



INTERNATIONAL
ARTS AND ARTISTS

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International Arts & Artists to Receive \$25,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Washington, DC — National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter has approved more than \$80 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$25,000 to International Arts & Artists (IA&A) to support a monthly exhibition series at Hillyer contemporary art center for underrepresented regional and international artists. Art Works is the Arts Endowment's principal grantmaking program. The agency received 1,592 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking, and will award 977 grants in this category.

"These awards, reaching every corner of the United States, are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Organizations such as International Arts & Artists are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create, and be inspired."

Founded in 2006, IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) supports local and international artists at all stages of their careers. Hillyer collaborates with artists, cultural organizations, and embassies to develop and host creative, thought-provoking programs and exhibitions that push cross-cultural understanding and reflect the uniqueness of Washington DC as an international capital.



Raising Our Youth,
Tyra Mitchell

"We are delighted to receive support for our annual exhibitions series from the National Endowment for the Arts," said Lise Dubé-Scherr, Executive Director/CEO of International Arts & Artists. "IA&A at Hillyer continues to be a champion of emerging and international artists and has become a 'must-see' exhibition space for the greater Washington region. With the support of the NEA, we can ensure our exhibition series remains of the highest caliber and supports a diverse group of artists to the benefit of our community."

On **Friday, June 7**, Hillyer debuts two solo exhibitions featuring artists Pietro Ruffo and Tyra Mitchell, as well as a group exhibition *Artists in Exile*. The opening reception is from 6 to 9 pm during Dupont Circle's First Friday. **Artist Talks with Tyra Mitchell and Khalid Alaani will be on Tuesday, June 25** from 6:30 to 8 pm.



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- In *CONSTELLATIONS/MIGRATION*, Rome-based artist Pietro Ruffo draws inspiration from the geographers, cartographers, and astronomers of antiquity to tackle the timeless mysteries of human movement, conflict, and assimilation.
- Tyra Mitchell's *Raising Our Youth* is an exploration of young families who inhabit Washington, DC and how they are navigating through their heavily gentrified hometown along with the many obstacles of parenthood—all while highlighting the beauty that still resides in the former "Chocolate City".
- *Artists in Exile: Art as Fabric for Healing* features the work of six Iraqi refugees who have relocated to new countries through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Featured artists include Ahmad Abdulrazzaq, Khalid Alaani, Amer Ali, Majid Hashem, Omar Odeh, and Wadhah Mahdi.



Khalid Alaani with *A Girl On A Sofa* (2018) in *Artists in Exile: Art as Fabric for Healing*.

Image: Tyrone Turner / WAMU

On **Thursday, June 20**, Hillyer celebrates the **By the People Festival 2019 with *Bullets to Bells***, a participatory public workshop about gun violence by DC-based artist Stephanie Mercedes and in collaboration with Studio Gallery. Participants are invited to help the artist melt down bullet casings that will be transformed into a peaceful, ringing bell, which will then be displayed at Hillyer. Through this collective experience, the artist hopes to give agency back to those who feel they cannot make a difference in national politics. The program runs from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Hillyer.

For more information on this National Endowment for the Arts grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

For more information about IA&A at Hillyer, visit [atHillyer.org](https://www.atHillyer.org).

IA&A at Hillyer Hours — Tuesday to Friday 12-6 pm, Saturday to Monday 12-5 pm, and by appointment.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS

International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. For 25 years, IA&A has fulfilled its mission by providing programs and services to artists, arts institutions, cultural organizations, and the public, reaching over 2.1 million people.

IA&A's **Traveling Exhibition Service** develops and circulates a broad range of premiere visual arts exhibitions in the US and abroad. With over 110 unique exhibitions and over 775 presentations, IA&A's exhibitions have toured all 50 US states as well as 24 countries abroad, helping organizations to engage their community, increase public awareness, develop meaningful programming, and foster enhanced support.



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IA&A's award-winning **Design Studio** offers a full scope of print and design services specializing in exhibition book design. Design Studio has published 87 exhibition catalogues and over 400 exhibition collateral, as well as various other projects for individual artists and collectors.

IA&A's **Cultural Exchange Programs** support the next generation of creative leaders by providing exchange opportunities and visa assistance for students, professionals, artists, and researchers from around the world participating in programs across the US. IA&A has connected over 1,700 exchange visitors from more than 90 countries to over 600 host organizations.

IA&A at Hillyer is a contemporary art center based in Washington, DC. Committed to serving the public and supporting artists at all stages of their careers, Hillyer has presented over 300 exhibitions featuring local, regional, and international artists, reaching over 95,000 visitors.

For more information about International Arts & Artists, visit [ArtsandArtists.org](https://www.ArtsandArtists.org).