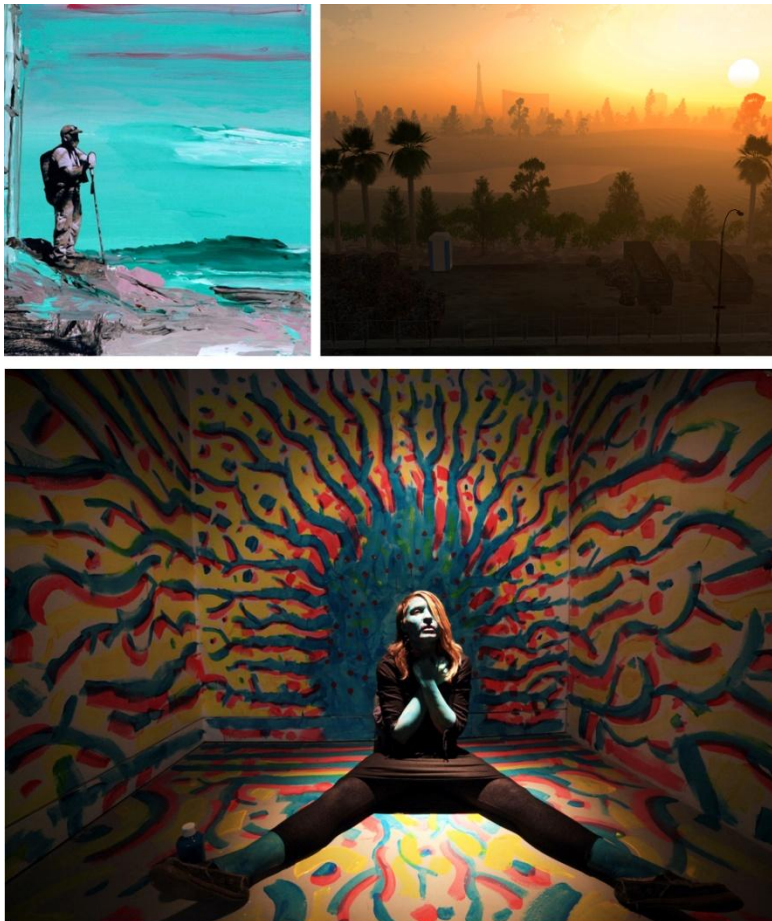




746 Panmure Road  
Haverford, PA 19041  
610.525.0272  
www.mainlineart.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rachel Ammon, Communications Dir. | 610.525.0272 x125 | rammon@mainlineart.org



Top Left: Nic Coviello; Right: Tim Portlock; Bottom: Jennie Thwing

## Main Line Art Center Unveils Award for 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition

*Imaginary Reality* Features Nic Coviello, Tim Portlock & Jennie Thwing

Curated by: Amie Potsic, Executive Director of Main Line Art Center

April 1 - 30, 2014

**Artist Talk and Gallery Tour: Friday, April 4, 5:30-6:30 pm**  
**Opening Reception: Friday, April 4, 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Associated Programs:**

**iPainting on the Go Workshop with Nic Coviello: Thurs., April 17, 6-8:30 pm**  
**Technology in Art: Visionary Influence Lecture with Tim Portlock: Mon., April 21, 6-7:30 pm**  
**Still Animation Workshop with Jenny Thwing: Thurs., April 24, 6-8:30 pm**

HAVERTFORD, PA (March 18, 2014)— Featuring Nic Coviello, Tim Portlock, and Jennie Thwing, *Imaginary Reality*, running April 1 to 30, is the 10th annual Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition at Main Line Art Center. Curated by Amie Potsic, Executive Director of Main Line Art Center, *Imaginary Reality* explores the expansion of artistic dialogue yielded by combining traditional mediums and digital arts, and coincides with the introduction of the Center's new digital media program. In honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Center is proud to announce the expansion of the exhibition program to include the **Meyer Family Award for Contemporary Art**.

Trained in the classic artistic mediums, each artist adopted digital technology as a means of deepening their investigations of invented landscapes, imaginary narratives, and personal identity. In essence, they have created unique visual languages that combine painting, printmaking, digital photography, stop animation video, 3D gaming technology, performance, and installation. Contextualizing digital imagery in service of storytelling and discovery, their work exists in between and among mediums to create new and unexpected realities that challenge our definitions of self, place, and human experience.

For the past decade, Main Line Art Center has presented an exhibition each spring in memory of Teaching Artist Betsy Meyer featuring the work of forward-thinking artists who are pushing boundaries within their artistic practice. As an artist, Betsy exemplified what is most exciting about engaging with the artwork of living artists: watching them experiment with their media and tackling complicated and tough subjects. As a teacher, she encouraged her students to follow her example and expand their practice into new frontiers. And finally, as a member of the board and exhibition committee, she assured that the Art Center was there for the artistic community of Philadelphia.

*Imaginary Reality* marks an expansion of the program to include the Meyer Family Award for Contemporary Art, which consists of a solo exhibition and award of \$1000 to each selected artist. The growth of this program is an effort to support the talented contemporary artists in the Mid-Atlantic region, to honor deserving artists in the field, and to encourage excellence and experimentation in artistic practice, presentation, and community involvement. The application period begins April 1 and runs through September 22, 2014. The Art Center is thankful to Betsy Meyer's family for their generous and unyielding support of the Art Center and Betsy's artistic legacy and looks forward to granting this new award to artists annually.

The Art Center will host an artist talk and gallery tour on Friday, April 4 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, followed by a public reception from 6:30 to 8:30 pm featuring samplings from the center's wine sponsor, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly. The artist talk, reception and gallery visits are free and open to the public. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm, and Friday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Additional programs for *Imaginary Reality* include an iPainting on the Go Workshop with Nic Coviello on Thursday, April 17 from 6 to 8:30 pm; Technology in Art: Visionary Influence, a free lecture with Tim Portlock on Monday, April 21 from 6 to 7:30 pm; and a Still Animation Workshop with Jenny Thwing on Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8:30 pm. For more information about these programs,

including registration, visit [www.mainlinert.org](http://www.mainlinert.org) or call 610.525.0272.

Colored with life experiences and the joy of studio practices, **Nic Coviello's** goal is to provide the viewer with an alternate narrative on a commonplace subject. Parklands, botanical forms, and animals provide the context for his work. Coviello fuses traditional methods of drawing, painting, and printmaking with photographic and digital imaging techniques to get at an "elusive" real and a "concrete" imagined nature. Appropriating photographic data and explorations in computer graphics complement his field drawing, painting, and collected fragments of nature. Coviello creates background landscapes with painterly techniques and portrays the foreground figures with high-contrast black and white photographic elements. Born in Connecticut, Coviello came to Philadelphia to study at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts where he earned coordinated BFA and MFA degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. He now lives and works in Philadelphia and has exhibited widely at venues including the Philadelphia International Airport, The Painting Center in New York, and the Korean University of the Arts in Seoul, Korea. Coviello taught Digital Design as a Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design and was an Artist Member and Board Member of the Nexus Foundation for the Arts from 2004 until 2009.

**Tim Portlock's** lifelong interest in the dialogue between place and the formation of identity is the fuel behind his creative endeavors. Educated primarily as a traditional visual artist, Portlock has worked in the past as a community-based muralist as well as a studio painter. His current body of work includes large format print images created using 3D gaming technology to simulate real world and imagined spaces based on the Las Vegas strip and surrounding desert. Recent work also includes large, outdoor video projections onto buildings that create temporary public art. Portlock received a BFA in Painting from the Kansas City Art Institute, an MFA in Art and Design from the University of Chicago, and an MFA in Electronic Visualization from the University of Illinois. Portlock is currently an Associate Professor in the Film and Media Department at Hunter College (CUNY- New York City), and previously worked at the University of Paris-Sorbonne. A 2011 recipient of a Pew Fellowship, Portlock has exhibited widely throughout the US and internationally including Ars Electronica in Austria, ISEA in Japan, and the Tate Modern as a member of the Artist Collective Vox Populi.

**Jennie Thwing** is a New York-based artist and film maker. Using video, installation, and animation she creates imaginary narratives that reference her history, ideology, social context, family mythologies, and dreams. Her subject matter ranges from miniature animated dioramas to historical reenactments. All of her work involves the anthropomorphism of nature, refuse, and human environments. Currently an Assistant Professor of Visual Communication at SUNY Farmingdale College as well as an Associate Professor of Art at Rowan University, Thwing received her BFA in Graphic Design at Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, and went on to receive her MFA in Imaging and Digital Arts at University of Maryland. Her work has been widely exhibited in the US and abroad at venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Seattle, the Institute for Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, the Fondazione Mudima per l'Arte Contemporanea in Milan, The Independent Museum of Contemporary Art (IMCA) in Cyprus and the New York Studio Gallery. Thwing was also recently chosen as a Center for Emerging Visual Artists Fellow and a 2014 Queens Arts Fund Grant recipient.

**Amie Potsic**, curator of the exhibition, began her tenure as Executive Director of Main Line Art Center in July of 2012. Prior to that, she served as Director of Gallery 339 and Director of the Career Development Program at the Center for Emerging Visual Artists (CFEVA) in Philadelphia where she curated exhibitions and planned professional development programming for emerging and professional artists. Potsic has curated over 70 exhibitions at venues including The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Moore College of Art & Design. Potsic is also an established photographic artist who has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. In addition, she is currently Chair of the Art In City Hall Artistic Advisory Board to the City of Philadelphia's Office of Arts,

## Culture & the Creative Economy.

Main Line Art Center is a welcoming and inclusive creative home where everyone is encouraged to create, experience, and discover the value of art. Committed to making art more accessible, the Art Center has over 75 years of experience presenting art programs for individuals of all ages and abilities, including a unique series of Accessible Art programs for children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities, at-risk youth, and low income families now celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Throughout the year, Main Line Art Center presents innovative, contemporary art exhibitions in their award-winning gallery, as well as exhibitions that celebrate community. Last year over 16,000 people chose Main Line Art Center as their home for creativity.

Main Line Art Center is located at 746 Panmure Road in Haverford, behind the Wilkie Lexus dealership just off of Lancaster Avenue. The Art Center is easily accessible from public transportation and offers abundant free parking. For more information about *Imaginary Reality* or the Meyer Family Award for Contemporary Art, please visit [www.mainlineart.org](http://www.mainlineart.org) or call 610.525.0272.

# # #

Images are attached to this email and are available upon request.



Tim Portlock  
"Golf"  
Inkjet Print  
54" x 72"  
© Tim Portlock 2012



Jennie Thwing  
"My Black Hole: Cold"  
Archival Pigment Print  
36" x 48"  
© Jennie Thwing 2013



Nic Coviello  
"Pole Walker"  
Acrylic and Digital Media on Panel  
24" x 18"  
© Nic Coviello 2012