

# WILLOW STREET GALLERY

at DC Arts Studios presents



## *Plant-based*

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October 19 – November 24, 2019

*Plant-based*, a group exhibition of DMV artists, presents work that imagines the subjects of the Plant Kingdom as more than silent objects. Given that scientists no longer consider the theory that plants can send and receive information as an idea from the lunatic fringe, a growing body of evidence reveals the secret lives of plants. Artists step into speculate on what information are plants sharing with each other. Have we misunderstood stalks of corn and aloe vera? Have we overlooked cacti and morning glories?

Artists offer alternative theories to how they see flora, flowers, leaves, trees, stems, stalks, petals, vegetation and the mysteries of the plant world. In sum, these artists make the argument that vegetable life is as deep, mysterious, and alien to us as any planet in the solar system. Artist featured in this show are: Cindy Amaya, Robert Blackiston, Leah Cobelli, Robert Deatherage, Jennifer Dunbar, Rose Jaffe, Kasey O'Boyle and Mishel An Valenton.

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 pm.  
All events are free and open to the public.



Willow Street Gallery | [gallery@dcartsstudios.org](mailto:gallery@dcartsstudios.org)  
6925 Willow St. NW, Washington, DC 20012 | Takoma Park Metro  
Gallery hours: Sundays 11am – 3 pm or by appointment



# Cindy Amaya

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

Drawing attention to our surroundings is the theme that runs through my artistic practice. My most recent work explores the intimate relationship between humans and plants. For me, working with natural light gets me in the right frame of mind. My creative process begins when I take time to observe and study the world around me. My inspiration comes from looking at nature and having a 'childlike' mind set.

In my work, I strive to overcome the idea that growing old too quickly can lead to loss of creativity. I am interested in allowing my audience to view vibrant colors or gratifying shapes and give proper attention to satisfy the creative mind. If I can capture that 'needle-like' characteristic of that spine poking out of a cactus, it is my contribution to that experience.

## CONTACT

[Cindyamaya.com](http://Cindyamaya.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@sweetpaintdrop](https://www.instagram.com/sweetpaintdrop)

# Robert Blackiston

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

Robert's independence and free spirit comes through in the style of his paintings. His geometrical drawing gives an abstract and original look to his artwork. No matter what the image he starts with, Robert will always give a unique perspective and life to elements normally overlooked.

## ABOUT ART OPTIONS

ART Options is an arts-infused program designed to support the development of employment, social, communication and life management skills for people of all abilities ages 16 and older, in the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Participants use their innate talent and community experiences to create works of art. Participants engage with the arts community through classes, volunteering, and visiting exhibitions and museums. These experiences contribute to artistic exchange and enhance the artists' career development.

All Art Options artists learn promotional skills, in addition to fine arts training. All works are available for sale, with seventy-five percent of proceeds going directly to the artist and twenty-five percent used to purchase supplies and grow the program.

## CONTACT

Art Options: <https://www.sjcs.org/contact/>

# Leah Cobelli

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

I'm inspired by humble domestic spaces. I elaborate from a snapshot from a domestic space with vivid colors, flat perspective, or textile patterns to energize the image with the surreal. I maintain a dream journal which I for inspiration and even explanations to make sense of my work.

## ARTIST BIO

Leah is a native New Yorker with a BFA from New York University. She currently works in Washington, DC and is a member of the DCAS Community. In addition to making art, Leah is an amateur kickboxer and instructor.

## CONTACT

LeahCobelli.format.com  
INSTAGRAM: @Leahfayc

# Rob Deatherage

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

## ARTIST BIO

Rob Deatherage is a self-taught artist living and working in Washington, D.C. He works primarily in oil and colored pencil. His work was included in issue no. 118 of New American Paintings.

## CONTACT

[Robdeatherage.com](http://Robdeatherage.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@robdeatherage3](https://www.instagram.com/robdeatherage3)

# Jennifer Dunbar

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

Jennifer Dunbar works primarily in reduction woodblock printmaking. With a reduction print, each printed layer is carved from the same block, destroying the block as the print progresses. Jennifer works from photographs she takes while traveling, interpreting and drawing each image on the block throughout the printing cycle. Jennifer embraces color, using multiple rainbow rolls or gradient techniques and enjoys the dance of printing action and carving reaction. During this dance, the print evolves with the goal to present more than the geographic attributes of the image. Using color and expressing line and shape through carving, she evokes a sense of what it feels like to occupy the place.

## CONTACT

[JenniferDunbarprints.com](http://JenniferDunbarprints.com)

INSTAGRAM @Ferfer\_meowmeow\_fsk

# Rose Jaffe

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## ARTIST BIO

Rose Jaffe is a visual artist, with mediums spanning mural painting, ceramics, printmaking and digital illustration. Born and raised in the nation's capital, Rose loves calling Washington, D.C. home. She earned her BFA at the School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan and has pursued an art career full-time for the past five years after teaching art in middle and high school. She has painted over twenty large scale murals nationally and internationally, including over fifteen in D.C. Her art has been featured in over twelve publications and news outlets, including the Washington Post, City Paper, NBC, CNN, Channel 9 among others. Themes of her work include political activism, social justice, natural healing and spiritual grounding. She is dedicated to the work of harnessing the power of art to find connection, build community, spark conversation and create social change.

## CONTACT

[Rosejaffe.com](http://Rosejaffe.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@rose\\_inks](https://www.instagram.com/rose_inks)

# Kasey O'Boyle

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

Kasey believes that all sensations are internalized. She spends 40+ hours a week with children making art, her paintings are undoubtedly inspired by childlike marks and motifs. Kasey claims to have a "romantic relationship with color" and explores primal balance and variety in these works.

Kasey has adapted Brene Brown's mantra, "Strong back, strong front." These four simple words guide Kasey's thoughts and actions daily.

## ARTIST BIO

Kasey is a native Washingtonian. She received her BFA in Art History and Painting from Syracuse University in 2014. Kasey is a teaching-artist and teaches Visual Art in Prince George's Country Public Schools. Her studio space is located in Georgetown, DC.

## CONTACT

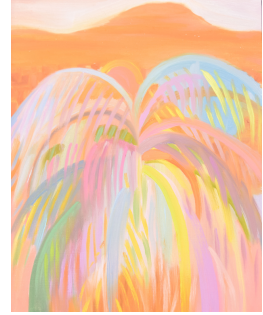
[Kaseyoboyle.com](http://Kaseyoboyle.com)

INSTAGRAM: @Kaseyoboyle



# Mishel An Valenton

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

My memories of home in the Philippines consists of the sensation of heat, the intensity of color and the fullness of feeling. Tropical heat and jungle juice are as much a subject in my works as the figures huddled close.

## ARTIST BIO

Mishel is a Filipino-American artist and immigrant who resides in Northern, VA. She is currently interested in painting personal stories of her home and relationships.

## CONTACT

<https://mishelanvalenton.com/>

INSTAGRAM: @Mishelanvalenton