

Monmouth Arts Presents The 2025 Charles Sills Memorial Group Art Exhibit: Seen & Unseen

Monmouth Arts invites the creative community of Monmouth County to submit works that explore the theme of **Seen & Unseen** as part of our annual member exhibition, to be held at Monmouth University's Pollak Gallery in West Long Branch, November 1 - December 11, 2025, with an opening reception on November 7th. The deadline to submit is September 30, 2025.

Seen & Unseen is a call for artists to look more closely—not only at our surroundings but also at the inner landscapes we carry. It's an invitation to recognize the presence and power of what is often left in the shadows.

In shedding light on what has been obscured—by history, by progress, or by the limits of perception—**Seen & Unseen** seeks to reclaim and reframe the narratives that shape Monmouth County's cultural and emotional landscape. Through painting, sculpture, photography, video, and mixed media, we ask artists to consider: What do we overlook in our daily lives? What deserves to be remembered? And how do the spaces we inhabit mirror the spaces within us?

Artists may draw from archival material, oral histories, urban exploration, memories, and introspection to uncover the stories embedded in places and people. Some may examine sites long erased from public consciousness—historic homes, shuttered institutions, or neighborhoods transformed by time. Others may choose to navigate the intangible: the private worlds of resilience, grief, spirituality, or psychological space.

This multidisciplinary exhibition will showcase the artists of Monmouth Arts whose works illuminate the forgotten, the hidden, and the quietly profound. From abandoned buildings and neglected corners of the landscape to the emotional terrain of personal memory and spiritual experience, we look forward to an exhibit that reveals the richness that often goes unnoticed.

Seen & Unseen will be guest curated by Vaune Peck, Director of Monmouth University's Center for the Arts. Pollak Gallery is located in West Long Branch in the heart of Monmouth University's beautiful campus, adjacent to Pollak Theatre. The gallery features regional artists and collaborates with community organizations on special exhibitions. It has also hosted special exhibits from private collectors and exhibitions curated by the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

The Monmouth Arts annual member exhibit – now in its eighth year – is named for Dr. Charles Sills, who was a painter, sculptor, collector, and supporter of the arts. He retired from his role as the Chief of Surgery at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch in 2000. His work has been shown at many galleries in Monmouth County and he won awards from New York's Allied Artists of America as well as Knickerbocker Artists.

Those artists interested in submitting to **Seen & Unseen** must be current members of Monmouth Arts and agree to the exhibition guidelines. Artists who would like to become new members and submit may use the code SEEN to receive \$10 off the \$40 artist membership rate.

Deadline to Submit: September 30, 2025

Eligibility and Entry

- Accepted work includes drawing, mixed media, painting, fine crafts, photography, lithographs, digital, printmaking, video and sculpture.
- Please note that this year's venue can accommodate large pieces; artists are encouraged to consider this factor when applying.
- There is no submission fee, but current membership with Monmouth Arts is required. Artists who would like to become new members and submit may use the discount code SEEN to receive \$10 off the \$40 artist membership rate. For more information and an online membership form, please go to www.monmoutharts.org/join-us. Student memberships are free.
- Established, emerging, and student artists who are 18 and over are encouraged to submit works.
- Artwork must have been made in the last five years (after January 1, 2020) and not have been presented in past Monmouth Arts exhibitions or exhibitions at Pollak Gallery. Reproductions of original works will not be accepted.
- Drop off and pick up of accepted work to and from Pollak Gallery is the responsibility of the artist.
- All work must be available for the duration of the exhibition.
- Artwork sold through Seen & Unseen is subject to a 30% fee to support Monmouth Arts programming. Monmouth Arts will collect the purchase price for all work, retain a 30% sales commission, and issue a check for the remainder to the artist at the close of the exhibition.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions must be entered through the online Submittable platform. After reading the guidelines, you can create an account or log in to your existing Submittable account. There is no cost to create a Submittable account.
- Final acceptance of artwork is contingent upon review at delivery.
- Submissions are limited to a maximum of three (3) entries.
- Submissions must include contact information, brief artist statement (up to 100 words), artwork information (title, media, size (H x W x D), year completed, and price (must indicate NFS if not for sale).
- Artists are strongly encouraged to submit high-quality images that best present the work.
- Images of artwork must be JPEG format with resolution of 300 dpi/ppi. Rename each image with Last Name_EntryNumber_Title_Media_Size_Year_Price.

Presentation Guidelines

- Wall-hung items must be appropriately framed, edges adequately finished and must be properly wired as the hanging medium. No saw-tooth hangers or metal eyelets will be accepted. Frames must be free of defects and of sturdy construction. Canvas wrapped paintings are acceptable (not raw canvas edges.)
- Three-dimensional works must be stable and stand on their own. Three dimensional artwork cannot exceed 5' h x 3' w and not weigh more than 75 pounds.

Important Dates

Application Open: July 31, 2025

Application Deadline: September 30, 4:00pm

Notifications: Tuesday, October 10

Artwork Drop Off: October 27 (8:30-5:30)

Opening Reception: Friday, November 7, 6pm - 8pm

Exhibit Dates: November 1 - December 11, 2025

Artwork Pickup: December 12 (time TBA)

For assistance, accessibility requests, or questions about submitting please contact Connie Isbell, Membership & Community Engagement Director, at connie@monmoutharts.org; 732.212.1890 ext 101.