

Richmond, VA - [artspace](http://artspace.org) is pleased to present five new gallery shows, featuring sculptures by **Virginia Van Horn**, paintings by **Keith M Ramsey**, works in mixed media by **Joe Olney**, photographs by **Catherine Johnson** and works in various media by local artists. An Opening Reception for the Artists will take place on Friday, March 24, 2017, from 7:00-10:00pm and will be Free and Open to the Public. A closing artist talk will take place Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 2:00pm. This event will also be Free and Open to the Public.

The *Main* Gallery exhibition will feature **ADVENTURES IN THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM**, sculptures by by **Virginia Van Horn**. "My sculpture depicts contemporary animal imagery, with the animals often acting as alter-egos, self-images or surrogates for humanity," writes Van Horn. Her works tell stories that are both true to their animal natures and evocative of the human condition, like modern Aesop's Fables. For many years, Van Horn's sculpture concentrated almost exclusively on horses, but gradually new animals have appeared in her work. "I am especially interested in - and moved by - those animals that secretly reside in our own backyards, wild but suburban," Van Horn continues. "Living lives parallel to our own they exist almost invisibly both inside and outside of mankind's domain - a wild, mysterious presence amidst the barbecue grills and patio furniture." Her sculptures are primarily made from ordinary, commonplace materials, some as humble as paper towels. "I'm interested in unexpected media, substances that may not be luxurious or traditionally used in sculpture, but have the surprising ability to evoke a living creature," Van Horn says.

The *Fable* Gallery will present **SYRINGE WORK**, works in mixed media by **Joe Olney**. "Draw three overlapping circles. In one circle, put drawing. In the next, painting. In the third, textiles. Where all three circles overlap is where I like to work," writes Olney. He uses a syringe to squeeze out strings of acrylic paint, like a length of paracord. He weaves and crosshatches the winding "strings" in and out of patches of pattern and color that blanket crags of joint compound. What results are colorful, dense figurative abstractions, where surface topography shifts when viewing the image in the half-round, thus challenging the illusionary space, and within this context, trying to understand the porous boundaries between different categories of art making and the different ways in which we see. Olney says, "Inspiration for my work comes from the patterns and textures (both literal and metaphorical) that I've come across as a nature lover, geologist, Army combat engineer, meditator, sober alcoholic, and Iraq War veteran. As I paint, I think about how the countless interrelationships shared by all things call to challenge that which is supposedly defined by a firm edge."

In the *Helena Davis* Gallery, **CITYSCAPES IN NOIR**, paintings by **Keith M Ramsey**. Inspired by American painters Edward Hopper and Charles Sheeler, this series attempts to capture personal introspection, emotional conflict, and social isolation from a distance. Ramsey invites viewers to follow the traveling figure through highlights and shadows, between angular structures of color as they journey and pause within the surrounding environment. "**Cityscapes in Noir** has been a constant creative form of personal expression for over 20 years," Ramsey says. "Through the flourish of color and fortuitous impression of brush strokes, painting this series still excites me when I allow it to guide me to create a world for the wandering figure. This inspiration will continue to evolve the imagery, while maintaining honesty and conversation with the viewers and collectors of my work."

In *smallspace* Gallery, **Catherine Johnson** will present a series of photographs titled **SHATTERED**. This collection, shot in black and white, presents images of Johnson's friends looking into mirrors, which reflect their faces back to the camera. "Although most of these people were happy and indulging me by permitting me to photograph them in the mirror," Johnson says, "the works are a sort of metaphor for lives in general."

The *Suzanne Foley* Gallery will feature **ON THE HORIZON - the influence of landscape as a visual metaphor**, works in various media by local artists.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 12-4pm. Please contact the gallery administrator at artspaceorg@gmail.com, or phone the gallery at [804-232-6464](tel:804-232-6464) for additional information. The gallery is located at Zero East 4th Street in Richmond, Virginia 23224, and online at www.artspacegallery.org.