

ATHENAEUM

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association



Annual Report – July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Mission

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA) is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all forms of art and to establishing programs that will enrich the cultural life of Northern Virginia and the surrounding metropolitan area.

As the primary site for these activities, the NVFAA owns and maintains the historic building called the Athenaeum.



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A year in review

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

In FY24 the NVFAA:

Welcomed 12,500 visitors

Presented 12 exhibitions featuring 76 artists from the DMV

Held 11 artist receptions and 6 artist talks, plus a live painting demo

Hosted our second annual all sculpture show featuring 10 sculptors and installation artists

Hosted our first annual street photography exhibition with an open call to all members of our community

Held a mask-making workshop for all ages

Continued to partner with Jane Franklin Dance to present dance and Athenaeum artist collaborations

Hosted the 2nd Fiesta Asia dance performance at the Athenaeum

Hosted 4 Write Like a Woman Workshops, Aware!, and 3 Author and Appetizers, with Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta

Presented 10 music concerts

Hosted 3 book talks

Participated in the Alexandria Art Galleries Showcase and Alexandria Arts Alliance Party for the Arts

Continued to partner with the Carlyle House Historic Park to host our annual Juneteenth event, and the Alexandria Film Festival to host their opening reception

Resumed partnering with the Hunting Creek Garden Club to host Marketplace at the Athenaeum



Fleeting Moments | Street Photography artis talk and People's Choice award announcement

12 Exhibitions at the Athenaeum

from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



Sookkyung Park, *Blooming*

Mark Drefs and Leslie Nolan

June 15 — July 23, 2023

Duo exhibition with artists talk

Tinam Valk

July 27 — September 3, 2023

Solo exhibition with meet the artist event

Anne Stine

September 7 — October 15, 2023

Solo exhibition with artist talk

Fleeting Moments | Street Photography

October 19 — November 26, 2023

Group exhibition featuring 41 artists with artists talk

Kym Kamra | Street Photography

Lower gallery

October 19 — November 26, 2023

Solo exhibition with artist talk

Leanne Fink | National Parks

November 30 — January 7, 2024

Solo exhibition with live painting demo



Mark Drefs, *Run*

A Delicate Balance | Sculpture

January 11, 2024 – February 18, 2024

Annual all sculpture exhibition featuring 9 sculptors and installation artists with artist talk. Curated by Jackie Hoysted

Christine Ruksenas-Burton

February 22, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Solo exhibition

Japanese Inspiration

Sean Donnan, David Gootnick, Yoshiko Ratliff

April 4 - May 12, 2024

3 artist exhibition with artist talk

Robert Stuart Cohen

May 16 - June 23, 2024

Solo exhibition

Coroto: Masks of Power | David Camero

Lower Gallery

May 24 – June 23, 2024

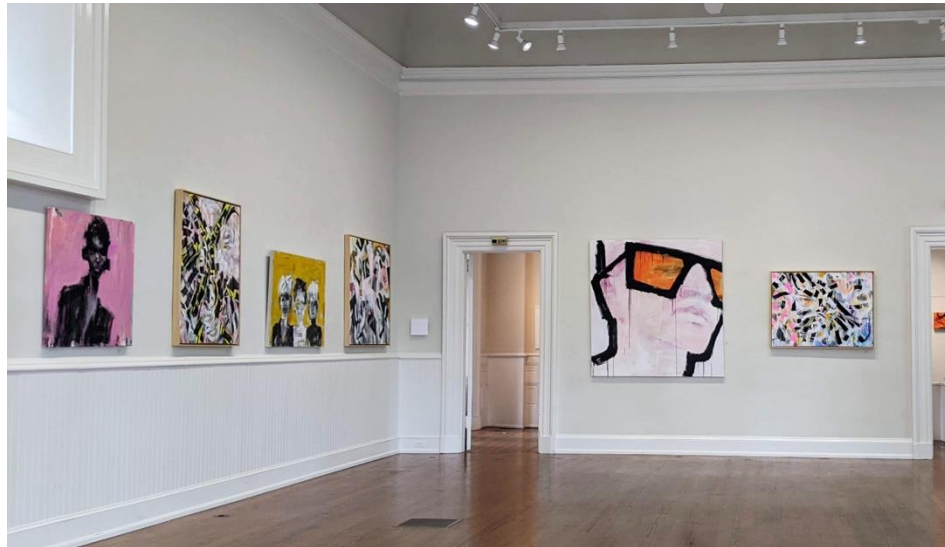
Solo exhibition with Mask Making workshop

Curators' Selects | Artomatic 2024

June 27 — August 4, 2024

Group exhibition featuring 15 artists with an artist talk

Art Exhibition Highlights



Clockwise from top left:

Christine Ruksenas-Burton

A Delicate Balance, sculpture

Installing sculpture with artist
Sookkyung Park

A Delicate Balance Artist talk

Leslie Nolan and Mark Drefs



Fleeting Moments | Street Photography

Highlights from Dance performances



Jane Franklin Dance



Fiesta Asia

Inaugural Poet in Residence KaNikki Jakarta



Juneteenth



Authors and Appetizers



Write Like a Woman

Music at the Athenaeum



US Air Force Strings



28 Chairs 5-year anniversary performance at the Athenaeum



Alexandria Baroque

Marketplace at the Athenaeum



Our mission to preserve the Athenaeum

High impact building improvements over the last 24 months

August 2024

Added a convenience ramp (temporary handicap ramp)





August 2024

Refinished the upper gallery floor



Removing old floor finish



Applying new floor finish



Before



After

August 2023

Completed Basement Stone Repointing with funding from The Alexandria Association



Before repointing



After repointing



Before repointing



After repointing

Restored Bathroom Windows after Squirrel Damage

(June – Sept 2023)



October 2023

Rear Gallery Lighting Upgraded



Before



After

Project Underwritten by Twig Murray and Harry Mahon

Ongoing Capital Improvements

Building improvements completed:

- √ East façade restoration
- √ West façade restoration
- √ Gallery plaster repair and painting
- √ Basement windows
- √ Gutters and snow guards
- √ Front façade, door, east window repainting
- √ Repointed North and West courtyard walls
- √ Repointed basement stones
- √ Added a convenience ramp (handicap ramp)
- √ Refinished upper gallery floors

Still more to do

A robust list of additional improvements needed is available upon request. Donations are welcome to help keep the Athenaeum in good repair. Future projects include:

- Adding a permanent accessible wheelchair ramp and restroom
- Upgrade the basement bathrooms
- Paint north exterior wall in courtyard
- Restore portico stairs



FY25 First quarter snapshot

Continuing with full calendar of exhibitions including community based *Fleeting Moments* Exhibition

Continuing with a full calendar of performing arts and poetry programming

Completed handicap ramp and gallery floor refinishing

Rental income remains vibrant



Thank you!

We thank all of our members, volunteers, sponsors, individual donors, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Historic Alexandria Foundation, and The Alexandria Association who help us keep our gorgeous, historic building in good condition, open to the public free of charge, and filled with vibrant arts programs!

The NVFAA is partially supported by funding from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

