



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hi Res images available upon request

Women's Art Event Brings World-Renowned Artists to the DC Area

To Celebrate the Natural World and Each Other

Middleburg, VA: This fall, the heart of horse country will be the stage to celebrate women's love of nature through a special museum exhibition and Symposium for Women in the Arts in Middleburg, VA.

A Vision of Nature: American Women Artists will open at the National Sporting Library & Museum on **October 2, 2025**. This exhibit is American Women Artists' ninth museum exhibition as part of the 25 in 25 campaign, an initiative to have 25 museum shows for its members over 25 years.

Today, artists' names that were selected for this exhibition were just made public. 55 exceptional artworks were selected out of 531 impressive entries by professional women artists. World renown artists in this exhibition include **Donna Howell-Sickles** known for bringing the spirit of the American cowgirl to life in the art world; **Paula B. Holtzclaw** who has a widespread reputation for her ability to capture the drama of nature on canvas; **Carmen Drake** whose still lifes and portraits are reminiscent of the Old Masters; **Diana Reuter-Twining** known for her sculptures that capture the beauty of motion; and more! Selection jurors included women at the top of their field in arts administration including

Shannon Fitzgerald, the Executive Director at The Mennello Museum of American Art and City of Orlando Public Art, **Claudia Pfeiffer**, the George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Deputy Director & Head Curator at the National Sporting Library & Museum, and **Robin Knowlton**, Former Executive Director at American Women Artists and Former Owner at The Knowlton Gallery.

Artists will compete for over **\$30,000 in cash awards and in-kind certificates**, including a \$10,000 Grand Prize sponsored by the Janet and Robert Lee Family Fund. The exhibition reception is for members only, but the exhibition is open to the public **from October 3, 2025, until March 22, 2026**.

The Annual Symposium on Women in the Arts, on **October 3**, features a keynote address by **Gladys Roldan-de-Moras**. Roldan-de-Moras is the first Mexican-born artist to be invited to the Prix de West, and the first woman to win the prestigious Frederic Remington Painting Award in her debut year at the exhibition. She is an international award-winning artist often known for her paintings, spotlighting Spanish culture, including courageous, gallant Mexican escaramuzas daringly riding horses sidesaddle and romantic Flamenco señoritas clad in exuberant Andalusian dresses. Roldan-de-Moras will share insights into her work and her road to success. The Symposium also includes presentations by gallerist and artist **Christine Graefe Drewyer**, marketing specialist **Pam Owens**, artist **Sally Maxwell**, WYLD Leadership Founder **Kristin Meek**, and AI researcher **Eliana Naomi Gelman**. The Symposium is free and open to the public, but reservations must be made before September 25, 2025.

About the Exhibition and Museum:

Founded in 1954, the National Sporting Library & Museum is in Middleburg, the heart of Virginia's beautiful horse and hunt country. The inviting 6-acre campus, world-class research Library, and Fine Art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits while advocating for the conservation of landscape, open space, and waterways integral to these activities. A Vision of Nature: American Women Artists will include 2-D and 3-D works following these themes commiserate with the museum's collection and mission: A Love of the Land, Sporting, Animals and Wildlife, and Country Pursuits. The exhibit features a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, and mixed-media installations, emphasizing the powerful voices of women in the art world.

"It's an honor to support women artists who are shaping the way we see the world. This exhibition is particularly near and dear to my heart because nature brings vitality, solace, and meaning to our lives, notes Andrea Bailey, Director of American Women Artists.

American Women Artists offers a full-color catalog of the exhibition. An online exhibition accompanies the museum show and can be viewed on the organization's website,

<https://americanwomenartists.org/>. Sponsorship for the exhibition and the organization is available on the AWA website and by contacting AWA at 979-216-1630.

About American Women Artists:

American Women Artists is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the inspiration, celebration, and encouragement of women in the visual fine arts. AWA began over 30 years ago and uses the power of collaboration to connect women artists and provide resources and opportunities to advance their careers. Since only 3% -5% of works in museum collections in the U.S. are created by women, the 25 in 25 initiative was launched to highlight the work of its members and inspire dialogue about the importance of gender equity in museum exhibitions. Through these efforts, AWA seeks to celebrate women's unique voices, stories, and commentary, broadening the human experience's understanding.

EVENT DETAILS:

A Vision of Nature: American Women Artists

Location: National Sporting Library & Museum, 102 The Plains Road, Middleburg, VA 20117

Exhibition Dates: October 3, 2025 – March 22, 2026

Online: [Current Exhibitions - American Women Artists](#)

Symposium for Women in the Arts

Location: Cox Hall, [9108 John S. Mosby Hwy, Upperville, VA 20184](#)

Date: October 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

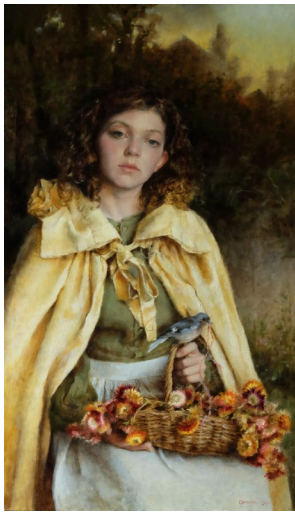
Online: [Symposium - American Women Artists](#)

For media inquiries, an interview with one of the artists, or high-resolution images, please contact Andrea Bailey at Director@americanwomenartists.org, 979-216-1630.

Sample Images (high res and additional images available upon request):



Verdant Valley by Paula B. Holtzclaw, Oil, 24x20, 2024



Hadley with Bird by Carmen Drake, Oil, 24x14, 2025



Celtic Rabbits by Diana Reuter-Twining, Bronze, 24x24x1, 2025



Bunk Bed by Melinda Brewer, Watercolor, 10x24, 2024