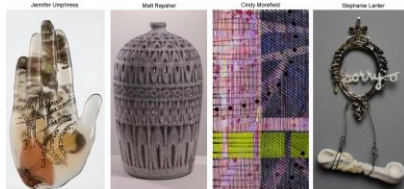


# Near & Far



## Near & Far



The McLean County Arts Center presents *Near & Far*, a group exhibition featuring the work of 5 local artists and their 5 invited guests in the Armstrong Gallery from April 24 to June 13, 2015. A free and public opening reception will be on Friday, April 24 from 5 to 7 pm.

*Near & Far* celebrates the breadth of art from our community while expanding our scope to include artists' work from beyond our location. Five local artists were asked to each invite an artist from outside our community to exhibit with them in the McLean County Arts Center's Armstrong Gallery. Each local artist works in different media and within varied artistic, social or educational circles within Bloomington-Normal.

Morgan Price, Assistant Professor of Printmaking at Illinois State University, will be exhibiting a new series of prints with hand drawn and painted components titled *Ad Nauseam*. Each print features a figure in vulnerable and sometimes compromising situations. Price invited sculptural artist Stephanie Lanter of Emporia, Kansas to share her mixed media and ceramic art. Lanter's work inspires complimentary feelings of empathy focusing on miscommunication and how "modes of connectivity often just miss the mark" between individuals. Glass artist and Illinois Wesleyan University Adjunct Assistant Professor, Carmen Lozar invited Jennifer Umphress, a glass artist from Kingston, Washington. Both artists use whimsy and mysteries of nature to unravel deeper questions of meaning in our human existence.

Painter and Director of McLean County Arts Center, Doug Johnson invited North Carolina artist Cindy Morefield. Johnson and Morefield met at Northern Illinois University earning their Masters of Fine Arts degrees. While the subject matter of their painting is different (Johnson's representational landscapes, portraits, and still lifes compared to Morefield's rhythmic nonrepresentational geometry) each is dedicated to developing complex layers of color, texture, and depth with the materiality of paint. Erin Furimsky, ceramic sculptor and Heartland Community College Adjunct Instructor, invited functional ceramic artist Matt Repsher, of Columbia, North Carolina. Furimsky and Repsher share a passion for the historically decorated surfaces of ceramics- Furimsky's floral contrasted with Repsher's architectural. And last, but never least, Matt Erickson, artist and owner of *cometogetherspace* in downtown Bloomington has invited a special surprise guest artist to share his work only to be revealed at the opening of the exhibition in their common interest of social justice, equality, and tom foolery.

**This exhibition was generously sponsored by Karen Schmidt & John Elterich.**

**Listen to our Datebook interview with WGLT's Laura Kennedy**