

TO: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings
SUBJECT: Art Related Special Events
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Brush Art Gallery & Studios
256 Market Street, Lowell, MA 01852
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978-459-7819

Exhibit Title: Finding Beauty in Decay

Exhibit Dates: April 5, 2025 to June 7, 2025

Artist Reception: Saturday, May 17, from 2 to 4 PM

FINDING BEAUTY IN DECAY

Lowell, MA – The Brush Art Gallery and Studios presents “Finding Beauty in Decay,” a group exhibit featuring painter Angela Alés, sculptor John Brickels, photographer Jeff Caplan, painter Wendy James, and painter/sculptor Roneld Lores.

Wilted flowers, rusty cars, sea glass, moss-covered bricks, driftwood, an old barn...the process of nature reclaiming what has been created is in itself beautiful.

Angela Alés: Merging Magic Realism and Surrealism, her art invites viewers into a realm of introspection. Embracing Automatism, she intertwines the conscious and unconscious mind, crafting thought-provoking and deeply personal artwork.

With her artistic foundations laid at the prestigious Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City, Alés furthered her commitment to the Arts by earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Miami International University of Art and Design. ([About | Angela Ales](#))

Lowell Massachusetts Artist **John Brickels** has been creating stoneware clay sculptures for over 30 years. His ceramic art ranges from architecturally themed sculptures, machines, life size robots and vintage pedal car bodies retrofitted with ceramic mechanicals. His work is created from slab and extruded stoneware clay.

He has exhibited with the Smithsonian Institute and has garnered national attention with features in Ceramic Monthly Magazine and Hemming’s Classic Car Magazine. ([Biography - John Brickels - Stoneware Clay Artist](#))

Jeff Caplan is a fine art photographer and educator who has been creating compelling images with his cameras for over 30 years. Originally from Lowell, Massachusetts, Jeff developed his photographic skill set during the early 1990s while studying at The Art Institute of Boston. There he delved into advanced black & white printing techniques and alternative photographic processes.

Jeff graduated with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Lesley University, Boston, Massachusetts in 2021. He works as Coordinator of Media Production and as an Adjunct Instructor at Middlesex Community College. ([Bio — Black Ant • photographic](#))

Wendy James: Everyday “in between” moments offer subject matter for these paintings. Heightened hues and contrast encourage seeing our common scenes in a new way. The photomontages depict our almost plausible world with a twist, using skewed perspective, altered proportions, and surreal transitions. These black and white images intend to transport the viewer to inner dream worlds or memories. The ceramic sculptures and pottery are playful, often including an element of surprise.

I live and work in Lowell, MA, with my artist husband, John Brickels. We welcome visitors at the Western Avenue Studios #207. Our studio is open most First Saturdays each month and by appointment. ([Wendy E. James](#))

Roneld Lores is an interdisciplinary artist that weaves elements from traditional and contemporary practices into immersive experiences merging painting, sculpture and installation. He is an artist philosopher who draws insights from multiple disciplines to layer meaning in his art. The diversity and range of exploration in his body of work is emblematic of his breath of life experiences, stemming from his multicultural upbringing and his diverse professional trajectory spanning careers as an animator, creative director in advertising, and software developer.

He studied Fine Arts at New World School of the Arts, Florida International University, and Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Lores currently teaches in the Fine Arts department at Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA and is the Chair of the Creative Development Committee for the Cultural Organization of Lowell. His works are in private collections in the Americas and Europe. ([ABOUT | Lores](#))

Image: Remnant Series: Cumulus by Roneld Lores, acrylic, oil, and iron oxide mounted on wood panel, 54 x 54”

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The

Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. **The Brush is supported by the Lowell National Historical Park.**

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