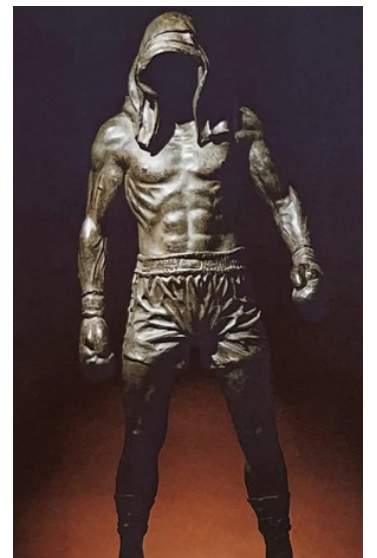


DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

FERLEMAN GALLERY



WELCOME!

Ferleman Gallery celebrates a season shaped by creativity, community, and the powerful interplay of art and music. This issue for our new monthly newsletter brings together the moments that defined our progress, from the energy of Gallery Stage performances—where musicians filled the room with presence and craft—to the unforgettable Veiled in Darkness Masquerade, a night when candlelight, masks, and imagination transformed the gallery into a living story.



You'll also journey through An Appalachian Winter Wonderland, our juried watercolor exhibit created in partnership with the Western Maryland Watercolor Society. These works capture the quiet beauty of our region's landscapes, offering scenes of resilience, serenity, and seasonal change. Alongside them, you'll find visitor reflections, local artist spotlights, and new additions from the Gallery Bar's Curator's Collection—each enriching the tapestry of experiences that make our community unique.



As we look ahead to forthcoming exhibits, including Terri Yacovelli's Awakening in Color, we remain committed to making creativity accessible, personal, and deeply connected to place. Thank you for being part of a community where art is shared, stories unfold, and imagination thrives. ~ *Thomas & Rebecca Ferleman*



GALLERY STAGE

inside Ferleman Gallery



Join us at the Gallery Stage for an electrifying evening with **Matt Mullins & The Bringdowns**, bringing their powerful blend of rock-tinged Americana and heartfelt storytelling. Experience a night of raw emotion, tight musicianship, and Appalachian soul you won't soon forget.



Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling as **Megan Jean** hosts an intimate Songwriter's Circle at Gallery Stage. This special night brings together a powerhouse lineup of regional talent — **Jody Mosser, Gilbert Lee, Black Guy Fawkes, and Byrne Klay** — for a collaborative performance celebrating the craft of songwriting.



MUSIC LINEUP

GALLERYSTAGE.COM

ALL SHOWS 7-9PM; DOORS 6:30PM



MATT MULLINS & THE BRINGDOWNS

Gritty blend of rock, Americana, and soul. Channeling raw emotion and Appalachian spirit through songs of heartbreak, hope, and hard-won joy.

SAT
DEC
6



FINAL SHOW: MEGAN JEAN'S SECRET FAMILY

Megan Jean's Secret Family returning again to close out their three-part residency in style, bringing along some fellow songwriters!

THUR
DEC
11



BEDFORD

Gritty blend of rock, soul, and funk. Driven by heartfelt lyrics, dual vocals, and a punch of raw energy that hits hard and lingers long after the last chord.

FRI
FEB
6



RHINESTONES AND RUST RETURNS!

Warm mix of country, folk, and rock. Honest lyrics and heartfelt harmonies shimmer with nostalgia, grit, and a touch of sparkle.

SAT
FEB
14



VEILED IN DARKNESS: A MASQUERADE



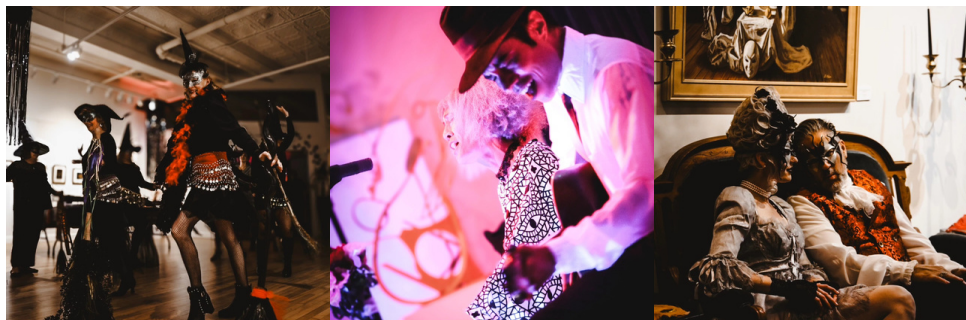
The Ferleman Gallery transformed into a world of candlelight, masks, and mystery for a night during the Veiled in Darkness Masquerade.

Shadows danced along the walls as guests stepped into a dream where reality blurred with the strange and the beautiful. Beneath a ceiling of flickering light, they dined and whispered behind their masks, their laughter mingling with the darkly romantic strains of The Wedding Funeral, whose haunting melodies seemed to awaken the very air.

Magic rippled through the crowd as Black Magic Circus took the stage, weaving illusion, fire, and wonder into a spectacle that left hearts pounding and eyes wide. Every glance, every spark, every stolen moment was captured in timeless detail by Sweet Soul Creations, preserving the enchantment long after the candles burned low.

Thank you to everyone who came masked, curious, and unafraid to lose themselves in the night. You became part of the story—part of the spell.

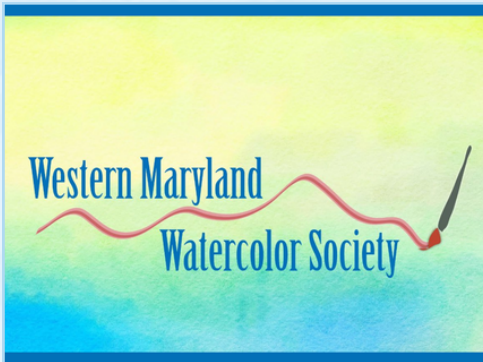
Until next time... the darkness remembers.



ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

On exhibit until December 31, 2026

AN APPALACHIAN WINTER WONDERLAND



WESTERN MARYLAND WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

The **Western Maryland Watercolor Society** was originally formed to allow those who love watercolor to share their passions, interests, and techniques. They strive to provide as many educational and professional opportunities as possible to their members.

WMWS also finds time for creative expression and fun by being inclusive to every level of painter, from novice to full-time artist. This organization emphasizes community and encourages learning between members, including the shared knowledge that comes from being an integral part of the art community in Western Maryland.

In partnership with the **Western Maryland Watercolor Society**, the **Ferleman Gallery** presents Winter Wonderland. Local artists capture the magic of the Appalachian season as the Gallery transforms into a snowy showcase of winter's beauty.

This exhibit will be juried by **David Diaz** — award-winning artist and educator, current President of the Maryland Federation of Art (MFA) and co-chair of its Exhibitions Committee, past Chair of the Board of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association, and installations lead at Quiet Waters Gallery.

As judge of the 2025 Western Maryland Watercolor Society juried exhibition, Diaz brings his plein-air expertise and deep appreciation for the region's landscapes to this seasonal showcase.





Crocus in the Snow by Ivana Raucci

Watercolor on paper

Delicately rendered in soft violets and muted whites, *Crocus in the Snow* captures the quiet resilience of nature during winter. Raucci's use of watercolor creates a beautiful texture, combining the subject with the background. Allowing the petals and background to merge in a misty, dreamlike atmosphere. The painting portrays winter's soft chill and the change it brings to living beings.

Winter's Hush by Aurelia Schanzenbacher

Watercolor on paper

Aurelia Schanzenbacher's *Winter's Hush* gives feeling to the tranquil overtones of winter. Gentle washes of blue and rose sweep across the sky, reflecting softly on the frozen water below. In contrast, small vibrant life appears in the form of flying birds, contrasting the slow silence of the scene. Through delicate brushwork and a serene palette, Schanzenbacher captures the tender calm and vibrant landscape in the heart of the frozen season.



Caught Between Seasons by Patricia Wilt

Watercolor on paper

Patricia Wilt's *Caught Between Seasons* vividly captures the feeling of triumph in the catch. Resting on a patchwork of melting snow, the freshly caught fish lay partially buried, their golden-green hues contrasting against the cool blues and grays of ice and shadow. Human traces, such as footprints and a fishing hole, tell a story around the fish. The story of local passions and subsistence in a sustainable Appalachian winter.

SCENES FROM ALLEGANY COUNTY



At the Ferleman Gallery, we celebrate the creativity of art, music, and the rich natural beauty that makes Allegany County, the Mountain Side of Maryland, a truly inspiring place to live, work, play & visit!

The Great Allegheny Passage is a scenic, well-maintained trail that offers miles of breathtaking views through Allegany County's rolling landscapes. Ideal for biking, hiking, or leisurely strolls, it connects small towns and historic sites with peaceful riverside paths, making it a must-visit for outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking a tranquil escape.



The Great Allegheny Passage, Cumberland MD.



Dans Mountain State Park Overlook

Perched atop the highest point in Western Maryland, **Dans Mountain State Park** offers stunning panoramic views of Allegany County and beyond. With scenic overlooks, forested trails, and quiet picnic areas, it's perfect for hiking, relaxing, or enjoying a family day outdoors. A hidden gem for anyone looking to unwind in nature's beauty.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA TO PARIS:

MARY CASSATT'S RADICAL VISION OF MOTHERHOOD

Mary Cassatt (1844–1926) was a pioneering American painter and printmaker. Born in Pennsylvania and raised in a well-traveled, cultured family, she pursued art despite the restrictions placed on women in the 19th-century art world. At 15, she enrolled in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts but soon became frustrated with its limitations—women had little access to live models and faced condescension from male peers.

In 1866, Cassatt moved to Paris for greater freedom. She studied independently, copied works at the Louvre, and traveled across Europe to learn from the masters. Though she exhibited at the Paris Salon, her career took a major turn in the late 1870s when Edgar Degas invited her to join the French Impressionists. Their creative friendship had a profound impact; she later said seeing his work “changed my life.”

As one of the few women—and the only American—closely associated with the Impressionists, Cassatt brought a distinctive voice. She turned away from historical themes, focusing instead on the lives of women and the intimate bonds between mothers and children. Paintings like *The Child's Bath* and *Young Mother Sewing* conveyed emotional nuance and dignity.

Cassatt also promoted Impressionism in the U.S., advising collectors and shaping major museum acquisitions. Although she had to stop painting later in life due to failing eyesight, she remained active in women's rights causes, supporting the suffrage movement.

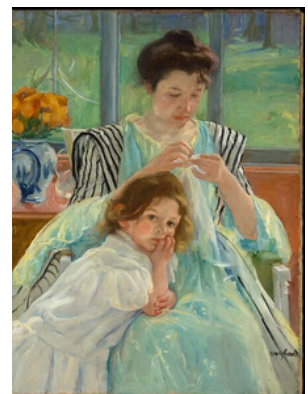
Mary Cassatt left a lasting legacy in both art and social change. In a time when women were sidelined in the arts, she carved out a space that made their experiences visible—and impossible to ignore.



Cassatt in 1914



The Child's Bath
(1893)



Young Mother Sewing
(1900)

VOICES OF OUR VISITORS

Sandra S. — (Voice & Verse poetry night, June 28th) “Was a great experience Saturday evening. To be with everyone who spoke. Then to be present for Sally and Jack. Hope this was totally recorded. To hear Becky share some of her work and truth. Arigato.”

K.M. — “Everything was great. Fun way to celebrate my 80th birthday!”

Kenny S. — The gallery stage was a fantastic venue. It is small and intimate, yet spacious and comfortable. The selection of music is always amazing. The staff is super friendly, and it is a vital spot to bringing life back to downtown Cumberland.

Anne K. — “My family has loved every show that we have attended at the Gallery. It’s size and sound quality is perfect for an intimate listening experience. My son loves trying out the fun Mocktails. We are grateful to have a venue like this in our town and I can’t wait to attend more shows.”

Gayle J. — “Loved the cozy atmosphere [of Gallery Stage]! Sound was perfect for the venue, Good value! Loved seeing all the art hanging too.”

Charles S. — “Very enjoyable. Hope to come to other shows!”

Doug & Betsey S. — “You guys are doing great things here!! Sounded great!!”

Barb T. — “Such a creative group [Buffalo Rose] - out of this world, energy, creativity and talent super professional!”



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THE CURATOR'S COLLECTION

Musically inspired cocktails from the Gallery Bar

HILLSTONE CRISP MARTINI



What You'll Need

Gin

St. Germain

Lemon Juice

Sauvignon Blanc

Thyme

In a shaker, gently muddle a sprig of fresh thyme to release its aroma. Add gin, St. Germain, and a squeeze of fresh lemon juice, then fill the shaker with ice. Shake until icy cold and strain into the prepared glass. Finish with a small float of Sauvignon Blanc and garnish with a fresh sprig of thyme for an herbal, crisp finish.

Discover the bright elegance of the Hillstone Crisp Martini—a refreshing blend of botanical gin, fragrant St. Germain, zesty lemon, and a whisper of Sauvignon Blanc, finished with a breath of fresh thyme. A crisp, uplifting sip from start to finish.

Apple Mule Mocktail

What You'll Need

Apple cider, ginger beer, lime juice, apple slice, cinnamon stick

The Apple Mule Mocktail is a crisp, cozy blend of apple cider, ginger beer, and bright lime, finished with an apple slice and a cinnamon stick for the perfect fall-inspired sip.



THE SOUL OF THE MOUNTAINS: Art in Appalachia

By Sabrina Morton, Gallery Assistant

Appalachia is a unique social and geological region, characterized by strong communities with similar socioeconomic statuses, rich traditions, and a shared resilience. Spanning 13 states with a population of 26 million people, artistic expression has had a large influence on this region's history and development.

Before European settlers arrived here, the area was inhabited by Native American tribes who laid the foundation for what would become Appalachian Art. The land was inhabited early on by first nation groups like the Hopewell and Mississippian cultures, and then later, Cherokee, Iroquois, and Algonquian tribes, setting the tone for art in Appalachia with their need for functional and practical art techniques, such as textiles and woodworking. These art forms were then taken up and adapted by the Scotch-Irish immigrants and later the English and German immigrants, who settled in the region.

Starting a life in this region at the time was no easy task. Early European settlers found that their life was marked by hard work and survival. Their days were filled with long hours farming the land and working in coal mines, leaving little time for lounging or leisure. Therefore, art became functional as well as beautiful. Appalachian art became rooted in cultural history and local environmental ties. What resulted then was art that was deeply rooted in cultural history and the natural environment. Artistic creation served as both a practical daily necessity and a creative expression of beauty and community.

Quilting, for example, was a necessary art form that combined skilled handstitching with storytelling and creativity. Creating quilts was a community affair, culminating in groups called “Quilting Bees”. These groups were integral to community building and allowed women to express their opinions and values through their quilts.



*Addie community quilting bee,
Jackson County. Photo by Sylva Herald*

Blending influences from European settlers, Native Americans, the Amish, and the Quakers. Quilting became a tradition for joining stories of the people, their homes, and their heritage. Long, hard winters made quilting a household activity, with these artistic creations being passed down from each generation to keep their families warm and their dwellings decorated. Many families in the region today still cherish quilts that were inherited, preserving a tactile history through this enduring textile art that spans generations.

Likewise, woodworking as a traditional art is prolific in Appalachian communities. Woodworking was necessary for thriving communities, making everything from tools to furniture to utensils. Wood carving was a common household activity, no matter the generation or gender. Often, many carvers would embellish their work with carvings of cherished animals, spiritual religious themes, and other decorations. This work included the creation and sale of the ladderback chair, or “settin’ chair”, which was also sold to the occasional passing tourist. With the rise of modern transportation, the sale of these chairs and other Woodworking products became an important source of income for Appalachians.



Three-slat Chair, Chester Cornett (1913-1981)

Traditional folk art in Appalachia is still very much alive and continues to evolve as an integral part of the communities nestled in the mountainous region. Although some techniques have been lost to time, some modern Appalachian artists rely on historic techniques, now more for expression rather than traditional necessity. Moreover, today’s Appalachian art tends to be a mix of fine and folk art techniques, blending new techniques while retaining the themes found in this region's earliest artwork, religion, storytelling, references to environmental work and labor, and a deep respect for nature, due to the culture of foraging and living off the natural environment around them.

This can be seen in West Virginia native, Patty Willis’s artwork. Her art often blends modern abstractionism with realism. In her piece "The Earth and the Sky," she depicts a scene from her hometown that explores deeply personal themes and showcases her spiritual connection to the land and her home. Willis depicts the winding road between Charlestown and Harpers Ferry, with a lone figure walking along it, expressing progress or migration. Also, notice that no cars are using this road, perhaps expressing a juxtaposition between the intended use of the road, versus its actual usefulness to the people in the area.



Patty Willis, The Earth and the Sky, c. 1942

Regardless of the intention of folk art in Appalachia, whether it be for function or the expression of ideas, each piece of art created in this region holds a truth. Consistent with the ties to the land, natural landscape, and resources. In addition, pride in community, strength in loyalty, and repeated feelings of belonging mixed with social isolation remain steady. So, whether you call yourself an artist or have never held a paintbrush, I implore you to explore what this area means to you. If that means getting into the communities and natural landscapes, you might just find yourself being inspired to create art that connects to a long line of functional and expressive folk arts who, like you, were influenced by the natural beauty and soul of Appalachia.

LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

The Ferleman Gallery is committed to spreading the word about local artists and their accomplishments. This series includes the community's most influential artists and reveals their passions, muses and tips!

Watch all interviews at:
https://www.youtube.com/@Ferleman_Gallery



Or scan the QR code:



Are you a local artist, eager to share your talent with the community? Or perhaps you would like to attend one of these prestigious interviews in person?

Email the Ferleman Gallery at art@ferleman.com to get more information!



By Annie Kilcoyne



By Lisa Sheirer



By Penny Knobel-Besa

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITS

Opening Reception Friday, February 6th, 2026

AWAKENING IN COLOR: EXPLORATIONS IN ENCAUSTIC

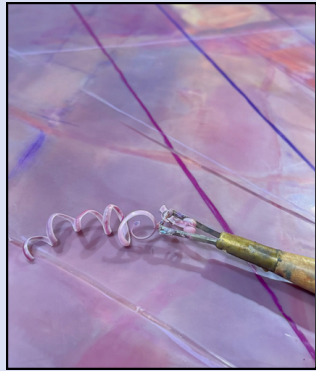
BY TERRI YACOVELLI



Terri Yacovelli is a contemporary visual artist whose encaustic paintings explore color, light, and the idea of passage.

Through layered wax surfaces, luminous thresholds, and abstract forms, her work invites viewers to reflect on transformation and the spaces between the seen and unseen.

Yacovelli has exhibited nationally in solo, juried, and curated shows, with her art featured in museums, galleries, and publications across the country.



Beyond the Canvas

*Are you a local artist who has a story to share?
Contact us to be featured in our **Artist Spotlight series!***



Catch the latest episode of
“The Artist Spotlight”

https://www.youtube.com/@Ferleman_Gallery

*Background artwork property of Artist Spotlight participant, **Angela Hedderick**.*

Art

fuels the imagination

Music

awakens the heart

Life[©]

completes the canvas



Ferleman Gallery | 9 N. Centre Street | Cumberland, MD