



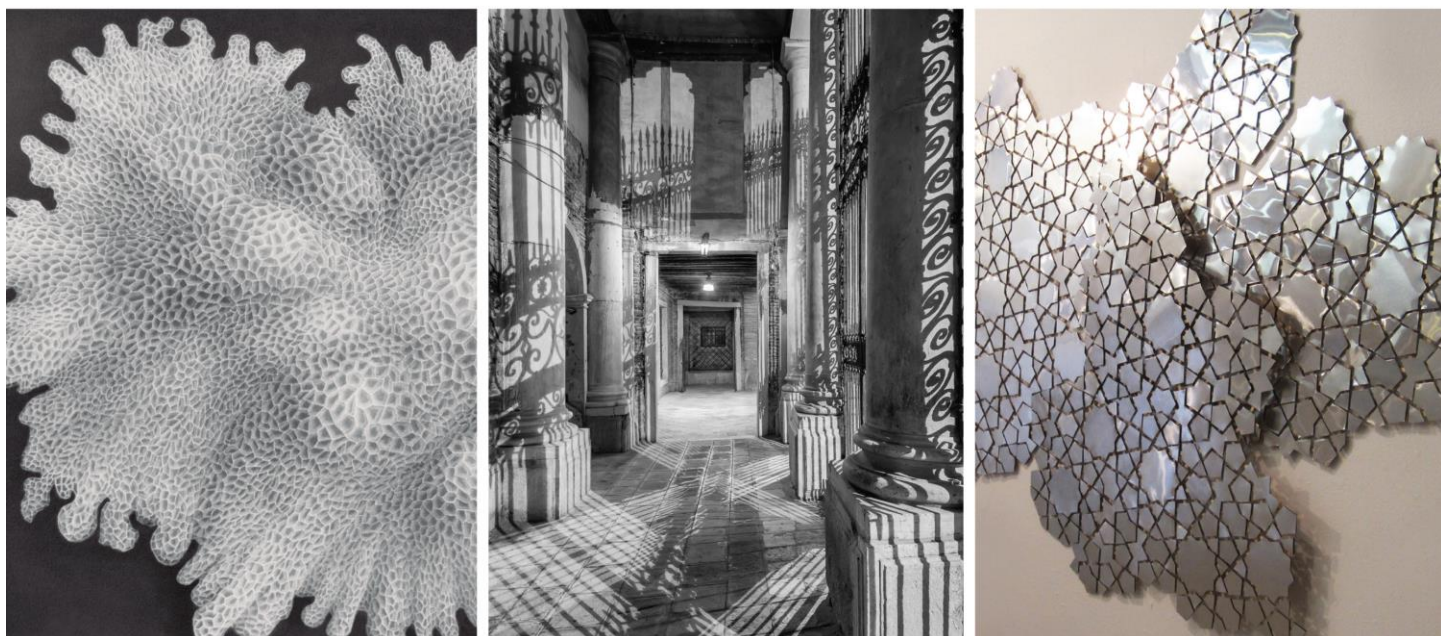
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WHAT IS & WHAT IF

14th Annual Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition



What Is & What If Challenges Us to Examine Our Environments Through Photography, Drawing, and Sculpture

2018 Meyer Family Award for Contemporary Art recipients:

James B. Abbott (Ardmore, PA), Gregory Brellochs (Philadelphia, PA), & Samantha Holmes (Bronx, NY)

Curated by: Chelsea Markowitz, Curator of Exhibitions, Main Line Art Center

March 12 - April 15, 2018

Artist Talk and Reception: Friday, March 16, 2018

Talk & Gallery Tour: 5:30-6:30 pm | Reception: 6:30-8:00 pm

HAVERFORD, PA (March 23, 2017)— Main Line Art Center in Haverford is proud to announce **James B. Abbott** (Ardmore, PA), **Gregory Brellochs** (Philadelphia, PA), and **Samantha Holmes** (Bronx, NY) as the 2018 recipients of the Meyer Family Award for Contemporary Art. Selected by Members of Main Line Art Center's Board of Artistic Advisors through a highly competitive application process, Abbott, Brellochs, and Holmes are featured in *What Is & What If, the 14th Annual Betsy Meyer Memorial*

Exhibition, on view at Main Line Art Center March 12 to April 15. There will be an artist talk and reception on Friday, March 16, beginning at 5:30 pm, which is free and open to the public.

Through photography, drawing, and sculpture these artists investigate human perception, interpretation, and conceptual forces, challenging us to examine our environments and the world around us. By means of creative exploration, these artists analyze historical contexts to create new innovative landscapes, leaving us to question what is and what could be.

Now in its fourteenth year, Main Line Art Center is proud to present an annual exhibition 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.

The Meyer Family Award for Contemporary Art, presented by Main Line Art Center in conjunction with the Betsy Meyer Memorial Exhibition, consists of an award of \$1000 and a solo exhibition to each selected artist. This award and associated exhibition program is an effort to support the talented contemporary artists in the region, to honor deserving artists in the field, and to encourage excellence and experimentation in artistic practice, presentation, and community involvement.

Along with the three recipients of the 2018 Meyer Family Award, seven finalists were also chosen. Those finalists are Heather Beardsley (Virginia Beach, VA), Mia Bosna (Phoenixville, PA), Nick Cassway (Philadelphia, PA), Joan Wadleigh Curran (Philadelphia, PA), Michael Froio (Williamstown, NJ), Oki Fukunaga (Lawrenceville, NJ), and Dawn Kramlich (Philadelphia, PA).

Main Line Art Center's galleries are open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 9 pm, and Friday through Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. For more information about these programs, including registration for artist workshops, visit www.mainlineart.org or call 610.525.0272.

James B. Abbott

James B. Abbott is a photographer based in Ardmore, PA who has maintained a studio/gallery in the Philadelphia area since 1981. His long term projects include *Philadelphia River Front / Ben Franklin Bridge* 1982-2003, *Berlin Sightlines* 1989-1992 & 2012, *The Landscape before Me: Cape Cod* 2000-2012, and *Florence and Venice, Italy* 2013-2017. With a spotlight on the never-ending, enduring and changing landscapes, his photography captures cultural, economic, and political forces at work. Abbott received his B.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hill, MI, and over the course of the past twenty-five years has received numerous grants, awards, residencies

and commissions, and has built a successful international freelance photography practice. Fellowships include two Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship Awards, Fellowships with the Center for Emerging Visual Artists in Philadelphia, and a 2012 -2013 Artist Fellowship with the Independence Foundation. In 2011, Abbott was invited to be an Honored Guest Photographer as part of the Lishui International Photo Festival in China. Past appointments include serving as a photographer for the Stieglitz Center at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Gallery Director of Burden Gallery in New York, as well as teaching at the Penland School of Crafts, University of the Arts, Philadelphia University, and Tyler School of Art. For the last 4.5 years Abbott has been teaching in the Italy Intensives Program of East Carolina University in Tuscany, Italy.

Gregory Brellochs

Gregory Brellochs is a Philadelphia-based artist, Professor, and the Visual Arts Program Coordinator at Camden County College in Blackwood, New Jersey. His drawings investigate the physical universe, consciousness, and our perceptions of the world around us. Brellochs' work has been recognized through awards such as the Center for Emerging Visual Artists CDP Fellowship, The Wind Challenge Exhibition Series at the Fleisher Art Memorial, and the William D. Davis Award for Drawing at the Art of the State Exhibition in Harrisburg, PA. Brellochs has held numerous solo exhibitions and has been featured in a number of prestigious juried and curated group exhibitions both regionally and nationally. Brellochs has also been honored by invitations to present to the joint student bodies of the arts and sciences at various colleges and universities, focusing on the intersection of art, science, and philosophy in his work (University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and Lawrence College, in Appleton, Wisconsin). Brellochs' work is included in the contemporary drawings collection of the Viewing Program through The Drawing Center in New York City. Brellochs earned his B.F.A. from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, and an M.F.A. from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

Samantha Holmes

Samantha Holmes is a Bronx based artist who focuses on conceptual and material experimentation in the medium of mosaic. Through her work, Holmes introduces distortion to patterns and symbols sourced from religion, science, and history to explore the disparity between the certainties of ideology and the fractured nature of contemporary living. By simultaneously adopting and adapting familiar iconography, she leverages existing cultural connotations to expose our underlying assumptions of the world around us. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Palazzo Fortuny, in conjunction with the 2015 Venice Biennale, the Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York, and the Sharjah Art Museum in the United Arab Emirates. Her large-scale public artwork has been installed at several sites throughout New York City and abroad. She is a recipient of the 2013 RAM prize for mosaic and the 2011 International GAEM Art Prize from the Museum of the City of Ravenna, which includes her work in its permanent collection. She holds a B.A. in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard University and an M.F.A. in Experimental Mosaic from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Ravenna, Italy.

Main Line Art Center is the community's home to discover, create, and experience visual art. The mission of Main Line Art Center is to inspire and engage people of all ages, abilities, and economic means in visual art through education, exhibitions, and experiences. Committed to increasing the visibility and accessibility of art, the Art Center presents innovative exhibitions and events in the community, including *Panorama: Image-Based Art in the 21st Century*, a Greater Philadelphia-wide celebration of the photographic image and digital media. Main Line Art Center's educational offerings for all ages, abilities, and economic means span from traditional to contemporary, and are all held to the highest level of excellence. In 2015, Main Line Art Center received the Commitment to Cultural Access Award from Art-Reach for the Center's Accessible Art Programs for children and adults with disabilities, now in their 52nd year. Additionally, the Art Center grants over \$10,000 in need-based scholarships annually. Last year, Main Line Art Center engaged 36,000 people through classes, exhibitions, and Summer Art Camp, and touched the lives of over 82,500 through Exhibitions in the Community and festivals across the Philadelphia area.

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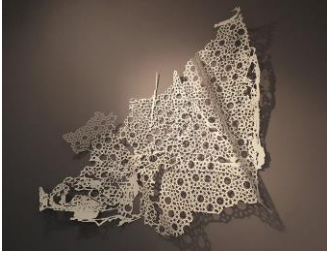
Images are attached to this email and are available upon request.



Sotoportego Pisani, Venice © James B. Abbott 2018.



Matrix 3 © Greg Brellochs 2018.



Geometric Application © Samantha Holmes 2018.