

mfa Human Expressions 2026

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) Human Expressions Exhibition through our Virtual Gallery from April 15 – June 14, 2026.

TERMS OF ENTRY

- Entry is open to MFA members residing in any of the states or territories of the US, Canada, and Mexico.
- 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- Work cannot be withdrawn before the end of the event.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 70% from sales (75% for MFA Members). MFA will retain 30% commission on any work sold through MFA (25% 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.
- 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 in MFA's Virtual Gallery 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.

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

Jan 6	Online Entry Opens for Submissions
Feb 25	Entry Deadline
Mar 26	Notification @ 5 PM
Apr 15	Exhibition Opens
May 1	Awards Announced
Jun 14	Last Day of Exhibition

MFA Circle Gallery Celebrating 60 Years

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

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

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

Circle Gallery is accessible to people with mobility disabilities

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 mdfedart.org.