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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV  
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**FAIRIES TO USHER IN MAY AT THE ICE HOUSE**

It's been a long cold winter and a stranger than strange year. What better way to celebrate the end of it all than with a bit of fun and fantasy? The fairies heard the humans are having a tougher than usual time, so they're coming to Berkeley Springs to help break us out of it. From April 9-May 30, the Morgan Arts Council hosts *Bringing in the May* – a gallery show representing the magical world of fairies – at the Ice House. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 am-5 pm. About 30 artists are represented in the show with artwork conjured by the “fae” (or fairies) through the hands of humans.

Almost every medium is represented in this show, from books to photography to jewelry, apparel to paintings and drawings to pottery. And it's all magical and fairy-approved. Patrons will recognize local favorites such as Hiroko Rubin's crocheted wonders and Jessica LeMere's imaginative multimedia creations. Glass artist Veronica Wilson is planning some special creations, and Laura Margraff-Unger's sparkly jewelry will complement any sprite's gown. Heather Joi, a new talent in our area, will be debuting her abstract painting. We've also reached out to the legendary Spoutwood May Day community, so patrons will have an opportunity to buy wings from Christine Ferrito, nature illustrations from Lynne Jones, ethereal silk dyed clothing from Reyen Design Studio and artwork from International Rainbow Fairy Artist Linda Biggs.

In addition, the Appalachian Pastel League will show *Staying in/Breaking Out*, a variety of work in pastels by regional artists, in the Hall of Dreams and the Carr-Kelly Gallery.

Several activities open to the public will be available during the show. To prepare for the wee folks' arrival, all are welcome to come and help build fairie homes outside in the Ice House Cultural Garden on Saturday on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. A Fairie Garden Party is planned for Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12 pm at the Ice House Cultural Garden. The Party will feature live music by the Fly Birds and the Sweet Maple Singers, maypole dancing, fairie habitats, drum circle, fairie parades, and more. All are welcome and encouraged to arrive in costume if so inspired!

The curated gallery shows are presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, and local hotel/motel taxes.

The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. For more information on this and other MAC activities, call 304-258-2300 or visit [www.macicehouse.org](http://www.macicehouse.org).