

GLEN  
ECHO  
PARK  
PARTNERSHIP



// **Galleries**

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE



GLEN ECHO PARK

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## Glen Echo Park Partnership Galleries: FEBRUARY EXHIBITIONS

### *What Words Can't Say: Irene Clouthier*

February 2 to 24 // Popcorn Gallery

The Partnership presents an exhibition of sculptural work by Irene Clouthier. In Clouthier's work she explores and creates new spaces, environments, strange relationships between scale, objects, backgrounds and the universe that unfold by shifting those elements coming from an existing object or space. Having grown up in a hostile environment in a violent city in Mexico, toys and games were an escape. The use of plastic and toys in her work references our own childhood and playfulness, to enact fantasies as a statement about the bubble wrap society we live in, the disposable culture, the loss of sensibility, and the embrace of plastics as the cool material of our emptiness. Her recent sculptural work is an exploration of the complexity of human relationships, love, despair, disappointment, loneliness and feelings of the human condition. She began this exploration after going through a divorce and experimenting with duality and confusion, then it unfolded into exploring just the words, their meaning, and how opposites are also connected, because feelings are always connected. Clouthier finds playful ways to express herself, transforming and presenting the work in a new context and inviting viewers to reflect on what it means in their own relationships.

**Saturdays & Sundays, 12pm – 6pm**

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 2, 4 - 6pm

### *Out of the Woods: Julia Purinton*

February 2 to 24 // Stone Tower Gallery

The Partnership presents an exhibition of landscape paintings by Julia Purinton. Having evolved from hunter-gatherers, humans learned to think in nature. The devastation of our habitats causes distress and despair, and we naturally find solace in the experience of landscape. Utilizing a familiar vernacular of landscape imagery in her paintings, Purinton explores psychological passage and growth: finding joy, accepting loss, or releasing regret. In the way that fairy tales metaphorically dramatize real life, her paintings illuminate aspects of personal endeavor. Whether the image is a shoreline or a forest, her subject is the importance of nature as a palliative to contemporary social malaise; each piece a meditation on the commonality of human response to the majesty and beauty of the natural world.

**Saturdays & Sundays, 12pm – 6pm**

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 2, 4 - 6pm

### *Persona Practice: Melanie Ruston*

February 2 to 23 // Park View Gallery

In her newest body of work, "Persona Practice," Melanie Ruston pinpoints intimate moments within different types of human relationships, including one's relationship with oneself. Often using the human figure, she tells stories about how humans of all ages work hard, communicate, succeed, fail, and try again. While many of her works are autobiographical, she also draws inspiration from her work as an educator of preschool aged children. Her research of the Reggio Emilia teaching philosophy led her to the writing of Cesare Musatti, who posited that "A child's

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most sought-after goal is to recognize him- or her-self in others,” and that even the development of the youngest child constitutes the “matrix of social life as later developed in adulthood... the foundation for likes and dislikes, for affinities and even for love.” The characters in Ruston’s paintings represent personal and social journeys throughout both childhood and adulthood.

**Monday through Saturday, 10am – 6pm.**

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 2, 4 - 6pm



Left to right: Irene Clouthier; Julia Purinton; Melanie Ruston

*Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD, 20812.*

*High resolution images available at 301-634-2228.*

ABOUT THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a non-profit organization, manages the arts programs and historic buildings Glen Echo Park, a vibrant arts and cultural center in Montgomery County, MD. The Park offers classes and camps in visual and performing arts, art exhibitions, children’s theater performances, summer concerts, environmental programs, special events and festivals, and a lively social dance program. Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades.

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