



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WINNERS NAMED FOR BETHESDA PAINTING AWARDS

Best in Show Winner Mary Anne Arntzen Awarded \$10,000

June 6, 2019 (Bethesda, MD) – The **Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District** announced the top three Bethesda Painting Awards prize winners on Wednesday evening during the exhibition's opening at Gallery B. **Mary Anne Arntzen** of Baltimore, MD was awarded "Best in Show" with \$10,000; **W.C. Richardson** of University Park, MD was named second place and was given \$2,000 and **Nicole Santiago** of Williamsburg, VA received third place and was awarded \$1,000. Additionally, **McKinley Wallace III** of Baltimore, MD was recognized with the Young Artist Award and received \$1,000.

Mary Anne Arntzen earned a Masters of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Boston University. Her work has been shown nationally, including recent exhibits at the Walters Art Museum, the Painting Center and St. Charles Projects in Baltimore, MD. She has completed residencies at the Wassaic Project, Vermont Studio Center and Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild. She was a 2018 nominee for the Joan Mitchell Painting and Sculpture Grant and a finalist for the Sondheim Prize in 2017. Arntzen has taught at the Maryland Institute College of Art, George Washington University, and the Community College of Baltimore County. She is also a member of ICA Baltimore.

The eight artists selected as finalists are:

Mary Anne Arntzen, Baltimore, MD
Taha Heydari, Baltimore, MD
Lillian Bayley Hoover, Baltimore, MD
Gina Gwen Palacios, Baltimore, MD

Erin Raedeke, Montgomery Village, MD
W.C. Richardson, University Park, MD
Nicole Santiago, Williamsburg, VA
McKinley Wallace III, Baltimore, MD

A public opening will be held on Friday, June 14, from 6-8pm. Gallery B is located at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite E in downtown Bethesda. The work of the eight finalists will be on display from June 5-29, 2019. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 12-6pm.

The competition jurors were **Kyle Hackett**, Professor of Art, American University and the 2014 Bethesda Painting Awards; **Sue Johnson**, Professor of Art, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and **Susan Zurbrigg**, Painting and Drawing Area Head, Professor of Art, James Madison University.

The Bethesda Painting Awards was established by local business owner Carol Trawick in 2005. Ms. Trawick has served as a community activist for more than 25 years in downtown Bethesda and established The Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation in 2007. She is the former Chair of the Maryland State Arts Council, Strathmore, Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. and founder of *The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards*.

For more information, please visit www.bethesda.org or call 301-215-6660.

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From award-winning theatre to independent films, downtown Bethesda's Arts & Entertainment District is filled with inspiring artists and art venues. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District is managed by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc., and is the producer of The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards, Bethesda Painting Awards, Bethesda Fine Arts Festival, Gallery B, Studio B, Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, Bethesda Film Fest and Play In A Day.

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