

For immediate release

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Imago's "Big Show" delivers an exciting array of artworks reflecting the talent and diversity of the community

WARREN—Imago Foundation for the Arts (IFA) will host an artist reception for its upcoming 2022 open community exhibit, "The Big Show" on Saturday, January 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. as part of the exhibit that will be on display at Imago Gallery, 36 Market Street January 7-22. Masks will be required.

Two-dimensional artworks across a wide array of media including photography, painting, drawing and mixed media as well as multi-media sculptural artwork and installations have been submitted and promise to deliver any exciting exhibit that reflects the talent and diversity of the greater East Bay and Southern New England artist community. Art in the exhibit will also be displayed for sale on IFA's website at www.imagofoundation4art.org.

For this year's community exhibit, IFA artists organized a special feature -- a bamboo sculptural piece installed in the gallery's front window that is comprised of "Hopes and Dreams for the Community." The installation features thoughts expressed by visitors to the gallery during the six Sundays of the Warren Walkabout held throughout downtown Warren this fall. IFA invited gallery visitors to share their wishes for 2022 on small pieces of paper that they also could decorate in red and gold with custom IFA artist-made stamps. Nearly 300 of these wishes were gathered and compiled into the sculpture. People of all ages and walks of life participated, sharing their hopes both big and small.

Another exhibition feature called "Nine by Nine" was created by a group of nine artists including Martha Antaya, Mary Benton, Eileen Collins, Susan Fossati, Pascale Lord, Rina Naik, Anne Marie Rossi, Pat Warwick, and Anne Lee-Zimerle. The artists met virtually over the course of 2021 to collaborate on a group artwork for IFA's community exhibit. Working collaboratively, they explored mark-making, color and medium choices. The result is a cohesive artwork created from 9 paintings that will be sold with proceeds donated to East Bay charities.

The "Nine by Nine" artists come from Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and include realist painters, abstract and mixed-media artists, printmakers and designers. Each artist began with a blank 12"x 12" canvas. Artists then applied a layer and began passing them on to other artists so, in the end, nine works of art, each with nine layers were created.

Regular gallery hours are Thursdays 3 – 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 12 – 6 p.m. and Sundays 12 – 4 p.m. IFA asks that all visitors wear masks regardless of vaccination status in order to keep everyone safe.

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