



WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

## May Newsletter

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Lorenzo Piero Holder III and Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins, *Hibiscus*, 2025.

Spring has *sprung*, and there are flowers—tulips, roses, hibiscuses, gardenias, orchids—everywhere you look in WPA's current project exhibition [“One Stroke at a Time”](#) (on view through June 20).

This month we're excited to share a spotlight on one of the artists behind this project, Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins, whose love of flowers—and the significance they hold for him personally—is palpable in the works on view, created in collaboration with nephew. While this may be his first public exhibition, it is not where his journey as an artist began.

Also included are details for related programming, including a **Screening & Artist Talk** with Dr. Perkins and his nephew Lorenzo (MLK Library, May 21); an **Instagram Live Exhibition Walkthrough** (virtual, May 30), and a **Collaborative Painting Workshop** (Art Enables, June 6).

These events reflect WPA's continued commitment to dialogue, access, and creative exchange.

### Artist Spotlight:

# Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins

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*This past week Saida Blair, Gallery Coordinator & Communications Associate, had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins and learn more about his past and his newfound path as an artist.*



Portrait of Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins in his studio.

Originally from the Republic of Panama, Dr. Perkin's path to Washington, DC has been shaped by both movement and purpose. After completing his studies in medicine, he arrived in DC in 1999 for a fellowship at Georgetown University.

Dr. Perkin's interest in psychiatry began during medical school, sparked by a meaningful connection with a patient who expressed how much she valued speaking with him; she described him as "an old pillow." That experience stayed with him. Raised by his grandmother and surrounded by her elderly friends in Panama, he initially envisioned a career in geriatrics, "I fell in love with talking to patients," he shared, someone others can lean on for comfort.



Lorenzo Piero Holder III and Dr. Vicenzio Holder-Perkins, *Protection In Arrears #3*, 2026.  
The work includes doodles of tulips on the back of a hospital bill. The window of the envelope shows a photo of Dr. Perkins in Panama for a family reunion around 2012.

Alongside his medical career, Dr. Perkins has cultivated a deeply personal painting practice. His introduction to art traces back to his father, who used painting as a way to process trauma. While visiting Dr. Perkins in New York from Panama, his father told him “the sky is the limit...there’s a whole universe waiting for you,” he recalls. Inspired by this encouragement, he later began attending evening art workshops on Capitol Hill as a way to decompress from the stresses of work.

At the time, Dr. Perkins enjoyed creating oil paintings and dabbled in photography, often drawing inspiration from memories and emotions. In particular, he shared about a time he took photos of gardenias because his great-grandmother, who lived just a block away from him in Panama, cherished them. (Flowers feature prominently in “One Stroke at a Time” and have been a frequent subject of his collaborations with his nephew Lorenzo.)



Oil Painting titled *Auntie* by Dr. Perkins. 2012 (approx.)

He did not initially consider pursuing art professionally. “I thought I would only ever paint at home,” he said. “I never imagined I’d be painting at this level.”

During the remainder of his residency with WPA, Dr. Perkins is looking forward to continuing working on his memoir, which explores the intersections of faith, art, and healing. He plans to reflect on his experience surviving a stroke and how his faith and art sustained him through recovery.

A longer version of this interview will be published on WPA’s archive at a later date.

[\*One Stroke at a Time\*](#), organized by Lorenzo Piero Holder III and Dr. Perkins, is the second project presented in WPA’s new Project Space at 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW. The exhibition will be up until June 20, 2026.

***Drawn Together: Screening & Artist Talk***  
**Thursday, May 21**

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Images from video still of Holder and Dr. Perkins collaborating on a painting.

WPA is happy to announce **Lorenzo Piero Holder III** and **Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins**, organizing artists of [\*One Stroke at a Time\*](#), will premiere a short experimental documentary called ***Drawn Together—Protocols for a Shared Body*** (2026) that gives viewers an up close look at their collaborative creative practice and a unique glimpse into their relationship as uncle and nephew—a psychiatrist and an artist—and the way art functions as a practice of caregiving between them. A discussion with the artists and WPA's Director, **Travis Chamberlain**, will follow.

The event will take place at **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library** (901 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001) from **6:30-8PM** in **401-G Conference Room**.

This event invites artists, healthcare practitioners, caregivers, and community members to engage in an important dialogue about how creative collaboration can reshape understandings of rehabilitation, recovery, and collective care.

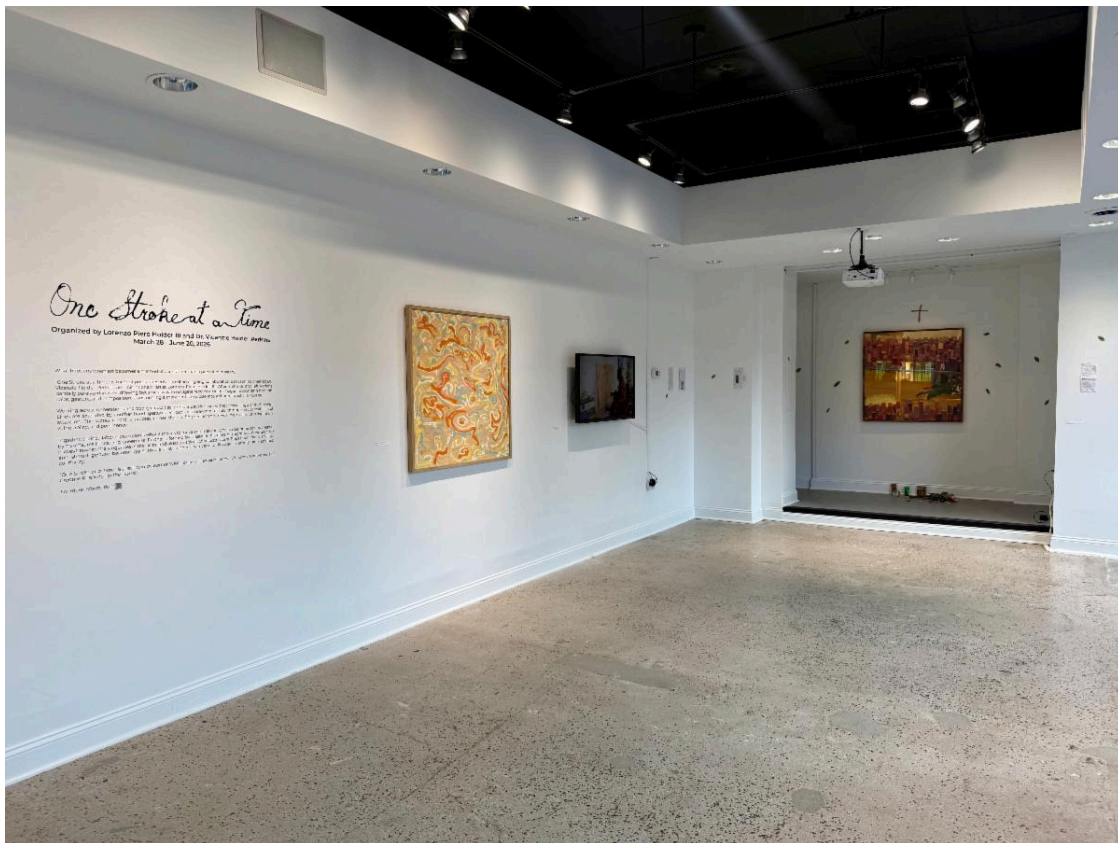
**We Want to Hear From You!** Audience questions will help shape the evening's discussion. **Please send your questions prior to the event [HERE](#).**

This event is **FREE** with **RSVP**.

[RSVP Here](#)

## Instagram Live Walkthrough With Artists Saturday, May 30

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Interior view of *One Stroke at a Time*

Join us for a live virtual walkthrough of [One Stroke at a Time](#), currently on view at WPA's Dupont Circle Project Space.

This exhibition brings together the collaborative work of **Lorenzo Piero Holder III** and **Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins**, tracing a creative partnership that emerged through art therapy following a stroke Dr. Perkins experienced in 2018. Through drawing, painting, and installation, the exhibition reflects an evolving dialogue grounded in care, adaptation, and shared authorship.

This Instagram Live event is part of our ongoing effort to expand accessibility and reach broader audiences. For those who are unable to visit the exhibition in person, the walkthrough offers a chance to experience the space, learn more about the artists' process, and engage with the work remotely.

We invite you to tune in and join the conversation on **May 30th at 5PM EST** on [WPA's Instagram Account \(@wpadc\)](#).

## **“One Stroke at a Time” Collaborative Painting Workshop Saturday, June 6**

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Organizing artist Lorenzo Piero Holder III (left) and Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins (right). Outside view of Art Enables.

WPA is thrilled to be partnering with [Art Enables](#) to present a **Collaborative Painting Workshop** as part of [Once Stroke at a Time](#). The workshop will be led by current artists-in-residence, nephew–uncle duo **Lorenzo Piero Holder III** and **Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins** and takes place at **Art Enables' ADA accessible studio space (2204 Rhode Island Ave NE)**.

Holder and Dr. Perkins' collaborative practice centers on an experimental approach to art therapy developed during Dr. Perkins' recovery from a major stroke in 2018. *One Stroke at a Time*, on view at the WPA Project Space through June 20, is the first public presentation of their work together.

At Art Enables, the artists will guide participants through a collaborative painting workshop in which participants will be paired up to create improvised artworks through an exchange of brushstrokes. This process, which is similar to the Surrealist's "Exquisite Corpse" art game, encourages the emergence of unexpected imagery while also modeling a therapeutic and relational approach to stroke recovery.

#### **PARTICIPATION NOTES:**

Participants will work in pairs to complete shared watercolor paintings. The artworks created during the workshop will be assembled into a collective installation, which will debut during the final week of *One Stroke at a Time* (June 17-20). The artworks contributed for the installation will remain part of the project ongoing. The workshop and installation will be documented by WPA as part of the project and may be used for publicity.

#### **ACCESS NOTES:**

This is a fully in-person event. Art Enables' studio is ADA accessible with ADA accessible restrooms. WPA is committed to providing access to everyone. If you require further accommodation during your visit, please email [sblair@wpadc.org](mailto:sblair@wpadc.org) as far in advance as possible. Accommodations will be provided to the best of our capacities. The workshop is appropriate for adults and youth ages 13+.

#### **ABOUT ART ENABLES:**

**Art Enables** supports the creative and professional growth of artists with disabilities, spotlights their valuable contributions to the arts, and builds an inclusive arts community through public engagement and awareness. Founded in 2001, Art Enables was built on our conviction that artists with disabilities are not only participants in the arts but vital contributors to contemporary culture. For more than two decades, our mission has been to provide artists with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and those with mental health diagnoses, the professional tools, platforms, and recognition they need and deserve to sustain careers in the visual arts.

Art Enables is located at 2204 Rhode Island Ave NE, Washington, DC 20018.

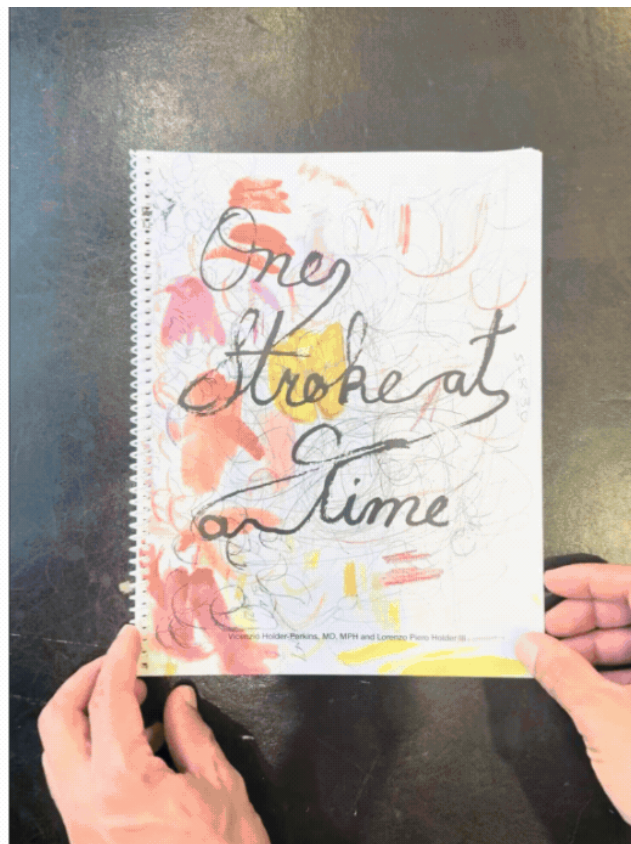
Visit [art-enables.org](http://art-enables.org) for more information.

This event is **FREE** with **RSVP**. RSVP Details are linked below.

[RSVP Here](#)

## ***One Stroke at a Time*** **Watercolor Book** **(limited signed edition of 25)**

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Images of *One Stroke at a Time* Watercolor ArtBook

***One Stroke at a Time: Watercolor ArtBook*** is a collaboration between **Lorenzo Piero Holder III** and **Dr. Vincenzo Holder-Perkins**, created in conjunction with their current residency at WPA. The pages in the book contain some of the first marks

made during Perkins' recovery process after experiencing a stroke in 2018. This is not a book about perfection or skill, but rather an invitation to engage with what is in front of you.

*One Stroke at a Time* Watercolor Book is currently available for sale, with a **limited signed edition of 25 copies**. Each copy will be numbered, signed, and uniquely embellished by both artists. A sample of the book is available in WPA's project space for guests to view and paint in.

[More Details Here](#)

## Looking Back at Dupont Circle First Fridays: ArtWalk

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Last Friday, WPA participated in **First Fridays: ArtWalk** in Dupont Circle!

Organizing artist Holder and Dr. Perkins presented a special performance of ***Heart Under Water***, 2026. For the performance, Holder submerged his face in cold water, activating the mammalian diving reflex. As the body instinctively slows, the piece reframes this physiological response as a gesture of self care. Through this simple action, the work interrupts cycles of overthinking, redirecting attention to the body and the immediacy of the present moment.

Dupont Circle BID **First Fridays: ArtWalk** takes place on the first Friday of each month from 6–8pm. This is WPA's aim to be a continuous participant of ArtWalk, and it is a pleasure to be apart of Dupont Circle's growing art scene!

The first Friday of every month WPA will hold extended gallery hours from 12 to 8 pm during public exhibitions.

## About WPA

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Founded in 1975, **Washington Project for the Arts (WPA)** is a nonprofit laboratory for artist-organized projects, headquartered in Dupont Circle, Washington, DC. Since its founding, WPA has presented more than 500 exhibitions; 1,000 performances; 700 lectures, workshops, and symposia; 250 screenings; and 58 public art projects. Over the past four decades, nearly every major visual artist in the District has been part of WPA's programming. After renewing its mission in 2018, WPA has carved out a new identity with a national and international scope, uplifting values of collaboration, experimentation, and inclusivity in all of its programmatic and operational activities.

Learn more at [wpadc.org](http://wpadc.org) and find us on [Instagram](#).

## Supporters

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Washington Project for the Arts is supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Hickok Cole; National Endowment for the Arts; The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; William S. Paley Foundation; MetLife, Venable LLP, ArentFox Schiff, Carl M. Freeman Foundation, Foulger Pratt, Soho House, UBS, Allianz, De Novo Projects, Emmy Squared Pizza, Shulman Rogers, Rubenstein Communications, Capital One, DAVIS Construction, HapstakDemetriou+, Occasions, Outright, HITT Contracting, and many other generous foundations, corporations, and individuals.

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