong compositions.

Greater Reston Arts Center is FREE and OPEN to the public from June 30 – August 27, 2016 during the following hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 1pm – 5pm

Thursday 1- 7pm

Saturday 11am – 5pm

Greater Reston Arts Center welcomes family engagement in contemporary visual art and provides materials, as well suggestions for art projects, relating to the exhibition in our *Explore More!* art buckets. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in a meaningful art experience through the self-led gallery tour and art making with the materials provided. Cost is \$5 per child.

The Greater Reston Arts Center is dedicated to enriching community life by promoting involvement and excellence in the contemporary visual arts. Its gallery showcases exceptional emerging and established artists from the mid-Atlantic region and beyond; its GRACE Art program delivers art enrichment experiences in over 40 schools regionally, impacting over 20,000 students; and its annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival is among the top such events in the country. The Greater Reston Arts Center is always free and open to the public.

For more information please contact Erica Harrison at ericaharrison@restonarts.org or (703) 471-9242.

Image credits:

Andrea Cybyk, *Floating Forms 2*, 2016, acrylic on paper, 10" x 8" x 2"

Rahshia Sawyer, *I Put On My Rib and Collarbone 002*, 2016, archival inkjet, 20" x 30"

Heidi Fowler, *No. 022.32.016*, 2016, acrylic and mixed media on panel, 24" x 24"

Russ Bailey, *The One That's Like a Base Line and a Melody*, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 48" x 60"

For more information please visit www.restonarts.org

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Mary B. Howard *Artist Member Exhibition* is sponsored in part by:



The Greater Reston Arts Center gratefully acknowledges the leadership of its Board of Directors and the support of its sponsors, members, and patrons. GRACE programs are supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and the Reston Community Center.

