



Beckley Art Center and Theatre West Virginia are seeking artwork inspired by one of the selected poems of Louise McNeill, featured in the short film, *Gauley Mountain*. This is an open call for 2- or 3-dimensional original artwork in any media.

The short film, *Gauley Mountain*, came to life in April 2021, in a City National Bank building on Kanawha Street, Beckley, WV. The cast was comprised of Michael, Nancy, and Andrew Martin; the sponsors were represented by William Scott Hill and videographers, Taylor Shea and Luke Martin were employed to engineer. This group of people captured the essence of the poetry.

“This poetry speaks to our sense of place—as a family of people who inhabit the Appalachians. It points out our clannishness and provides a true and accurate picture of “our people.” It also highlights the historic ebb and flow of our precious natural resources; not the least of which is our people,” says Nancy Martin.

Michael and Nancy first worked with this book of poetry 35 years ago after it was recommended by Larry Groce when he and Michael worked on location of the film “Paradise Park”. A staged version of this poetry was presented 2 summers in the 1990s at the Princess Playhouse, Mount Hope, WV, featuring original music written by Larry Groce. Subsequently a shorter version was presented at several West Virginia State Parks by the Martins.

As time has passed, the Martins have periodically talked about how this poetry should be preserved for future generations of Appalachians. Now that goal has been accomplished with the production of this short film.

The exhibition serves as a fundraiser for Theatre West Virginia and Beckley Art Center. The artwork for this exhibition must be for sale. All artwork is sold on commission, 50% to Artist, 25% to Theatre West Virginia, 25% to Beckley Art Center. **New works are encouraged, but previously created work that fits the theme will be considered.**

The selected poems to choose from are Frederick Verner, Susan O'Kane, Emry O'Kane, Matthew Rennick & Gabriel MacElmain.

If you are interested in submitting work, please email [gallery@beckleyartcenter.com](mailto:gallery@beckleyartcenter.com) and we will send you a link to the film.

Exhibition Date: **January 29, 2022**

Submission Deadline: **December 1, 2021**

Acceptance Notification: on or before **January 1, 2022**

Delivery Dates: **January 21 – 22, 11am – 7pm**

Pick Up Artwork: **February 1 – 5, 11am – 7pm**

Submission Requirements:

All artwork must adhere to the Beckley Art Center Gallery Guidelines which can be found at [beckleyartcenter.com](http://beckleyartcenter.com). *The creation time restriction within the guidelines will be waived for this special exhibition.*

Submissions must be sent to [gallery@beckleyartcenter.com](mailto:gallery@beckleyartcenter.com)

To submit, digital images of each entry should be attached and sent by email on or before the submission deadline. Images must be .JPEG format in at least 300 dpi. Image files must be titled Lastname\_Title (example: *Smith\_Landscape.jpg*) and the dimensions of the piece should be included for each piece. If an artist's work(s) is selected into the exhibition, they must complete and submit a consignment form and return to: [gallery@beckleyartcenter.com](mailto:gallery@beckleyartcenter.com).

*The final decision on whether your artwork will be exhibited is at the sole discretion of the BAC Exhibition Committee and TWV.*