This art isn’t on the Mall.

Find world-class paintings and sculptures in these 10 surprising spots – no infinite lines or timed passes required. Page 16

520 DINER
Street Kitchen spices up Tysons Corner Center with Indian food for all. 10

STAGE
Tony-winning hit “Fun Home” heads to National Theatre for month-long run. 18

MOVIES
Anne Hathaway dominates the smart, wildly imaginative “Colossal.” 23
From the cover

Hidden figures: 10 unsung sites for art

By Winyan Soo Hoo and Mark Jenkins

Going to museums isn’t always easy in Washington. If you want to visit the African American Museum or find out what all the hype is about at the Hirshhorn’s Yayoi Kusama exhibition, you have to score tickets well in advance and prepare for crowds. It isn’t unusual to find lines in front of the Air and Space Museum or the Natural History Museum. Where should art lovers go for something quiet or off the beaten path? Whether it’s the gorgeous murals at the Department of the Interior or the watercolors and sculptures at quirky venues run by nonprofits, these non-museum spots give you a chance to see art without long lines.

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Arlington Arts Center
Kosslyn’s ambitious Artisphere is gone, but three Metro stops west is an Arlington County venue with some bold ideas. Housed in a former Union Station, the Arlington Arts Center contains artist studios and nine galleries. There’s a showcase for resident artists, but most of the exhibition space is devoted to venue-wide shows that generally emphasize the conceptual over the traditional. Now on display is one of the center’s semiannual “Solos” shows, highlighting seven lighting people from the Mid-Atlantic. Among them are West Virginia photographer John Ryan Brubaker, whose style tends toward the abstract, and Philadelphia’s Sascha Hughes-Caley, a videomaker trained in acting and “time-based media.”

Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. 703-249-6800, arlingtonartscenter.org. — M.J.

Hillier Art Space
Sculded in a carriage house behind the Phillips Collection, this nonprofit space is a project of International Arts & Artists, which organizes traveling museum shows (and whose offices are upstairs). The three galleries usually host three separate exhibits, although sometimes a single show claims more than one room. Many of the artists are local, but the venue has hosted work made all over the world. The current lineup offers floral drawings by Zoe Linn Jarvis and sculptural installations by Bonnie Crawford Kotula and Judith Pratt. The theme of Pratt’s show is “point of origin,” so visitors are invited to add something by writing or drawing, about their own creation myths.

Hillier Art Space, 9 Hillier Ct. NW. 202-338-0325, hillierart.space.org. — M.J.

Touchstone Gallery
This owner-operated cooperative gallery was founded in 1976 and has been in its current location near Mount Vernon Square since 2000. The focus is on emerging artists. Usually, though, the venue divides its space between a members’ group exhibition and two solo shows. It’s now showing black-and-white landscapes of the American Southwest by Harvey Kaydger, a medical researcher turned photographer, and art about the African American life, history and spirit by Janathel Shaw. She’s known for her evocative ceramic sculptures, but this selection also features drawings.


VisArts at Rockville
This nonprofit group, just beyond Rockville Town Square’s library and skating rink, fills two floors and a bit of the ground level with studios, classrooms and the galleries. The galleries are usually devoted to student or teacher shows, although last month’s “Questioning Power at VisArts” linked the shows in all four. More recently, the place has gone apolitical with shows that emphasize color and form. Diane Sieczpanish’s luminous watercolors contrast squares within squares, and Kayla Ploza Antiel’s oils have the feel of early-20th-century abstraction. Kevin Labrador’s circle-themed paintings are harder-edged and more ironic: One spacey-pla-pla round includes two small (and circular) speakers that provide a thumping soundtrack.

VisArts at Rockville, 156 Gibbs St., Rockville. 301-315-5200, visartstrckville.org. — M.J.

Department of the Interior
Completed in 1936, the Department of the Interior headquarters features the most New Deal-era artwork of any federal building, with murals that turn the otherwise stodgy structure into an unsung art hub. Prevalent from the 1930s through the 1940s, the murals were done by artists from across the country, and they spread across the 310 feet above ground, depicting scenes of Native Americans, natural history and life in the eastern United States. This month, the building will feature “A Clearing,” a new work by James Blakely. The center will also host a monthlong exhibition of paintings, sculptures and multimedia installations by local and national artists. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Free. — W.S.

Library of Congress
Designed in the Beaux-Arts style with giant columns, open light, granite and bronze doors and marble floors, the Library of Congress is one of the most beautiful and historic buildings on Capitol Hill. It houses one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive collections of printed and recorded material. The Library of Congress website offers information about the collections and services. The website also includes a link to the Library’s digital content, which includes photographs, maps, and documents. — W.S.

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War-torn Middle Eastern and European cities may inspire the creative center. The cultural center also hosts a diverse roster of musical guests, past performers have included reggae artist Jason Timbuktu Diakite and hip-hop phenom Reckstar. Next month, Italian musician Marco Pani will perform.

House of Sweden, 2900 K St. NW. 202-536-1500, houseofsweden.com. — W.S.

U.S. Capitol
The Capitol building is a relic to behold in of itself, with its royal blue and deep brick Minton tiles and embossed bronze-castors. Marble and bronze statues of such luminaries as Rosa Parks and Helen Keller, the latter commemorating the African American civil rights leader who visited the Capitol as a young girl. Today, visitors can take guided tours of the building that visitors can touch for its Braille writing, flank the building’s Emancipation and National Statuary Halls. Constantino Brumidi’s famed 1865 fresco, “Apotheosis of Washington,” illuminates the eye of the Capitol’s rotunda 180 feet above ground, depicting President George Washington rising into heaven. The building houses the Greek and Roman gods. Closer to eye level, the rotunda is surrounded by eight other notable paintings, including John Trumbull’s “Declaration of Independence,” depicting Thomas Jefferson and other committee members who presented the first draft of the document in Philadelphia. Although free, advance-booked tours are required for the Rotunda and National Statuary Halls, walk-in guests are welcome to wander in the Emancipation Hall. U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, First Street NE. 202-224-8000, visitorcenter.house.gov. — W.S.
Vince Barbara, of Sacramento, takes in vibrant posters commissioned for the National Park Service by artist Charley Harper at the Department of the Interior, which has one of the largest art collections among all federal buildings.

Daniel Kyong’s “Penguins Living in the Forest,” far left, one of the installations for “Space” at the Korean Cultural Center, and Constantino Brumidi’s “The Apotheosis of Washington” fresco painting inside the Capitol Rotunda.