

## Artist Grants Showcase Innovative Artists Working in Visual Arts and Documentary Filmmaking



“Winter Vines, Ivy Edge” ©2016 Catherine Day

Fairfax County, VA – **ARTSFAIRFAX** awarded its prestigious 2018 Artist Grants to two artists-- Falls Church-based filmmaker Carolyn McCulley and McLean resident and visual artist Catherine Day. These highly competitive individual artist awards recognize exceptional work by Fairfax artists across a range of disciplines, including visual arts, creative writing, theatre, dance performance and choreography, film and new media. These \$5000 awards provide artists with crucial recognition and act as catalysts for the advancement of their careers and skills.

“**ARTSFAIRFAX** believes that artists are foundational to a vibrant Fairfax County. Artists are innovators and entrepreneurs, and we are proud to invest in the further development of their talents and the enduring legacy they create for our residents and the next generation of artists,” said Linda S. Sullivan, President & CEO of **ARTSFAIRFAX**.

Artists by nature are innovators. Catherine Day’s challenge was a long series of experiments to find the right medium for her photos. The results are intricate layers of fabric rather than paper prints. The tactile nature of fabric--doilies, tablecloths, antique linens—transform her work into three-dimensional objects, which move and shimmer with light. They frame and enhance her photographs focus on the quiet moments of grief, drawing the viewer in to experience the emotions associated with loss.

Visual storytelling also describes documentary filmmaker Carolyn McCulley's work. Her award-winning documentaries are sensitive, observational films, with a larger social agenda. From mothers whose children's lives were cut short by medical errors to a former fighter pilot whose love of flying remains undiminished by age, all these stories demand time for them to unfold and the characters to change. Each of these stories tackles an issue and deepens it with penetrating explorations of character, revealing both shared truths and new understanding for the audience.

For both these artists, the Fellowship gives them the opportunity to refine their craft as in the case of Day and the time to finish her films like McCulley.

Day said about her award, "The Artist Grant is a commitment by Fairfax County to encourage contemporary arts to thrive here, respecting the arts as a force that can be transformative and enriching in the lives of its citizens.

McCulley adds, "Independent filmmaking is often an exercise in perseverance through incredible odds. So this grant is both an amazing vote of support and a timely investment as I wrap up editing one of my feature documentary films about medical errors and a short documentary about a fighter pilot."

The Artist grants are open to artists of all disciplines residing in Fairfax County, and this Day and McCulley were selected from a group of 21 highly qualified artists. The awards are named for Bill (1947-2007), gifted writer, cofounder of the Capitol Steps and the Cappies. These fellowships are an investment in the sustained growth and development of the arts in Fairfax County, as well as a way to honor artists' commitment to an artistic discipline, and raise their profile locally and nationally as exceptional artists.

To find out more about Carolyn McCulley, visit <http://www.citygatefilms.com>

To find out more about Catherine Day, visit <http://www.catherineday.net>

### **About ARTSFAIRFAX**

**ARTSFAIRFAX** fosters a dynamic and diverse arts scene throughout Fairfax County. We ensure the arts thrive by providing vision, leadership, capacity-building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information.

**ARTSFAIRFAX** distributes over \$500,000 annually through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and artists of all disciplines. Previously known as the Arts Council of Fairfax County and now doing business as

**ARTSFAIRFAX**, the organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and Fairfax County's designated local arts agency.

**ARTSFAIRFAX** is funded in part by [Fairfax County](#), corporations, foundations, individuals, the [Virginia Commission for the Arts](#), and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

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