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**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall  
and Arts Center, Margaret W. &  
Joseph L. Fisher Gallery**

# Media Release

## At the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery

### **COMMON THREADS**

**September 11-October 12**  
**Mixed Media Paintings**

**Elisabeth G. Hudgins**

**Opening Reception, Saturday, September 12, 2-4pm**  
**Artist Talk, Saturday, September 12, 3pm**

The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College will feature artist **Elisabeth G. Hudgins' *Common Threads***, mixed media paintings, from Friday, September 11 through Monday, October 12. The Opening Reception is Saturday, September 12 from 2-4pm with Artist's Talk at 3pm. The Gallery Hours are 10am—4pm Monday-Friday and during performances.

***Common Threads***, Elisabeth Hudgins' latest series of mixed media paintings is an exploration of personal histories. In the process of clearing out an old family home, her interest was sparked by a cache of old photographs, some labeled, many not. Questions began to form, Elisabeth says,

"It made me curious about those people in the past, what did they think, feel, do? What was important to them? Who made a difference? How are they connected to each other and to us? What are the common threads?"

In her paintings, Elisabeth begins with an underlying narrative. Sometimes the story narrative emerges from the artwork, sometimes it is elusive. She builds her paintings through a process of layering, using transparencies and double exposures, by utilizing collage, photo transfers, paint, found objects, and mono-printing. Elisabeth says, "As I build up layers, earlier surfaces sometimes disappear, like memories, layered beneath fresh elements. At times, I peel away top layers to reveal what is underneath." Layers often include: leaves, trees, portraits of people, quilts, fabrics and threads. Elisabeth says of her work elements, "To me these represent families and their history, and the links the past has to the present." Megan Peritore, Gallery Manger says of Elisabeth's work, "Ms Hudgins' method of literally layering elements of personal histories gives rise to a narrative that metaphorically conveys the obscuring and revealing duality of recollection as well as recorded histories. Her paintings are mysteriously alluring and evoke a play on the process of retrieving personal memory."

Elisabeth's art journey started at a young age, when she was inspired by her grandmother, a working, teaching artist. Awarded a BFA from James Madison University, Elisabeth pursued a career as a Graphic Designer and Art Director. After her two children were born, she felt the need to reconnect with her creativity on a more personal level, and began painting again. This leg of the journey has taken her from representational watercolor paintings, to her recent, mixed media studies that explore personal histories and the link between past and present.

Elisabeth has served on the Board of Directors of the Arlington Artists Alliance, and is a member of the Art League of Alexandria as well as the Falls Church Arts. Her paintings have been accepted into many juried shows, and won several awards, including a First Prize in *Connessione: Things in Common Art Show*, Falls Church Arts. She has exhibited her work in solo and group shows throughout the state of Virginia.

Visit the Fisher Gallery at the Schlesinger Center, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and see **Elisabeth G. Hudgins' *Common Threads***, mixed media paintings, from Friday, September 11 through Monday, October 12. The Opening Reception is Saturday, September 12 from 2-4pm with Artist's Talk at 3pm. The Gallery Hours are 10am—4pm Monday-Friday and during performances.

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Image available upon request.