Medford Arts Center, Inc

website: medfordart.org
Acknowledgments

2019 Exhibition Team:

Rose Lambias
Donna Clifford
Ed Cardini
Mike Oliver

Music:

Niko Malinowski Trio, @NikoMalinowskiMusic

Brochure Design and Production:

Susan Altman

Color Reproduction Courtesy of:

Becky Hemperly
Artists: 2019 MACI Commerce Place Exhibition

The following pages list the artists and short text about their art.

For more information about the art in this exhibition, or to ask about purchasing a piece of art that you like, contact the artist directly at their email, shown below.

If you have difficulty reaching someone and would like our help, feel free to reach out to MACI at medfordartscenter@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting local artists!

ARTISTS
Altman, Susan
glassandgrout@gmail.com
Cardini, Ed
ecardini@me.com
Cogswell, Betsey
bbcogwell@gmail.com
Draconi, Cristie
info@cryesdacon.com
Erickson, Astrid
astrid@tenbyten.com
Falls, Lauren
lgfalls@verizon.net
Felder, Sandy
smfelder@gmail.com
Gerould, Sarah
sgerould@gmail.com

Gordon, Sally
sgordon5@me.com
Green, Georgia
gogadiagcomcast.net
Haddad, Nancy
haddadnancy6@gmail.com
Hemperly, Becky
bhemperly@comcast.net
Jakubec, April
apriljakubec@gmail.com
Kiley, Carol
fxkiley@rcn.com
Lambias, Rose
rjml83@gmail.com
Madison Doc
doctor@docmadison.org
Mahal, Jaspreet
jaspreet26@brandeis.edu
Musto-Choate, Louise
louisemustochoate@gmail.com
Saporito, Michael
msaporito1965@gmail.com
Strait, Jill
jillstrait@yahoo.com

VENDORS
Beardslee, Sarah
Beaded Jewelry
flightnessseabird52@gmail.com
Youngblood, Ruth
Cards by Cherry
dajohna@verizon.net
Altman, Susan

“ENTER”: In this time of outright discrimination and hatred directed at anyone different, I felt called upon to make an equally clear statement of inclusion and acceptance. Bottle caps seemed a perfect material in which to place these words of welcome, coming as they have from people of many backgrounds while symbolizing America’s utterly disposable society (of both things and people). Bottle caps, paper, resin, thinset, paint.


“Two Susans”: Any piece of art owes its existence to many influences, both direct and not. This piece was begun by one Susan and finished by another. Can you tell where one Susan stopped and the second started? Stone, semi-precious stone, glass, copper wire.

Cardini, Ed

“Uji”: Time is all inclusive. Nothing exists outside of time. This painting is a visual exploration of time. Inspired by Zen Master Dogen’s essay Being Time, Heidegger's Being and Time, and Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity.

“Ramana Maharshi” was an Indian sage and jivanmukta. He was born as Venkataraman Iyer, but is most commonly known by the name Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi. He was born in what is now Tiruchuli, Tamil Nadu, India. He taught that happiness is our natural state and that mind is all inclusive, leaving nothing outside of the Self.
Cogswell, Betsey

“Bridging the Rainbow”: The rainbow has served as a symbol of inclusion and diversity: skin color, creed, sexual identity, ethnicity, socio-economic status. We talk about “all the colors of the rainbow” to imply diversity. A rainbow, however, is lacking in several colors that are important identifiers of human skin colors: black, brown and white (or, more accurately light shades of pinky, orangey beige). This piece attempts to remind us that the rainbow doesn’t accurately reflect all of the different colors of humanity and brings different shades of black, brown, white to interact with, to bridge the colors of the rainbow. Materials: Wool fleece, silk thread and mica

Felt, made by the manipulation of animal fiber (sheep, goats, llamas, human hair, etc.), usually with water, has been made across the world for millennia. It provides warmth and protects from the rain. It has clothed us and protected our feet. It provides shelter (yurts in Mongolia). It can also be highly decorative. For me, with its universality, felt is an ideal medium to express the concept of inclusion. It is also a beautiful material. The piece also incorporates pieces of mica, which serve as little mirrors, thereby bringing the viewer into the image.

Draconi, Christie

“Inclusion & Integration” is an abstract piece that shows how many things can come from many areas and as we overlap in our lives, we integrate to learn and become part of other cultures and lifestyles. Medium: Watercolor pencil on watercolor paper

“The Melting Pot 2019” refers to the original nickname of the United States as being a “Melting Pot” of cultures, and shows how we still maintain this status and over time have melted into one another. Melted Crayon on Canvas.
Erickson, Astrid

The purple skin and red hair show how unusual this woman is, but her expression represents how peaceful she feels about it. Inclusion is accepting every person for who they are and how they look. The painting is a representation of the people I know who all look very different from each other, but are completely satisfied with how they look. In the process of the painting, I also thought about the many people who aren’t yet able to feel peaceful about how they look.

This piece is based on a photograph where the safety pin through the tongue represents the pain in silencing. Freedom of speech, and letting every person be free to speak out and not silence themselves. This piece means a lot to me because I know many people who struggle with being able to talk about what they really think or feel.

It is up to interpretation whether this woman is fleeing, opening a door, or something else — but whatever the case, she is alone. There are many ways to see Inclusion and lack of Inclusion in this piece, but I feel that it communicates a sense of fear of exclusion.

This was inspired by the way people are shaped by experiences, people, and places. The person has spots of other colors all over their face and upper chest, showing how much we are influenced and grown by things around us. This fits the theme of Inclusion because all people are brought together with these many colors we all have inside us.
Falls, Lauren

As we all learned in geometry, three points are the most stable but, in relationships that is not always true. Thinking about the theme of inclusion, each of these paintings represents some level of tension between three objects but with a sense of balance and peace.

Felder, Sandy

“Love is the Answer”: Photo of a street mural painted on a community center in Boston, of Mel King, who has been a civil rights leader in Boston for many years, and his work is the epiphany of Inclusion.

“Black Lives Matter”: Unitarian churches all over the country have placed this flag in a visible location. Certainly this message speaks to inclusion.

“The Weaver’s Shuttle”: The words of this poem overlaid by the beauty of the threads in the weaver’s shuttle show that life is full of many threads, colors and we are stronger for this.
Gerould, Sarah

Inclusion is especially meaningful in contrast to its opposite, and the fear or result of exclusion or rejection is part of what makes inclusion so dear.

“Two and Two of All Flesh”

Said Noah in Genesis, gathering the beasts, Take your place on the ark lest your species decease. But the yams were determined to board with the rest, And their duck subterfuge stood the ultimate test.

“Tomatillos on Mars: Considering the Alternatives.” One can only imagine the thoughts of refugees landing in a hostile, foreign land, hoping that this alternative is ultimately welcoming and inclusive.

“Return” depicts the wistful longing for inclusion on the part of a gourd.

“Escape to Freedom”

A Taste of Freedom is also accompanied by an ekphrastic poem, whose final stanza reads:

"So sit with me and close your eyes and float with them in air
Let cares be dropped like so much dew, feel peace and be aware.
Remember those whose fates are worse than yours by quite a lot.
And give yourself this tranquil time to fly with them in thought."

Gordon, Sally

“Balance of Time”: Time is an issue for most people. People with health or learning challenges often find the balance of time an even larger issue. My piece is an image of the “Scales of Justice” loaded with timepieces, as “time” needs to be adjusted to the individual with health or learning challenges.
Green, Georgia

Wonder if these African American young men feel they are celebrating the same freedoms represented by the flag as white Americans on this Memorial Day, 2019.

This Muslim mother, steeped in her own centuries-old cultural garb, dresses her daughter in the style of their current culture. The daughter gains, "inclusion," in a way the mother may not embrace.

Indigenous people march in protest of government oppression which has excluded their birth rights, their land, and their culture.

Indigenous people celebrate with all the symbols of their culture and heritage in the middle of the white, dominant culture.
**Haddad, Nancy**

“Spirit of Inclusion”: The canoe represents the vehicle to include everyone and a smiling Indian girl. The figure on the left symbolizes strength to fight prejudice.

“Being of Inclusion”: Outstretched arms and hands gesture inclusion.

“Mandala, The Pearl of Wisdom”: The radiant pearl represents the spirit of Inclusion.

**Hemperly, Becky**

To me, these two photos represent a reminder that we, along with our manmade objects, are part of one world. On a small scale, as with this fence and bicycle, nature is taking over - reclaiming what we’ve left behind. On a larger scale, however, our effects will not be so easy for nature to overcome. So, we need to go forward with more mindfulness, respect, and humility for our one planet that includes us all.
Jakubec, April

My work revolves around the theme of women’s mental health and recovery from trauma and abuse. The series of portraits showcase women with their eyes obscured by botanicals—keeping the secrets of their pain hidden from the world.

Similarly unseen, 1 in 5 adults in the US experience mental illness in a given year. Mental health is starting to be included in the global conversation, and it is important to be included in the art world as well.

Kiley, Carol

“Juliet, “Woman from Uganda”

Through a program called "Outbound" Juliet received a teaching certificate and works in a clinic in Kampala. The program also extends to her family for dental care, groceries and education on spousal abuse. They are included in all that promotes decency and self worth.

Lambias, Rose

The universe / cosmos is a unified, orderly, and harmonious system. It includes all things.

These four paintings represent the universe and objects in the universe, real or imagined.

“God's Eye” All knowing and all seeing – a nebula moving in conjunction
with the constellation Aquarius. This culmination of gas dust and debris forms the eye of God.

“The Universe in Balance”. Good and evil kept in balance by the universe. Each person has freedom of choice and can choose good over evil and live in harmony with others.

“God's First Day off”: Imagine being God, and taking a bath in the pink water, turning it blue. What’s it like being God?

“Lonely City”: Note the suggestion of little men in the lower right. They don’t know.

“The Dawning of Aquarius” - A new day, a new dawn, a new world filled with harmony for everyone to begin anew. (When completed, this will include all the stars in the constellation Aquarius.)

“Waves of Harmony” - As on Earth so is in Heaven. The waves you make affect and include everyone.

“Fitting in the Frame”: This painting depicts many marginalized communities who are struggling to be in the mainstream and be heard by the dominant in the society. The painting includes symbols of Gender equality, Disability, Age, Taoism, Dalits and Tribals in India, LGBTQA folks, Native Americans, Black and Latinx community, Middle Eastern and working class- all trying to fit in the frame to be included.
“Safe Voyage”: This painting symbolizes how legal rights and mandates can help safeguard individual rights and make them feel included in the society by providing protection. It depicts the various sharks (-isms) existent in the waters (society). The voyage for the woman becomes safe from these dangerous waters due to the Constitution of India which protects her rights.

“The Clarion Call”: This painting visually portrays the clarion call given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Father of Modern India. Educate, Agitate, Organize is seen as the means to be included in the society by marginalized communities in India. As a leader, he focused on women’s empowerment a lot, and thus there are many female figures in the painting shown to be following his path to emancipation.

Musto-Choate, Louise

“Nobody’s Gonna Break My Stride”: Addresses the struggles of some races that refuse to stop trying to be accepted.

“Pride”: Representing the colors of pride reflecting and growing into acceptance by all. - Acrylic on Canvas.

“Concentrix”: The concentric circles are intersecting and merging to form an inclusive vision. Resin on Birch.
Saporito, Michael

Boston has grown in leaps and bounds in the past 5-10 years, welcoming nonstop flights from most corners of the globe. These sets of images of aircraft from all parts of the world show us an inclusive and welcoming community that I would like to think we are a part of.

Strait, Jill

“Banjo Series I” (linoleum print)

My art is about music, my favorite instruments and vintage patterns. Here is a quote to help explain how my art fits into the theme.

“Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions. People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what color we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves: We are the same.” –John Denver