

Richmond, VA – artspace is pleased to present five new gallery exhibitions, featuring artists **Beverly Ryan, Bizhan Khodabandeh, Cindy Mehr, Mitzi Humphrey**, and a group exhibition of work by **artspace Artist Members**. Exhibition dates are August 23 – September 22, 2019. An Opening Reception for the Artists will take place on Friday, August 23, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This event will be Free and Open to the Public. A closing talk by the artists will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. This event will also be Free and Open to the Public.

The Main Gallery features **Beverly Ryan's *Drone Zone***. Ryan's interest in the human condition leads her to create series about social, environmental, and political topics. This collection is based on her questions about drone technology and its use. In this exhibit, she explores issues of sovereignty, power to make the target choices and the implications of the new technology. Beverly is known for her abstract and narrative oil paintings, but her current work includes painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Ryan holds an MS from Columbia University, NYC, and a BA from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. She teaches classes and workshops in abstract painting, narrative painting and encaustic painting at The Art League School, Alexandria, VA and has been a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA, since 2001.



"Dante's Drones" by Beverly Ryan, acrylic and oil on canvas

In the Helena Davis Gallery, **Cindy Mehr** presents *Celebrations*. In this exhibition, Mehr explores the different forms of celebration and the emotions they elicit, such as excitement, violence, radiance, gaiety, and fleetingness. She combines a variety of media on canvas to create explosions of contrasting forms resembling a collage. Her art reflects her experiences as a world traveler and her time spent living abroad. Cindy earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University and her Master of Arts from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. She has won juror's awards at ArtQuest Maryland, the Maryland Federation of Art, the Lancaster Museum of Art shows, the Towson Art Collective, and the Annapolis Maritime Museum show. Mehr currently works out of her studio in Bel Air, Maryland and her house in the south of France.



"Party" by Cindy Mehr, mixed media on canvas

*The Art of The Little Red Fish* by **Bizhan Khodabandeh** will be on view in the Frable Gallery. These original comic ink drawings are a political allegory in serial comic form written by James Moffitt. Inspired by the Iranian revolution of 1979, the comic is made in the style of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Khodabandeh has a background in political activism and has been researching the revolution using historical texts. He has also interviewed those directly involved in the revolution. The comic was originally made available through digital installments by Rosarium Publishing, and in print by Sink/Swim Press. His *Little Red Fish* collection was accepted into the Society of Illustrators 2015 and 2016 annuals. Bizhan Khodabandeh is a visual communicator who moves freely across the professional boundaries as designer, illustrator, artist and activist. His works vary from small graphic art projects to major public campaigns. Currently Khodabandeh teaches full-time at VCU's Robertson School of Media & Culture and freelances under the name, Mended Arrow.



Original comic ink drawing by Bizhan Khodabandeh

smallspace Gallery presents *Another Way* by **Mitzi Humphrey**. Mitzi learned about the ancient art of encaustic painting in a History of Painting Technology class at VCU. Humphrey says she “finds the ancient medium of encaustic wax both delightfully playful and extraordinarily challenging.” She uses pigmented beeswax and resin on varied surfaces in a true exploration of the hot flux/flow of techniques inherent in the medium. Mitzi earned a degree in Art Education with a minor in Fine Arts from the University of Tennessee. She earned her BFA from VCU in 1987 and then returned to earn her MFA in 1997. Mitzi was a founder of artspace in its original Shockoe Slip location and Art6 on Broad Street. In addition to being a president of the Richmond Artists’ Association, she was a member of Women’s Caucus for Art, Franklin Furnace in NYC, One/Off Printmakers, and ISCA (International Society of Copier Artists), and exhibited extensively with those groups. She lives in Midlothian, Virginia with her husband, and maintains her Summer Wind Studio in their backyard.



"Zig Zag Plus," encaustic painting by Mitzi Humphrey

The Suzanne Foley Gallery will show *Sight Lines and Shadows*, works in all media by **artspace Artist Members**.

The gallery will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays in August, 2019. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 12-4 p.m. Please contact the gallery administrator at [artspaceorg@gmail.com](mailto:artspaceorg@gmail.com), or phone the gallery at 804-232-6464 for additional information. The gallery is located at Zero East 4th Street in Richmond, Virginia 23224, with a second door at 31 E. 3rd St., and online at [www.artspacegallery.org](http://www.artspacegallery.org).

-- News Release by Aaron Stein, PR Volunteer