



Contact: **Judith HeartSong**
Judith@ArtistsAndMakersStudios.com
ArtistsAndMakersStudios.com

240-437-9573

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2023

Artists & Makers Studios in Rockville Presents
“Garden of Desires” New Work by Laurel Lukaszewski

(Rockville, MD) – Artists & Makers Studios on Parklawn Drive in Rockville is proud to host Laurel Lukaszewski and new work fresh from her studio in the Invited Artist Gallery with two additional exhibits and an Open Studio event for the month of June. The show, *Garden of Desires*, runs from May 31st through June 28th at Artists and Makers Studios, with an opening reception on Friday, June 2nd, 5 – 9pm. Laurel says, “Our lives are filled with desires—wishes for things that are both fantastical and mundane. Some desires grow and take root becoming lifelong goals. Others last merely as long as a puff on a dandelion. As a gardener, the metaphor of the garden as a reflection of life is ever present, where living organisms thrive in the right environment, wither when neglected, and sometimes fail, even when all is done correctly. Our desires are much the same. Some desires are carefully cultivated, cherished, and doted over until they bloom. Others are weeds, insidious and devouring. Occasionally, they are cut at their peak, dying when we most wanted them. Then there are those that are merely forgotten, evaporating like a morning mist. In this show, the figure of the rabbit represents a childhood obsession—an unfulfilled desire to possess and love something cuddly and vulnerable. In clay the rabbits symbolize all the things I desired but could not have. Their place in the garden is both magical and destructive, simultaneously embodying dreams and disappointment.”

Enjoy additional exhibits - **“Not your grandmother’s still life”** with Resident Artists, and 19 Gallery 209 Artists exhibiting their latest work. A still life is a picture showing an arrangement of objects, usually set on a table. The objects are the focal point. A still life is usually set indoors and contains at least one man-made object, such as a vase or bowl. Traditional still life works often included flowers, fruit, food, bowls, goblets. The memento mori (“remember you must die”) represents themes of death and fragility with skulls, candles, feathers, rotting fruit, wilting flowers and the vanitas depicts themes of vanity include wine bottles, goblets, musical instruments, and books. A contemporary still life reflects the artist’s life today. On view in the Gallery Hall, May 31st – June 28th.

“Garden of Desires” with Laurel Lukaszewski
“Not your grandmother’s still life” with Resident Artists
The Artists of Gallery 209

Opening Reception

5:00pm – 9:00pm, Friday, June 2nd, 2023

Artists & Makers Studios

11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210

Rockville, MD 20852

Pop-Up and Artist Talk with Laurel Lukaszewski, June 24th from 11am-3pm
Talk at 1pm

Exhibits for Laurel Lukaszewski, the Resident Artists, and Gallery 209 will run from May 31st through June 28th. Viewing hours are 10:00am – 4:00pm, Monday-Saturday, and Sundays by chance or appointment.

A&M