

mfa Human Expressions 2025



Protector of Small Moments, mixed media collage on cradled wood, Marisa Canino from Winter Member Show 2024

Re-inventing the Portrait through Color, Form, and Composition

The portrait has long been a powerful medium through which artists explore identity, emotion, and the essence of the human condition. Human Expressions invites artists to reimagine and push the boundaries of this traditional genre, encouraging the exploration of new ways to convey the complexities of human experience. This exhibition seeks works that capture the depth of human expression through innovative approaches to portraiture, focusing on the transformative use of color, form, and composition.

We are looking for artists who are eager to break away from conventional representations of the human figure and create bold, evocative portraits that explore psychological, emotional, and conceptual facets of human identity. Whether through abstracted forms, unconventional color palettes, dynamic compositions, or mixed media, we encourage the use of any technique that can convey the intricacies of human expression in a compelling way. Any original 2D or 3D work that follows our exhibition guidelines will be considered. This includes works selected by the juror which will be exhibited in Maryland Federation of Art's (MFA) first Human Expressions Exhibition through our Virtual Gallery from April 15 – May 31, 2025.

JUROR INFORMATION

Sam has over a decade of experience working in museums, higher education, and arts foundations. His notable curatorial credits include *Waiting for Tear Gas* (2022) and *Photography and Memory* (2019) at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He is an award-winning educator with experience in classroom instruction and course management. His scholarship has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals in addition to interviews and essays geared towards a variety of audiences. As a public speaker, Sam has delivered over two dozen professional presentations including invited lectures at universities and art institutions.

Sam's scholarship strives to communicate the role visual culture plays in the creation of liberatory knowledge. His research takes seriously the lessons of solidarity embedded in works of art, from their moments of production to their modes of distribution, circulation, and reception. These lessons show how visual practices can bind communities together in our intersecting fights for a better world free from all forms of oppression.

TERMS OF ENTRY

- Entry is open to all artists internationally. Please refer to the complete U.S. Foreign Policy Compliance Statement on our website.
- Entering this exhibition indicates understanding and agreement on the part of the artist with the conditions stated herein and with (a) [MFA's approved Statement of Equity and Diversity](#) and (b) [MFA's General Guidelines](#). Work must meet exhibition guidelines to be included in the event. MFA may determine work ineligible if entry guidelines are not followed. Work delivered must correspond with the images submitted to the juror.
- Images of accepted works may be used at the sole discretion of MFA for promotional purposes including, but not limited to: the invitation, catalog, website, social media, or a subsequent year's prospectus. Images will include attribution wherever possible.
- Work cannot be withdrawn before the end of the event.
- Artists will retain 80% from sales (85% for MFA Members). MFA will retain 20% commission on any work sold through MFA (15% for MFA Members at the time of the sale).
- Work must be for sale. Work can be set to Price on Request (POR).
- Non-member entrants who have a discrepancy between the entry fee paid and their membership status must pay the difference before the entry deadline date or their work will not be shown to the juror.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All work must be uploaded through [artcall.org](#). File size may be no more than 10 MB. Images for the juror must correspond with the actual work. MFA does not display watermarks; artists display at their own risk.
- For video submissions: you must put the link to the video in the Linked Web Resource field, and then upload a still frame from the video. For accepted video submissions, the artist will be expected to deliver the file to MFA on a thumbdrive.
- All entries must be original and completed solely by the artist's hand. A maximum of 6 original works created within the past 3 years may be entered. Work previously exhibited at in our Virtual Gallery within the past three years is not eligible for re-entry.

ENTRY FEE

- 1 or 2 entries \$45 (MFA Members \$30). Up to 4 additional entries \$6.75 each (MFA Members \$4.50). Entry fees are non-refundable.

LIABILITY

- MFA shall not be liable for any special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or inability to use, MFA's online exhibition gallery.

NOTIFICATION

- All artists will receive notification by email. Accepted artists and artwork will also be posted on MFA's website.
- **Artists who have unsubscribed from MFA emails will not receive notification.**
- The notice to accepted artists will include specific details and may vary from prospectus. See website for more details.

AWARD

- Cash awards presented by the juror total \$500.

SCHEDULE

Dec 10 Online Entry Opens for Submissions

Feb 19 Entry Deadline

Mar 20 Notification @ 5 PM

Apr 15 Exhibition Opens Online

May 1 Awards Announced @ 5 PM

May 30 Last Day of Exhibition; In-Person Reception at MFA Circle Gallery 4 – 6 PM

MFA Circle Gallery Celebrating 60 Years

18 State Circle, Annapolis, MD | Open daily from 11 AM – 5 PM

410-268-4566 | info@mfdedart.org | mfdedart.org

MD Relay 7-1-1 or 1-800-735-2258

Established in 1963, MFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization supported by individual, corporate, and public sector contributions, including the Maryland State Arts Council and the Anne Arundel County Arts Council. For membership and exhibition information, please visit mfdedart.org.