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Marlowe Emerson

Marlowe Emerson Studio

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **"Portuguese Playground" Opens at Norfolk's Offsite Gallery**

Art Show Features Works by Marlowe Emerson from the  
Buinho Creative Residency

**Norfolk, Virginia** - Marlowe Emerson, an abstract artist from Virginia Beach, announces the opening of her new show, *Portuguese Playground: Works from the Buinho Artist Residency*. Presented by Norfolk Arts, the exhibit features works in a variety of media created in 2019 in the rural setting of Messejana, Portugal.

The two week residency was a unique opportunity for Emerson to work alongside other artists and learn from local organizers and creatives. The show highlights her works on paper, wood, cardboard, and canvas, as well as laser cutouts created in the Buinho workshop. These lively, mixed media pieces show the influence of the colors, landscape and architecture of the Alentejo village, as well as a creative approach to the restraints of using found materials and improvised techniques.

"I'm excited to show these pieces because they represent a turning point in my process to a much freer way of working, more open to possibility. The whole experience revealed so much for me creatively," says Emerson.

The show takes its title from an actual playground at the center of the village, as well as the artist's experience of playing with a variety of new materials and techniques. It is also a reference to the high tech "playground" the Buinho organization has created to bring access to technology and educational opportunities to rural areas of Portugal.

"I have found that art residencies are the best way for me to focus on the work and learn new things. I chose Buinho because they offer something really different," Marlowe explains.

Part of the MIT Fablab and European Creative Hubs networks, the Buinho residency program welcomes creatives from all over the world to take advantage of their work

spaces, studios and specialized equipment, while fostering cultural exchange. With the vibrant beauty of the remote village of Messejana as a back drop, founder Carlos Alcabia describes it as “the perfect place for studying theory and for getting hands dirty with practice.”

In addition to the installation at Offsite Gallery, Marlowe plans to offer virtual viewing options on her website and Instagram, including a virtual tour, artist talk, and photo gallery. Visit [www.marloweemerson.com](http://www.marloweemerson.com) for details.

“I think it’s a good time for a show like this. We all need a reminder that getting connected to our playful side and our creative spirit is important for staying hopeful and positive.” - M.E.

### **Opening reception - Friday, November 13, 2020**

**In-person: 5:00pm - 7:00pm.**

Offsite Gallery  
MacArthur Center, 2nd floor  
Suite 287 300 Monticello Ave.  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Limited capacity. Social distancing and masks required.

**Virtual: 5:30pm - 6:00pm**

Instagram Live - @marloweemerson

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### **Marlowe Emerson**

Marlowe Emerson is a mixed media artist who creates large scale abstract paintings using acrylic and collage techniques. She holds a degree in French and Art History from Georgetown University and spent a decade studying painting in the south of France. Her process is centered around observing the mental processes of painting and the value of abstract expressionism as an intuitive practice. Combining paint with everyday materials on the canvas, she works to create layers of meaning and personal narrative to build a connection with the viewer. Her work has been shown in museums and

galleries internationally, including the Art in Embassies program. She currently teaches abstract painting at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art and works out of her home studio in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

[www.marloweemerson.com](http://www.marloweemerson.com)

### **Norfolk Arts**

Established in 2006, Norfolk Arts seeks to create a rich, diverse environment that reflects, celebrates and invites all to experience the arts. We seek to give voice to our community and strive to unite, energize, prompt dialogue, and inspire the unique character of Norfolk.

<https://norfolkarts.net/>

### **Buinho**

Buinho is a place where artists, makers, researchers, and other creatives can work on their projects in the unique rural environment.

<https://buinho.pt/>



**PORTUGUESE PLAYGROUND**

**MARLOWE EMERSON**

Works from the Buinho Artist Residency

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Thumbnails:

- 1) View of Messejana from the studio terrace
- 2) **Messejana**, mixed media on canvas, 48 x 30, 2019
- 3) Village square bell tower, Messejana
- 4) **Portugal Series #4**, mixed media on paper, 28 x 20, 2019
- 5) **Azulejo #1**, cardboard, acrylic paint, 10" diameter, 2019
- 6) **Dreamhouse**, diptych, mixed media on cardboard, 12.5 x 6.5, 11.5 x 6.5, 2019

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