

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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Note to the Media

This press release is the first in a continuing series focusing on new features, new events and new exhibits to be launched at the 2006 Marblehead Festival of Arts. More to follow!

What's New at the 2006 Marblehead Festival of Arts?

New Mixed Media Exhibit to Showcase New Ideas about Art-making, New Tools and Evolving Trends

Marblehead, MA (May 4, 2006) – The new Mixed Media Exhibit will top of the list of innovative events planned for the Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA), to take place July 1 – 4, 2006 in Marblehead, MA. Mixed Media will feature original work using any two or more media in a single piece (collage, paint, drawing, transfer images, recycled or found images). This new exhibit will be located at the Grace Community Church, 17 Pleasant Street in Marblehead.

Formerly exhibited as part of the painting exhibit under the description "all media not specifically covered by the other exhibits," Mixed Media has been looking for an identity of its own for some time. Since 2002, it's been apparent that this genre of artwork has grown significantly both in quantity and in range of media used. It has become increasingly more difficult to find judges who are equally versed in all media to take on the challenge of judging this exhibit. Finally, in 2006 the MFoA Board of Directors voted in favor of establishing Mixed Media as a separate exhibit so, in order to ensure the utmost fairness for all categories, it will judged in its own right and thereby leave works in traditional media uncompromised.

Mixed media artist Gayle Rosen sees this as a refreshing new step for the Marblehead Festival of Arts. "The Mixed Media exhibit will be an exciting new forum for mixed media artists to showcase their work," states Ms. Rosen, "and a great opportunity for visitors to see contemporary techniques in art-making at the Festival." Using photographs as a starting point, Gayle's images are transformed into digital mixed media works of art employing various techniques that include

watercolor, pastel, pencil and gouche. This is just one example of the wide range of mixed media pieces that are expected to be exhibited.

All artists from Essex County are encouraged to submit their paintings, drawings, crafts, printmaking, sculpture, photographs, and mixed media works of art for judging and inclusion in the Festival. Seniors and students are also invited to participate in their special categories, as well. Cash prizes are awarded to winners of various categories. Additional details, applications and dates and locations for drop-offs are available online at: www.marbleheadfestival.org/artists.

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer’s World, the Street Festival, Children’s Festival, Artisan’s Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts Inc is a not-for-profit organization comprised of area residents who volunteer their time and services in a variety of capacities. With the mission to promote and foster artistic events and activities in the town of Marblehead, this organization was launched in 1962 by producing an annual Arts Festival. Today, in addition to its summer arts program, the Marblehead Festival of Arts sponsors events throughout the year, promotes area artists, supports up and coming art students via an annual scholarship and contributes to the overall cultural climate of Marblehead.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies primarily on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

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