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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV
304-258-2300 – www.macicehouse.org

Press Contact Only: DanielePiasecki@comcast.net 304-264-3733

Photo available: halima@macicehouse.org

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OPENS AT THE ICE HOUSE

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV—Morgan Arts Council presents the works of 20 artists in a new exhibit, Freedom of Expression, in the Ice House Gallery. Daniele Piasecki curates this show, which opens with an artist reception on Friday, September 25, at 7:30 p.m. The exhibit hangs through November 8.

Also opening on September 25 in the Hall of Dreams Gallery is The Image Within, an exhibit of photographs by Berkeley Springs artist Marla Carr.

Piasecki brings together artists from throughout West Virginia, from the Washington, D.C., metro area, including the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Va., and from as far away as Tennessee.

“For me, art is a way to express the depth of one’s soul,” said Piasecki. “Artists need to feel completely free to experiment with techniques and materials to convey the integrity of what they have to contribute to culture and society.”

Piasecki is a local fine-art photographer and mixed-media artist, as well as a member of the Ice House Artists Co-op. She is best known for her whimsical series of photographs featuring brightly colored bathrobes interacting as human beings. She also works with nature imagery for the healthcare environment.

The exhibit features both two-dimensional and three-dimensional works in a variety of media including fiber, clay, glass, mixed-media, paint, papier mâché, photography, watercolor, wood and collage.

Among the seven West Virginia artists represented is furniture maker Joseph Elbert of Leon, whose designs reflect the influence of architecture, including Art Deco skyscrapers and Frank Lloyd Wright’s organic designs. Elbert won a prestigious Niche Award for Furniture in 2014. Carmen File of Beckley creates landscape confetti art quilts by transforming countless tiny fragments of textiles into intriguing fiber art.

Several artists from the Torpedo Factory Art Center show their work, including sculptor Carol Gellner Levin, who has exhibited at the Corcoran Museum of Art in Washington, D.C.

Nancy Carow travels from Oak Ridge, Tennessee with her mixed-media acrylic compositions that feature leaves. Carow teaches her techniques of acrylic layering, stencil and collage with leaves in a workshop on Saturday, September 26, at the Ice House.

Funding for these exhibits comes in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes.

The Ice House is at Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. Gallery hours are Monday and Thursday, 1-5 p.m. and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through December. For more information about this and other MAC activities, call 304-258-2300 or visit www.macicehouse.org.