



**Mary B. Howard**  
**Artist Member Exhibition**

John M. Adams | Lina Alattar | Jason Axtell | Russ Bailey  
Ann Barbieri | Nancy Bass | Ingrid Bernhardt  
Jack Brennan | Gerardo Camargo | Alexandra Chiou  
Andrea Cybyk | Catherine Day | Tom Dixon  
Nereide Ellis | Heidi Fowler | Stephanie George  
Matthew Grimes | Melanie Kehoss | George Kochev  
Ceci Cole McInturff | Golié Miamee | Craig Moran  
Ben Morse | Leslie Nolan | Larry O'Reilly | Elaine Oiu  
Gabriella Pando | Pam Rogers | Rahshia Sawyer | Sylvia Witting

GreaterRestonArtsCenter

## Mary B. Howard Artist Member Exhibition

The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents 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 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.

We are grateful for the expertise of our juror who carefully adjudicated numerous submissions to bring forth this brilliant and unique exhibition. Thank you to all of our valued members, supporters, sponsors, and participating artists who contributed enthusiastically to this exhibition.

Erica Harrison  
Associate Curator

### Stefanie Fedor

Executive Director of the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Stefanie Fedor has over 20 years of experience producing visual arts programming in Chicago, New York, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Before joining the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, she served as the executive director of the Arlington Arts Center where she directed an artist residency, exhibitions, and arts education program supporting emerging artists. She has additionally managed and directed exhibition programs at American University, the Maryland Institute College of Art, and New York University. She served on the Board of Directors for ArtTable as the Vice President of Membership, and has curated and juried multiple exhibitions in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and New York. Ms. Fedor holds a BFA in studio art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MA in visual arts administration from New York University.