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Figurative and Realist Artwork at The MAX The World on Paper: The Expressions and Realisms of Cathy Hegman and Laurin McCracken *opens May 7*

MERIDIAN, Miss. (April 25, 2022) – The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience invites you into the worlds of renowned watercolor artists Cathy Hegman and Laurin McCracken. In the newest exhibition at The MAX, we invite you to explore the ideas of representation and what constitutes reality.



The World on Paper celebrates the medium of watercolor, which Hegman and McCracken use to interpret the world as they see it. Specializing in realism, McCracken uses crisp lines to recreate the world in high detail, while Hegman, a figurative artist, blurs the lines to represent the world in figures. Showcasing masters of watercolor, this exhibition is a consideration of what the world is and what it could be, shedding a new light on the seemingly mundane.



Hegman has been working as a contemporary figurative artist for almost 40 years. She is represented by galleries such as Tew Galleries (Atlanta), Fischer Galleries (Jackson, Mississippi), and Carol Robinson Gallery (New Orleans). Hegman's artwork has been displayed throughout the country as well as in Brazil, Wales, and England. She has taught workshops and written features and other articles for national art magazines.

As a realist watercolorist, McCracken emulates the Dutch and Flemish still life painters of the 16th and 17th centuries. He has won several awards and has been included in exhibitions around the world. McCracken is represented by Southside

Gallery (Oxford, Mississippi) and Cassidy Bayou Gallery (Sumner, Mississippi). He also teaches workshops that allow students to improve their technique and expand their knowledge of the art of watercolor.

The World on Paper: The Expressions and Realisms of Cathy Hegman and Laurin McCracken features more than 25 paintings and juxtaposes two worlds with varying emotions and feelings. “When you really look at their artwork and experience it, though it was created at different times and in different spaces, you realize it is the same – visual interpretations of the world around us,” said Stacey Peralta, Curator of Exhibitions at The MAX. The exhibition will be on display at The MAX from May 7-August 13, 2022. This exhibit is sponsored by the Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation.

Related programming: **Masterclass in Watercolor**, August 11-13, 2022, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. In this three-day watercolor class, McCracken will teach students how to add more realism to their paintings. Please note this is not a beginner’s class; students need some experience working with watercolor. Limited capacity. Registration required. Lunch provided. \$250 for Members, \$275 for nonmembers.

About The MAX

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience explores the state’s creative legacies in one immersive attraction. Come discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world’s arts and entertainment icons – Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, and Jim Henson, to name just a few.

Admission to the special exhibit is free with regular museum admission. The MAX is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum is located at the corner of Sela Ward Parkway (22nd Avenue) and Front Street, overlooking the railroad at the edge of Meridian’s historic downtown. Street parking is available, with shops and restaurants within walking distance. For more information visit msarts.org or call 601-581-1550.

Image credits (top-bottom): *Glassware and Sliver on Granite*, Laurin McCracken, watercolor on paper, 2017, image courtesy of Laurin McCracken. *Dangling Alignments Pink Calibrations*, Cathy Hegman, watercolor, gouache, and acrylic on paper, 2016, image courtesy of Cathy Hegman.

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