

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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AOB Documents “Lives in Progress” in First of its Kind Gallery Exhibition

Photographer Christopher Barclay’s new installation seeks to take viewers beyond the realm of document and into the realm of spirit.

Kensington, MD - July 17, 2017: For a fourth consecutive year, Arts on the Block (AOB) in partnership with Pepco Edison Place Gallery presents original artwork celebrating the impact of art on individual and community life. **Lives in Progress** -- a portrait study-- runs July 19 through August 4 at 702 - 8th Street, NW.

Artist and former Montgomery County Board of Education Member **Christopher Barclay** marries dynamic technique with brilliant portraiture to tell AOB's organizational story. In addition to AOB art apprentices, this exhibition features several of the regional stakeholders and acclaimed local and national artists responsible for AOB's award-winning programs.

“I have always tried to photograph what I feel as much as what I see. These portraits celebrate a few of the people who make up the Arts on the Block community. They also represent my attempt to run headlong into the conflict experienced (and enjoyed) when I photograph people,” says Barclay.

The exhibit’s culminating “Meet the Artist” reception will be held at the gallery on **Tues., August 1 from 6 - 9 p.m.** In addition to guided tours of the exhibition, demonstrations facilitated by AOB art apprentices, hors d'oeuvres and drinks, art commission opportunities and a raffle will be featured. Proceeds from the reception benefit AOB 2018 youth and teen programs and services.

With special thanks to our Program Supporters: Art4More, Architectural Ceramics, Catholic Charities, Hickock Cole Architects, Mohawk Group, Daltile, Hill Street Galleries, Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), Montgomery College, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Plaza Art, Gary Rosenthal Studios, Sasha Bruce Youthworks, Sharefund, Susie & Kenton Campbell, T-Shirt Printing Press and the Urban Alliance.

And, our Featured Lecture Artists: Chris Barclay, Richard Dana, Julia Davenport, Cheryl Foster, Judybeth Greene, Jan Goldstein, Tara Hamilton, Rose Jaffe, and June Linowitz.

To learn more about Arts on the Block, visit www.artsontheblock.com

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About Arts on the Block: Since its founding in 2003, AOB’s mission is to empower creative youth to imagine and shape fulfilling futures for themselves and contribute to the quality of life of their communities. We realize our mission by providing real-world experiences in the arts, arts education, and entrepreneurial training geared toward opening new pathways to learning, self-discovery, and achievement.

About Christopher Barclay: Christopher Barclay studied Photography and Graphic Design at Columbia College of Chicago. After graduation, he worked as a freelance photojournalist. After leaving the professional photography world, Chris worked in telecommunications for more than 15 years. From 2006 to 2016, Chris was a fierce advocate for arts education on the Montgomery County (Maryland) Board of Education. Over the last three years, he has returned to photography as his primary means of self-expression. This project is Chris' first full step back into the world the he "loves and fears the most."

The Pepco Edison Place Gallery is open with free admission 12- 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday located at 702 Eighth St., NW, Washington, DC.

Lives in Progress Exhibition dates: July 19th- August 4th