

For Immediate Release -- January/February 2018 exhibits at artspace

Richmond, VA - artspace is pleased to present five new gallery shows, featuring encaustics by **Georgia Nassikas**, paintings by **Erin Raedeke**, works in mixed media by **Megan Mattax**, painting and mixed media by **Michelle McGrath**, and a group show of work in various media by local artists. Exhibition dates are January 26 through February 18, 2018. An Opening Reception for the Artists will take place on Fourth Friday, January 26, 2018, from 7:00-10:00 pm and will be Free and Open to the Public. A closing artist talk will take place Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 2:00pm. This event will also be Free and Open to the Public.

The *Main* Gallery exhibition will present **Art Unhinged**, encaustics by **Georgia Nassikas**. For this show, Nassikas creates abstract imagery with rich textures at the intersection of rural and urban architecture. Her artistic process allows for luminous, textured, complex surfaces that deepen and enliven her images: interplay of elemental form and color, the crossing of the representational with the abstract, the geometry of angles and shadows, and the light of a lifting sky. Raised on the Rhode Island coast and classically trained in art and design in Boston and Florence, Nassikas works out of her studio in McLean, VA, creating reflective modern images in wax and oil.

The *Frale* Gallery will feature **Patterns of Behavior**, paintings by **Erin Raedeke**. Using objects and textures from her past, Raedeke explores incessant cycles of behavior. In this solo exhibition, careful observation of everyday objects damaged and rendered useless reveals old patterns and perceptions. "I am interested in the unwanted and dismissed," she says. "Objects are both stumbled upon and purposefully chosen. Thoughts, memories and past experiences are scavenged through in an effort to find meaning and uncover connections. My paintings document this search." The set-up allows Raedeke to "object" to preconceived ideas and assumptions; challenge an image or impression that is forced upon an object or relationship. "I am interested in the limits of what an observational painting can be. All my work is done from life, and I attempt to challenge the parameters of what has been handed down to me as a perceptual painter," she says. The formal aspects of painting have always been a driving force in her work, as is a developing narrative.

In the *Helena Davis Gallery*, **Megan Mattax** presents **pərˈpeCHəˌwāt**, works in mixed media. "I am interested in knowledge, specifically how information is passed from one generation to the next," Mattax writes. She uses book-like forms created from discarded dictionaries as metaphor for the conduit of knowledge transference. These structures are shaped and transformed through the powerful and destructive elements of fire, water, and air. Construction and destruction of the pieces emphasize the brevity of their existence in an ever-growing digital world. The amber-like preservation of the forms is the embodiment of a new generation's view of archaic forms of knowledge. "The term 'Perpetuate' means to preserve something of value from oblivion or extinction," Mattax says. "The idea of perpetuation is a common thread running through this body of work. Although the books are destroyed and no longer functional they are, in fact, preserved in a transparent shroud of epoxy-resin that solicits an up close and intimate interaction with the forms that would otherwise be forgotten."

The *smallspace Gallery* will show **830 Days**, paintings and mixed media by **Michelle McGrath**. McGrath's work is acrylic on multi-layered canvas and thread. "In my paintings and mixed media works, I incorporate rough textures and vibrant, high contrast colors. I find beauty and intrigue in the gnarled roots of a tree, the crumbling plaster on a wall, and the wrinkled, roughened hands of my grandmother," she says. To explore these types of surfaces, she distorts the materials by twisting, ripping, and pulling the pieces apart. "For instance, canvas is layered and stitched together in an uneven manner, with knots and lumps added to the distressed surface," McGrath continues. "I view these distorted, strained surfaces as different forces in my life that push or pull me in varied directions. This metaphor helps me to express myself through formal aesthetic concerns." She approaches her compositions playfully and intuitively, letting them evolve, during her process. "My paintings contain bold, complementary color palettes," she says. "I perceive dynamic color to have a virile quality that emanates a strong sense of purpose. I am drawn to the expressive qualities, and how they command attention from the viewer."

The *Suzanne Foley Gallery* will feature **All Sides Now-Visual Views From Every Angle**, 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