

mfa After Dark 2026

After Dark is a captivating art exhibition that explores the quiet, mysterious, and evocative world that emerges when the sun goes down. Whether it's the gentle flicker of a single lamp in an open window or the vast, starlit silence of a rural field, After Dark reveals how night transforms the way we see, feel, and imagine. The exhibition invites visitors to slow down and attune to the subtleties of light and shadow, of sound and silence the work seeks offer a sensory experience that is both immersive and deeply reflective.

MFA invites artists to use limited palettes, subtle contrasts, and softened forms to express the stillness and introspection that twilight and night inspire. This exhibition is a meditation on the nocturnal, a celebration of the unseen, and a tribute to the artistry that arises when the world grows quiet and the light begins to fade. Through a curated collection of paintings, photographs, installations, and mixed media works, After Dark will lure viewers into a realm where light fades, shadows stretch, and the ordinary becomes infused with mood, ambiguity, and atmosphere.

Maryland Federation of Art's (MFA) exhibitions are blind juried by professional and credentialed art experts. Entry is open to all artists from around the world, with exception of sanctioned countries. Any original 2D or 3D work that follows our exhibition guidelines will be considered. Works selected by the juror will be exhibited in MFA's After Dark exhibition through our Virtual Gallery from October 15 – December 14, 2026.

TERMS OF ENTRY

- 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 Equality 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 indefinitely at the sole discretion of MFA for promotional purposes including, but not limited to: the invitation, catalog, website, or social media. 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- Work cannot be withdrawn before the end of the event.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).
- Discounted member entry fees are only available to current MFA members. Non-members may join by paying the membership fee first, and then receive the discounted member entry. 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 the 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 that may vary from prospectus. See website for more details.

AWARD

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

SCHEDULE

June 23	Online Entry Opens for Submissions
August 26	Entry Deadline @ 11:59 PM
September 24	Notification @ 5 PM
October 15	Exhibition Opens
November 2	Awards Announced @ 5 PM
December 14	Last Day of the 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.