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Wednesday, May 27, 2015



BlackRock Center set to close "Precarious Balance" exhibit

BlackRock Center for the Arts presents the exhibition "Precarious Balance" featuring Maryland artists Sabine Carlson, Nancy Frankel, and Bobbi Shulman in The Kay Gallery through Saturday. Admission to the exhibit is free and open to the public.

Carlson explores conflicted mobility in paintings layered with fragmented and unexpected details that move in and out of view. Frankel manipulates space and form in sculptures made from steel, cast stone and wood that suggest movement, shifting balance, and playfulness. Shulman captures the play of light and shadow in expressive and spontaneous abstract paintings inspired by observations in a changing landscape.

Surprise and a sense of wonder are part of Carlson's process, as she creates paintings which describe places at the intersection between doing too little and going too far. Carlson, a resident of College Park, uses imagery inspired by the observation of motion within the landscape, particularly details that appear and disappear while walking at a slow pace.

A sense of balance, precarious yet centered, is integral to Frankel's sculptural work. Exploring space, either encapsulated or activated, and using what she calls "organic geometry," her abstract sculptures reflect her love of nature



BlackRock Center for the Arts CUTLINE: Bobbi Shulman's 'Written on the Wind,' is on display as part of the 'Precarious Balance' exhibit at BlackRock.

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and architecture. Frankel, a Kensington resident, works in a range of materials, casting with Design-Cast (a man-made stone), welding steel and carving wood.

Rhythm and color dominate Shulman's abstract paintings where bold planes and lines intertwine. Gestural brushstrokes define energetic spaces and playful layers of color flow into one another as she creates both pleasing harmonies and striking contrasts. Shulman, a resident of Potomac, MD, employs a bright and fresh palette and relies on the versatility of acrylic to allow additions and subtractions while building layers of paint. In this new series of works on paper which have been mounted on panel, she uses mixed media sparingly, relying predominately on fresh and bright acrylic paint to build depth with shapes and patterns.

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