



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22nd, 2024

Contact: Sandy Wright
contact@riverworksart.org
301.922.8507

THE EVERYDAY ESSENCE OF “BOTTLES AND BOUQUETS”
Pauline Rakis explores the rich meanings of familiar objects
in new Riverworks Art Center exhibition

POOLESVILLE, Md. — Elegance or exuberance, stability or change, structure or chaos—in a new exhibition, artist Pauline Rakis invites us to find meaning in contrasts through vivid, emotion-imbued paintings of wine bottles and flowers.

“With their sleek lines and cool glass, wine bottles embody a stoic elegance,” Rakis explains. “They stand as witnesses to moments shared, their forms reminiscent of stability and tradition, yet within them lie vitality and celebration. By contrast, flowers represent transience. Through the chaos of their forms and the riot of their colors, they also reflect the vibrancy and volatility of life itself—spontaneity and raw emotion.”

“Bottles and Bouquets” will be on display from **Wednesday, June 12, 2024, through Sunday, August 4, 2024, at Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, Md.** This show is the thirteenth Riverworks “Artist in the House” exhibition to be featured on the second floor of the historic Veirs-Stevens House at Locals.

An opening reception will be held at Locals on **Sunday, June 23, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** The reception is free and the public is invited to attend.

Skilled at blending acrylic paint and collage, Rakis describes herself as an intuitive artist. “I allow my subconscious to guide the process,” she says. “My work is spontaneous: I let the materials dictate the direction the art will take, and my surroundings, emotions, and experiences also influence the discovery of what the piece will be.”

According to Riverworks co-founder Sandy Wright, that spontaneity is a big part of what makes Rakis’s work ideal for an “Artist in the House” exhibition.

“Pauline’s work catches your eye from across a room,” Wright says. “We already knew her as a painter of abstracts and landscapes, but there’s real joy in the way the work in this show hint at the stories our everyday objects can hold. You can’t look at her paintings and not feel a connection.”

Rakis often hears that collectors are drawn to her work by her strong compositions and bold use of color, but she is especially gratified when viewers share their complex emotional responses.

“This exhibition serves as a celebration of life’s paradoxes,” she says, intrigued by the ways that images, ideas, and emotions intermingle to transcend easy explanation. “I want people to analyze and ask questions. Communicating with the art and igniting discussion are the ultimate goals of my work—and of art overall.”

###

ABOUT PAULINE RAKIS:

Pauline Rakis nurtured a passion for art while raising her children and working in the financial services industry. While working in banking, she earned a Bachelor’s degree from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and began taking art classes and workshops, immersing herself in weekend sketching classes, acrylic painting workshops, and finally programs and classes in France, Greece, and Canada.

After exploring various media and styles, Rakis expanded her landscape and still life portfolio to include abstracts and collages. She frequently does not declare an intention for her paintings; they evolve from the application of the shapes and colors she applies to the surfaces. Viewers and collectors have commented on the joy they feel from her bold colors.

See more of Rakis’s work at her website: paulinerakis.com

###



Established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2022, Riverworks Art Center offers a wealth of arts and culture programs in a restorative rural setting, including art classes, introductory workshops, community roundtables, Storytellers presentations, theater and music classes for children, fine arts exhibitions, outdoor concerts, community festivals, weekly jam sessions, and more.

Riverworks is rooted in the small town of Poolesville, only 40 minutes outside the D.C. Beltway and just half an hour south of Frederick, with Sugarloaf Mountain rising eight miles to the north. The surrounding 93,000-acre Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve offers hiking trails,

riverside views, farm-fresh produce, independent restaurants, African American historic sites, Civil War trails, local beer and wine, and more.

Riverworks holds events at three locations in and around Poolesville:

- **Alden Farms** (19215 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville)
classrooms, studios, art library, event pavilion, and sculpture garden
- **Locals Farm Market** (19929 Fisher Ave., Poolesville)
art gallery, jam sessions, local artisans market
- **Historic Methodist Church** (17617 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville)
outdoor stage and future home of the Riverworks Performing Arts Center

In its first two years, Riverworks has hosted more than 150 art classes, programs, and public events, many of them low-cost or free, with the goal of cultivating creativity and connection in the rural corner of Montgomery County and with visitors from across the D.C. region.

To learn more, visit the Riverworks website: www.riverworksart.org.



Established in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic, [Locals Farm Market](http://www.localsfarmmarket.com) at **19929 Fisher Ave., Poolesville, Md.** is a vital restaurant in the historic heart of Poolesville that serves as a welcoming first stop for visitors exploring the Ag Reserve, a community gathering place, an art gallery, and a marketplace for the work of local artists, writers, artisans, and farmers.

Locals is open Wednesday and Thursday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday and Saturday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Locals hosts Riverworks jam sessions open to musicians of all ages and experience levels on Friday nights from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music-loving audience members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Locals menu emphasizes fresh ingredients from area farms. Guests can eat, meet, and relax in a shade-covered outdoor setting or indoors on two floors of the historic 1840s Veirs–Stevens House.

The second floor at Locals hosts rotating Riverworks “Artists in the House” exhibitions featuring the work of respected local and regional artists.

To learn more, visit the Locals website: www.localsfarmmarket.com.

###