

## Target Gallery Spotlights Four Rising-Star Artists of the DMV

*2020 Emerging Artists*  
Through Sunday, September 13  
[Virtual Reception](#): Friday, August 14, 7 p.m.

**August 7, 2020 – Alexandria, Va.** – Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents the *2020 Emerging Artists*. Now in its third year, this annual exhibition highlights the up-and-coming artistic innovators of the greater metropolitan area. It is open now and on view through Sunday, September 13. Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 N. Union St. in Old Town Alexandria.

“This exhibition has added importance this year, as the current environment has been a challenge and impacted many sectors of society, including the visual arts,” said Leslie Mounaime, curator of exhibitions at the Art Center. “It is an opportunity to support our region’s rising talent and elevate their profiles, give them an artist stipend and give them a platform for sales as much of the work is available for purchase, too.”

The 2020 exhibition features [MK Bailey](#), [Mahsa R. Fard](#), [Zia Palmer](#), and [Latreille Rostant](#). The jury panel for this opportunity was [Alexandra “Rex” Delafkaran](#), a DC-based artist and Exhibition Director at [Hamiltonian Gallery](#), [Jaynelle Hazard](#), executive director and curator at [Greater Reston Arts Center](#); and [Amy Lokoff](#), DC-based curator.

“These four artists illustrate a disillusionment of place,” said Delafkaran. “Through painting, textiles, photography, and installation they separately are defining their own definitive voices, and in combination converge on a conceptual frequency.”

“The power of our roots is a force. These four artists each convey such dominance in their evolving artistry with the desire to tell their personal stories of home, growth, future and present day,” said Hazard. “Though there is a thread of consistent themes such as preserving ancestry, existing between then and now, capturing memories and challenging societal constructs, their approach and techniques are expansive.”

“The four selected emerging artists create work that is reflective of the current zeitgeist,” said Lokoff. “In our rapidly changing world, there has been a collective questioning of identity and place and how those things inform one another. How much do we shape our reality and how does a position in space or time make us who we are? These artists use different media and unique perspectives in considering these questions.”

This exhibition opportunity was open to those living within the tri-state area with no more than five years of experience as a professional exhibiting artist. They also have never had a solo show of their own. Each received an honorarium after being accepted.

A virtual reception will be Friday, August 14, starting as a livestream at 7p.m. via [the Art Center’s Facebook Live feed](#). It premieres the exhibition’s virtual tour and will be followed by an in-depth conversation with the artists and participating jurors Rex Delafkaran and Amy Lokoff on the state of the emerging arts scene in the time



MK Bailey, *Grandma's Kitchen*, 2019. Oil on panel.



Zia Palmer, *La Manga Remains*, 2019. Silver Gelatin Print.

of a global crises. The virtual catalogue will also go live on August 14 for home viewing.

*2020 Emerging Artists* will be on view through Sunday, September 13. Target Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Target Gallery has a limited capacity of people allowed in the space at a time. Those who wish to visit Torpedo Factory Art Center are asked to adhere to current [Virginia Safer at Home](#) guidelines, including maintaining a social distance with people from different households, wearing face coverings indoors, and frequent handwashing for 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

## About the Artists

**MK Bailey** (Washington, D.C.) is a Washington-based artist working primarily in oil paint. Her work explores themes such as femininity, kinship, and death through unexpectedly colorful paintings. Each painting contains layers of imagery that are individually pleasant but collaged together to create a darker narrative. Bailey's use of collage comes from an interest in world-building. It is a way to organize memories, experiences, and feelings into tangible, although impossible, spaces. This helps make sense of and express things that are often too complicated to put into words. She received a Bachelor of Arts in studio art from the University of Virginia in 2016.

**Mahsa R. Fard** (Baltimore, MD) paints man-made large scale structures such as cities, stadiums, and apparatuses. She tends to create a new association by introducing unusual color and spatial relationships. Growing up in Iran, she has always been conscious of the dominance of rigid patriarchal gaze, both in the public and private sphere. Accessing public and private spaces as a female requires subversive strategies. Her imagery reflects a woman's forced duplicitous roles in these domains. Fard contemplates and practices these strategies in her painting and writing through metaphors of censorship, sarcasm, camouflage, cover, and disguise. Fard received her Master of Fine Arts in painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the School of Art and Architecture in Tehran, Iran.

**Zia Palmer** (Alexandria, VA) is a D.C.-metro-based artist. Through analog photographic processes, Zia documents vestiges of ancestral locations in North Eastern New Mexico. Her work addresses liminality, or points of transformation that lies before a threshold in time. She explores the thought that land has memory, and records all that took place there, which catalyzed her in linking the illusive aspects of memory, identity, and family history into something tangible. Palmer's work has been exhibited at the Fridge, Washington, DC, The Gillespie Gallery of Art (formerly Fine Arts Gallery) at George Mason University, and BMA Salon. Zia's upcoming exhibitions include the Mary B. Howard Invitational: *An Excellent Thought About a Quality Idea*, Greater Reston Arts Center. She received her BFA from George Mason University in 2019.

**Latrell Rostant** (Bowie, MD) works primarily in textiles to explore what it means to be too foreign for the place she considers home. Rostant was born in Trinidad and Tobago, a place where the people who were bought or came to the islands melded their own cultures and adapted them into something entirely new and unique to the place. Taking this prompt, she adapted her loom to make objects that, like herself, do not inherently reflect how they were made. Her modular loom allows her to make woven objects that respond to what Rostant sees as she is weaving. By looking at and understanding how tools, technique, space, and material can be used to form objects, Rostant can reflect on her own understanding of self. Rostant received her Masters of Fine Arts in studio art at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she was the 2019 recipient of the James Nelson Raymond Fellowship. She also has a BFA in Textiles and a March in Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design.

## About Target Gallery

Target Gallery is the contemporary exhibition space of Torpedo Factory Art Center. The gallery promotes high standards of art by continuously exploring new ideas through a variety of visual media in a rotating schedule of national and international exhibitions. More information is available via [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target). follow Target Gallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#) via @targetgallery.

## About the Torpedo Factory Art Center

Founded in 1974 in a former navy munitions plant, Torpedo Factory Art Center is home to the nation's largest number of publicly accessible working artist studios under one roof. The Art Center is part of the [City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts](#), a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Just south of Washington, D.C., Torpedo Factory Art Center overlooks the Potomac River in the Old-Town section of Alexandria, Virginia. Each year, more than a half million national and international visitors meet and interact with more than 165 resident artists in 82 studios and seven galleries. The Art Center is also home to [The Art League](#) headquarters and gallery, and the [Alexandria Archaeology Museum](#). For more information, visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org) or follow Torpedo Factory Art Center on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#) via @torpedofactory.

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Private Press Viewings Available Upon Appointment. High Resolution Images Available and Interviews Available.

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