

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: Yary Livan – Master Ceramist

Exhibit Dates: June 5 to July 13, 2024

Artist Reception: Saturday, June 15, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Hours: (Tues - Sat) 11:00 am - 4:00 pm; (Sun) 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

MASTER CERAMIST EXHIBITS IN LOCAL GALLERY

Lowell, MA - Yary Livan is a Cambodian master ceramist and teacher who has a history of engagement in the community, and is known for teaching ceramics in the Lowell public schools.

He was educated at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh “where he majored in ceramics and painting and focused on traditional Khmer ceramic forms and ornamentation.” ([National Endowment for the Arts 2015](#))

He is the only known Cambodian master ceramist in the United States. “Livan’s mother suggested to the authorities that Livan knew how to build wood-burning kilns to produce roof tiles, and so he survived the Reign of Terror (1975–1979)” ([Karl Cole, Davis Publications, July 2016](#)).

After emigrating in 2001, he became a Visiting Artist, Ceramics Program, Office for the Arts at Harvard in 2002, and later completed a three year residency.

Livan also taught at Youth-Art-in-Action, an after school program at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. In 2003, “Livan taught traditional Cambodian and contemporary sculpture, including modeling, carving, mold making, and casting.” (National Endowment for the Arts [2015](#))

On October 01, 2015, Livan received the Award from the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowships, recognizing his artistic excellence and supporting his significant contribution to traditional arts and culture.

In April 2023, he was honored by the NCTA (National Council for Traditional Arts) as a National Treasure. Livan is known as an adjunct professor at Middlesex Community College (MCC), where studio artists from The Brush have taken his classes.

He built and uses a wood-fired kiln on space provided by the Lowell National Historical Park, in partnership with MCC.

The Brush is honored to exhibit a collection of Livan's work this summer.

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.**



Image: Work in Progress, photo by Yary Livan

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