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**H & F Fine Arts Presents *Portraits & Color Work*
Al Burts • Russell Lewis • Derrick Vaughn**

H & F Fine Arts presents the work by three Washingtonians with common creative bonds. *Portraits & Color Work* opens August 2, featuring abstract color work and narrative portraits by local artists Al Burts, Russell Lewis and Derrick Vaughn.

Russell Lewis and Derrick Vaughn are longtime creative partners who began their training in visual arts at DC's Duke Ellington School of the Arts and subsequently both received degrees from the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. *Color Work* presents a bold collection of abstract paintings and mixed media canvas work steeped in themes on human nature, the urban industrial landscape, the natural world and fantasy.

Like Lewis and Vaughn, **Al Burts** shares an identical history having attended Duke Ellington and VCU. Well known for his figurative work, Burts' visual insight on African American life, history and narrative is skillfully executed through illustration, oils and mixed media collage. His portraits focus on the Black Male in various phases of life. In his *Passport Please* series, Burts depicts a general, an elder, and a man-child against a stark white background. Each subject stares at the onlooker with intense fervor—the narrative clearly depicted in the eyes. An homage to Black music and the Black Woman is intricately detailed in two large mixed media collage pieces---the first, *Mercy, Mercy, Me*, features an almost deified centered illustration of soul music icon (and DC native) Marvin Gaye.

***Portraits and Color Work* will be on exhibit through August 31st.
An artist reception will be held on Saturday, August 9, 5-8pm.**

H & F Fine Arts is located at 3311 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, MD and features the work of local, national and international contemporary artists. For more information and hours of operation, visit www.hffinearts.com or 301.887-0080.