

# Arts & Style

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## GRAY BOX' ILLUMINATES PROFILE OF VIDEO ART



Michael Sullivan

Since Jan. 22, the Kaplan Gallery at VisArts in Rockville, Md., has been transformed into a giant black box for "Suspension," an exhibition of experimental video art. That's pretty amazing, considering that the space was never designed to be

Berlin-based Betty Boehm closes out the show Feb. 18 to March 1 with works that incorporate elements of the moving image with painting and performance.

According to Main, each of the three artists was selected because his or her work resonated with one of the jurors. Morse, for instance, credits his interest in Neumann's art to a shared fascination with what he calls "the emergence of the unexpected."

But the show aims to take advantage of more than its jurors' keen eyes for spotting talent. Main has conferred upon Morse, Worden and Barber the status of guest artist, which means that on three dates in February (see below), VisArts will put the jurors in the spotlight in a series of artist talks/screenings that she hopes will help raise the profile of the homegrown film-and-video-art scene.

"Suspension," then, is two opportunities in one — to learn more about what artists are doing with video around the world and to meet a few of them from your own back yard.

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**Suspension** Through March 1 at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. 301-315-8200. [www.visartsatrockville.org](http://www.visartsatrockville.org). Guest artist talks/screenings are Feb. 8 (Fred Worden), Feb. 22 (Brandon Morse), and March 1 (Stephanie Barber).

### FIVE TO WATCH

**Bead.** As she did with last year's fiber-art survey "Stitch," curator Holly Koons McCullough has gathered a sampling of artists working in a single medium: beads. Though there is a jewelry piece or two, the work is smartly contemporary.  
*Through Feb. 28 at Greater Reston*

*Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. 703-471-9242. [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).*

**Linda Hesh's All-Gay Review.** Using altered advertising slogans, an interactive kissing booth and other provocative conceptual techniques on the theme of gay rights, Hesh, an Alexandria artist, blurs the line between art and advocacy.  
*Feb. 6-28 at Hilliger Art Space, 9 Hilliger Ct. NW. 202-338-0325. [www.hilligerartspace.org](http://www.hilligerartspace.org).*

**Gun Love.** Artist Dawn Whitmore uses firearm imagery culled from social media to slyly critique women's relationships to guns.  
*Through April 4 at Arlington Art Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. 703-248-6800. [www.arlingtonartcenter.org](http://www.arlingtonartcenter.org).*

**Molly Springfield: The Marginalia Archive.** A fascination with old-fashioned printed text and its contemporary social-media offshoots fuels this interactive installation. Centering on examples of marginalia — handwritten comments or notes in the margins of printed pages, Springfield's show will include a photocopier or scanner for visitors to contribute their own texts (with commentary, or course).  
*May 1-30 at Flushingpoint, 916 G St. NW. 202-315-1305. [www.culturaldc.org](http://www.culturaldc.org).*

**Dreamworlds: Work by Amy Lin.** Amy Lin's obsessive abstract drawings evoke the biological, the chemical, the mechanical and, at times, the purely imaginary.  
*May 8-June 27 at Addison/Ripk Fine Arts Gallery, 1670 Wisconsin Ave. NW. 202-338-5180. [www.addisonripkfineart.com](http://www.addisonripkfineart.com).*



HOLDEN BROWN/COURTESY OF VISARTS AT ROCKVILLE

Holden Brown, a leading Washington-area "time-based media" artist whose work includes "Child's Play," was a juror for "Suspension."

probably because of the underground nature of "time-based media," as video art is sometimes known, despite prominent exhibitions of video art at area museums, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden's current "Days of Endless Time." Video-art celebrity, in other words, may not look all that different from video-art obscurity. "Suspension" is one small step toward changing that.

The show is actually three sequential mini-exhibitions, each dedicated to a single artist (none of whom is yet a household name). Boston-based Andrew Neumann's work runs through Feb. 1, featuring both a sculptural installation and a video that overlays scenes from Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 "Psycho" with Gus Van Sant's infamous 1998 remake. New York-based Holden Brown takes over the space Feb. 4-15 with video projected onto a series of furnished environments.



"Fabulous" Archival Ink Jet Print 2015

## Allied Artist

### Linda Hesh pays tribute to gay rights at Dupont's Hillyer

**GA**Y IS GOOD!" "DON'T FEAR THE QUEER."

"Wouldn't it be great to have big billboards like that all over?" says artist Linda Hesh, explaining her recent series of artworks, which draw inspiration from the many "heartfelt" homemade signs waved at gay rights rallies. Taking many of the gay-affirming slogans that have been in circulation, she digitally adds them to billboards in original cityscape photographs.

Over the past decade and a half, the photography-based artist has developed seven series along the same lines, all of which factor into her latest solo show at Dupont Circle's Hillyer Art Space, *Linda Hesh's All Gay Review: A Heterosexual's Tribute to Homosexual Civil Rights*. "When I got the opportunity to do this show, I decided I wanted to do a show only about gay rights," she says.

Chicago-reared Hesh has been a straight ally for as long as she can remember. "My mother was a fag hag — literally that's what it is. Her two best friends were gay men," she explains. "I always knew there was something different about these men, although, of course, as a child, I didn't know what the difference was. And then as I grew up, I realized that my father was homophobic and a racist and misogynist. So when I'm doing this work about civil rights, I feel like I'm sort of doing reparations, and exploring those problems that I grew up with."

Another series of works in the Hillyer show is a calendar Hesh describes as looking "like a normal wildlife calendar, with beautiful wildlife pictures — until you get close and then read the text underneath [which] tells you the same-sex behavior of that animal." More recently she's created a couple interactive selfie-inspired projects — a cutout allowing exhibit-goers to take "a selfie with a gay," as well as another option to snap a photo wearing a "gay" hat, a "gayer" necklace or a "gayest" sash.

Next weekend Hesh will staff a Valentine's Day Kissing Booth, where people can pose and kiss "in any combination." Says Hesh: "I'll be serving milk and cookies and taking photographs." — *Doug Rute*

*The opening reception for Linda Hesh's All Gay Review is Friday, Feb. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m., while the Valentine's Day event is Saturday, Feb. 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. Exhibit runs to Feb. 28. Hillyer Art Space at International Arts & Artists, 9 Hillyer Court NW. Call 202-338-0680 or visit [artsandartists.org](http://artsandartists.org).* ●