



Illustration by Alex Fine. A high resolution image for press may be found [here](#).

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Announcing Artists for Truth Benefit Exhibition June 2 - 23, 2017

SpaceCamp Gallery: 16 West North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201
Opening Event and Silent Auction Kickoff: Friday, June 2, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Gallery Hours: Friday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

BALTIMORE, MD -- On Friday, June 2 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m., Artists for Truth launches its first project: a Benefit Exhibition at SpaceCamp Gallery featuring over 250 artworks by more than 150 artists hailing from Baltimore and across the United States. The exhibition kicks off with a silent auction to raise funds for organizations that combat the spread of misinformation, teach news literacy, ensure the right to share and access factual information, and protect the rights of truth-tellers in our democracy. Proceeds from the auction benefit Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore), Baltimore Action Legal Team (Baltimore), the News Literacy Project (Bethesda), and the Center for Media Justice (Oakland, CA).

Artists for Truth (Aft) is a newly formed fundraising and educational platform to support information literacy and freedoms, and to explore the artist's role in amplifying, reflecting, and addressing societal concerns. Aft believes the ability to discover, share, and weigh facts is a right and a responsibility for everyone within our democracy. In a political and media climate that disregards reality, Aft mobilizes artists in the fight to enable citizens with the skills and tools to effectively develop a civil society based on truth.

An overwhelming response to the Aft Call for Entries demonstrates that artists care about and are willing to put their most valuable currency--their artwork--toward supporting information access, literacy, and freedom.

For its inaugural exhibition, Artists for Truth has partnered with two local and two national organizations as beneficiaries of funds raised via silent auction:

Baltimore's [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#) is a cornerstone of the Baltimore community and provides equal access to information, services, and opportunities to Baltimore citizens. "The Enoch Pratt Free Library is thrilled to be a part of the Artists for Truth benefit," says Ellen Riordan, Director of Planning, Programs & Partnerships at the library. "Each day librarians across our 22 branches help the people of Baltimore do research and find facts. This benefit will help us expand our media literacy programs."

Recognizing the critical nature of news literacy, Artists for Truth also chose the [News Literacy Project](#) (NLP) as a funds recipient. The News Literacy Project is a national education nonprofit that works with educators and journalists to teach middle school and high school students how to sort fact from fiction in the digital age. "The News Literacy Project welcomes the support of the Artists for Truth's benefit exhibition and auction," said Alan Miller, NLP's president and founder. "There could not be a more important moment for us all to stand up for facts, the First Amendment, and the future of our democracy."

The [Center for Media Justice](#) (CMJ) is a national organization that creates media and cultural conditions that strengthen movements for racial justice, economic equity, and human rights. "At Center for Media Justice we know culture comes before politics. Without cultural change, the political change communities of color seek can't succeed or be sustained. Our ability to transform our society and defend our communities from attack requires that the right to connect and power to communicate belong to everyone," said Malkia Cyril, executive director of CMJ. "For this reason the work of Artists for Truth deeply resonates and we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this benefit."

[Baltimore Action Legal Team](#) (BALT) is dedicated to politically-conscious lawyering and to using creative, collective solutions to support the Movement for Black Lives in Baltimore through: 1) legal observation teams during community protests, 2) jail support services, 3) the bail fund, and 4) Human and Civil rights training. Artists for Truth recognizes that truth-tellers must be protected and defended, particularly those on the front lines of democracy.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Artists for Truth and its partners will offer panel discussions, workshops, and training sessions throughout June that address information literacy, digital security, the rise of "fake news," and more. All exhibition events and programming are free and open to the public.

Artists for Truth Schedule: June 2 - June 23, 2017

Friday, June 2, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.: Exhibition Opening Reception & Auction Event
Fridays - Sundays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Gallery Hours
Sunday, June 4, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Protecting Your Digital Securities, Cryptoparty
Sunday, June 4, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Wikipedia Edit-a-thon, Art + Feminism
Sunday, June 11, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.: "Fake News": How to Spot It, Enoch Pratt Free Library
Saturday, June 17, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Panel Discussion: The Rise of "Fake News"
Saturday, June 17, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: Panel Discussion: Ramifications of a Post-Truth Society
Friday, June 23: Exhibition Closing

For more information about Artists for Truth, the beneficiary organizations, or upcoming events, please visit [artistsfortruth.com](#). Artists for Truth is made possible by the generous support of individual donors and our art community. Special thanks to [Strong City Baltimore](#) for serving as fiscal sponsor for Artists for Truth. A high resolution image of Alex Fine's illustration may be found [here](#).