



Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC) Gallery  
300 Summer Street M1  
Boston, MA 02210  
Contact: Emily O'Neil  
[emily@fortpointarts.org](mailto:emily@fortpointarts.org)  
(617) 423-4299

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Different Strokes**

**Kathy Deflice Secor, Molly Gayley, Bretd Handy, Margaret Hunt, Barbara Keller,  
Laura Lester, Gloria Ross, Rena Shear, and Nancy Leigh Thompson**

Exhibition: January 3, 2017 – February 3, 2017  
Reception and Artist Talk: Thursday, January 19, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

The Fort Point Arts Community Gallery is pleased to announce *Different Strokes*, the third show of the 2016-2017 season, juried by Jeffrey De Blois of the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston.

*Different Strokes* features nine artists who work together weekly, guided by their teacher and mentor-in-common, Elizabeth DaCosta Ahern. The artists have very different styles and approaches, yet their collective experience unifies them, enriching both process and the resulting works.

Through collaborative learning and critiques, individual styles emerge and play off each other. The artists have developed individual approaches to mark-making, palette, imagery, and internal references, and they share these with one another weekly. Discussions of tools, materials, and process inevitably influence individual choices, in some cases borrowing directly and consciously, in others incorporating something more subtle, perhaps a color combination or the way another uses a particular brush.

During the reception, on Thursday, January 19 the artists will begin a discussion of the question, “Have you ever wondered how a painting was created?”

In answer, the artists will show the different paints and tools they use to create a wide range of very different paintings. Each will hang a poster along with her work. The poster illustrates the process the artist used, by showing photographs of tools, color-mixing swatches, and notes and drawings about the piece.

The talk and posters will be fully integrated into the exhibit. During the talk and for the duration of the exhibit, gallery visitors will be invited to use post-it notes to comment on the art and ask questions about it. The artists will respond to these questions regularly, via post-its, thereby encouraging viewers to revisit the exhibit.

**Artist Statements**

**Kathy DeFlice-Secor:** “The creative process is an involuntary act—it sustains and liberates. My Images emerge as a response to life. Time, memory, and my environment influence the work. It is in the doing and process that I navigate these responses. Creating space with line, color, and form. This is my visual diary, related, obscure, unique, and personal.”

**Molly Gayley:** “Color is at the heart of my work. It is a large part of my pleasure in painting, whether a still life or an abstraction. Mixing the colors, seeing how they interact, what happens when two or three colors combine to produce something new or unexpected, all this is deeply satisfying.”



**Bredt Handy** ([www.bredthandy.com](http://www.bredthandy.com)): “When I paint, I begin with my observations of the natural world around me. Through the act of painting, mixing color, applying layers, and making marks, my metaphorical thoughts, my memories, and my emotional responses take form; the painting emerges. Painting is discovery, a way to connect what I observe with what I feel.”

**Margaret Hunt:** “My paintings are almost exclusively based on memories—memories not just visual but sounds, smells, temperature, how the air felt at the time, my mood. On the rare occasion that I start working with a photograph in front of me, the photo quickly becomes irrelevant and the painting goes its own separate way. I often feel that a painting already exists on the canvas and it’s up to me to find it.”

**Barbara Keller:** “Painting is a non-verbal expression, in terms of color, texture, and space, of my view of the world and the things that are important to me. When I work at fiber arts and graphic design, I use my esthetic sensibilities, but paintings come from a deeper source. I hope my work resonates with viewers and takes them to somewhere new—or to perhaps somewhere they already know.”

**Laura Louise Lester:** “My art is part of what makes me me—an anchor that keeps me feeling whole. My sketchbooks and journals are my companions, documenting my travels and life experiences. It takes inspiration, technique, and courage to be an artist. My hope is to share my journey with the courage and technique that invites viewers to enjoy the freedom and joy of an abstract painter.”

**Gloria Ross:** “Forms found in nature are the inspiration for my art—the human body, flowers, and foliage are the foundation for many of my pieces. Botanical accuracy is not important to me; flowers become abstract images covering a field with color and shapes, maybe recognizable but mysterious and emotional.”

**Rena Shear** ([www.renashear.com](http://www.renashear.com)): “Color is my main inspiration and motivation in art: it’s part of my emotional language. There are conversations between colors that transcend the spoken word. To pay homage to all of my sources of inspiration (whether it’s music, nature, or emotion), it feels only fitting to show my gratitude by infusing my work through texture, gesture, and color relationships with the energy and spirit that have touched me so deeply.”

**Nancy Leigh Thompson** ([www.nancyleighthompson.com](http://www.nancyleighthompson.com)): “The discovery of beauty, mystery, and surprise in nature, art, and personal experience inspires me to paint. My work attempts to render through the dialogue of color, forms, layers and marks, the nuance, drama, and symbolism I see in the landscape, and lately in the environs of the river.”

#### **About the Juror**

Jeffrey De Blois is a curatorial assistant at the Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston. Formerly, as a curatorial fellow at MIT List Visual Arts Center, De Blois co-organized the center’s exhibition *Katrín Sigurdardóttir: Drawing Apart*, with Paul C. Ha. At the ICA/Boston, he organized *The Freedom of Information*, part of a larger upcoming exhibition *First Light: A Decade of Collecting at the ICA*. He holds a Master’s in the history of art and architecture from Boston University.

**Gallery hours:** Mon-Fri: 10:00 am–4:00 pm and by appointment.

**FPAC website:** [www.fortpointarts.org](http://www.fortpointarts.org)

#### **About FPAC Gallery**

The FPAC Gallery, operated by the Fort Point Arts Community, Inc. of South Boston (FPAC), is a non-profit community organization founded in 1980. The gallery is fully programmed and staffed by volunteers. FPAC’s mission is to promote the work of our artists to a broad and diverse audience; to preserve the artists community in the Fort Point Channel area; to ensure the continuance of permanent, affordable



studio space; to build community; and to increase the visibility of the arts in Fort Point. Fort Point is one of New England's largest artist communities, home to over 300 artists who produce work in a wide array of media.