



JOSEPH SHEPPARD

Scenes of Figurative Narration

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**November 24, 2024–
November 9, 2025**

Leroy Merritt Center for the
Art of Joseph Sheppard

Dorothy L. and Henry A. Rosenberg Jr.
Painting Gallery



PHOTO BY KATHERINE LAMBERT

Gregory W. Fowler, PhD
President
University of Maryland
Global Campus

I am honored—on behalf of University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) and the more than 90,000 learners we serve each year—to introduce the remarkable exhibition *Joseph Sheppard: Scenes of Figurative Narration*.

Sheppard has a profound connection to UMGC, where a cultural arts center—the Leroy Merritt Center for the Art of Joseph Sheppard—bears his name, displays his work, and serves as an enduring testament to his impact on the arts community in Maryland and around the world. This space is a focal point in our Adelphi, Maryland, headquarters and functions as a resource for scholars, patrons, and students of the arts.

A native of Maryland, Sheppard was born in Owings Mills in 1930 and launched an artistic career that has spanned almost eight decades, beginning with his studies at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He would later return to MICA as an instructor, inspiring a generation of artists to launch their own careers with his mastery of realism.

Scenes of Figurative Narration represents a milestone compilation of Sheppard's works, depicting a remarkable array of subjects informed by his passion for realism and his studies of the old masters. In hosting exhibitions like this, our Arts Program expands on and supports our public mission—celebrating the learning journey, introducing unique perspectives and worldviews to new and broader audiences, and serving as a reminder of the power of education and of art to touch and transform lives.

I hope you enjoy this unique collection and are inspired, as I am, by Sheppard's remarkable talent and mastery.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the arts and of our UMGC Arts Program.



PHOTO BY TRACEY BROWN

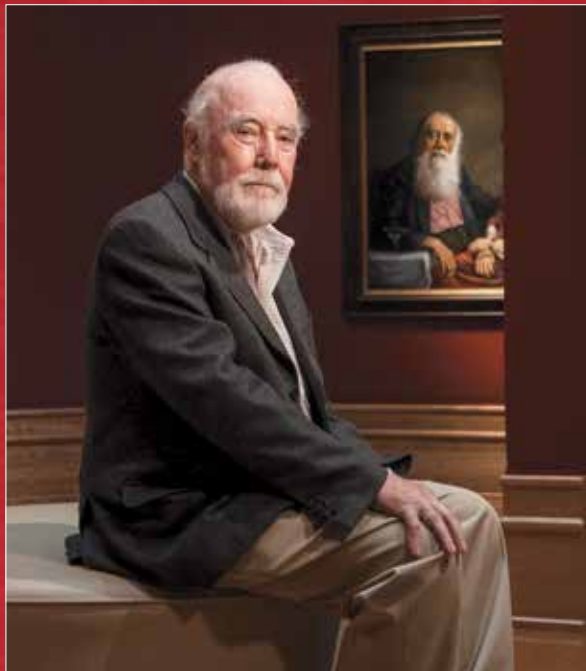
Eric Key
Director, Arts Program
University of Maryland
Global Campus

Joseph Sheppard, a longtime friend of the Arts Program at UMGC, is a master of the art style of realism—a style that depicts the subject with accuracy and authenticity, often focusing on everyday life. His varied artworks include historical depictions that he has carefully researched.

Sheppard studied at MICA with Jacques Maroger, former technical director of the Louvre, from 1948 to 1952. He was artist-in-residence at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania from 1956 to 1957, when he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study in Florence, Italy. Sheppard returned to MICA to teach painting, anatomy, and life drawing from 1960 to 1975. Some of his commissioned public works in Baltimore include the bronze of baseball player Brooks Robinson (2011), the statue of Pope John Paul II (2008) at the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Holocaust Memorial sculpture (1988). Among several murals in the city are *Schaefer's Splash* at the National Aquarium (2019) and seven large paintings in the Baltimore City Police Department (1972). His portraits include President George H. W. Bush; Senator Barbara Mikulski; Cardinals Lawrence Shehan, William H. Keeler, and John P. Foley; and Pope Benedict XVI.

Sheppard has been awarded numerous honors, including the 27th International Award of St. Francis and Claire of Assisi (2019); the Tuscan American Association Award (2016); the 18th Annual International Award, Pietrasanta and Vesilia (2008); and the Gold Medal, Percival Dietsch Prize, from the National Sculpture Society (1994). He was named Sports Artist of the Year in 2015 by the U.S. Sports Academy. His work can be found in galleries and museums throughout Italy and the United States, including the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

UMGC is proud to present this body of works that showcase Sheppard's talent as a master realist painter.



I believe that technical skill is an important element in art.

I believe that there is no object to nonobjective, that minimal is less, that junk sculpture is junk, and that form in painting relates to the illusion of three dimensions.

My art is based on the return to those standards that demand the knowledge of composition, perspective, color, three-dimensional form, draftsmanship, and anatomy.

JOSEPH SHEPPARD



La Lizzatura

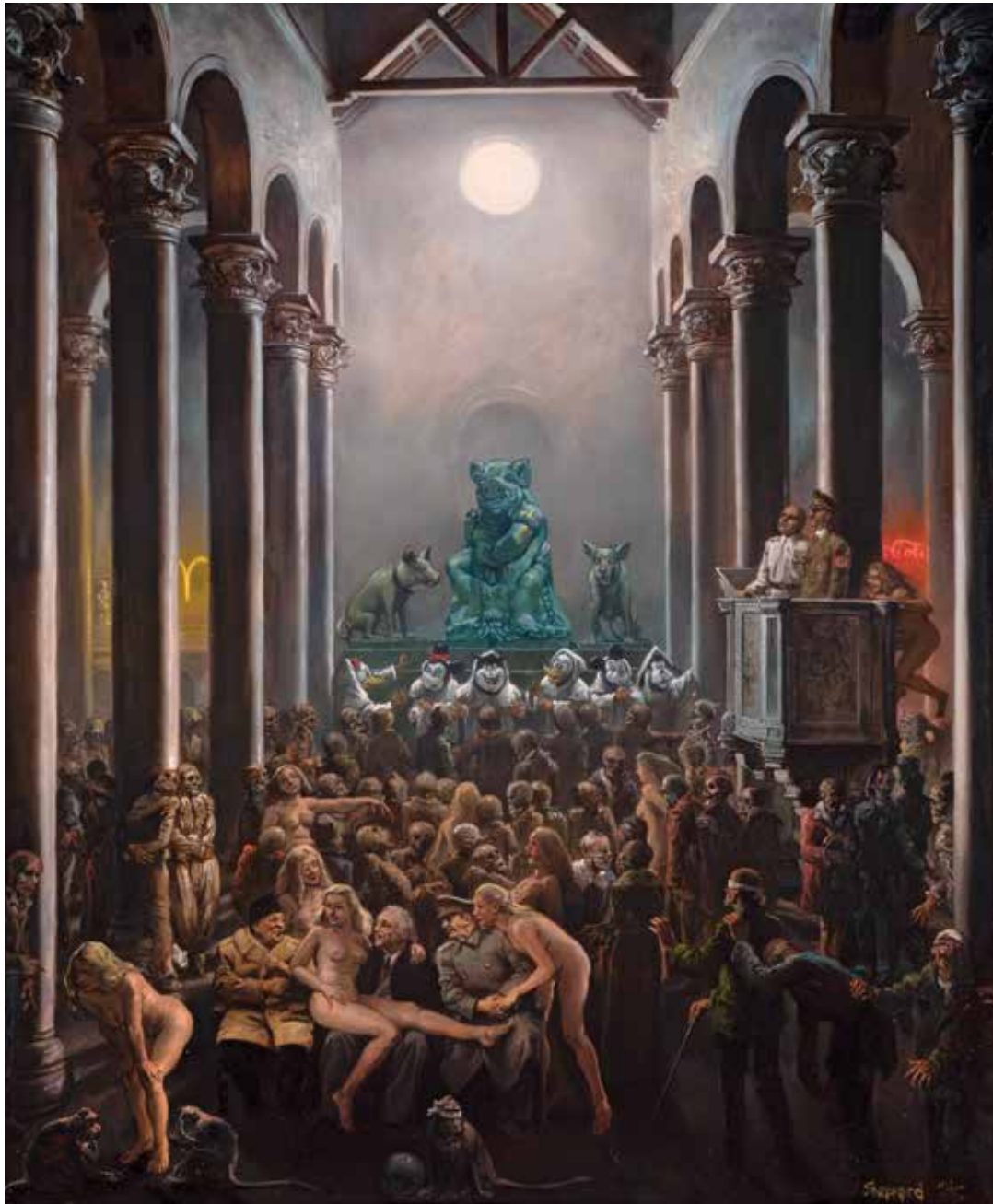
not dated, oil on canvas, 39½ x 39½ in.



Iris on a Hillside
2010, oil on canvas, 39½ x 59½ in.

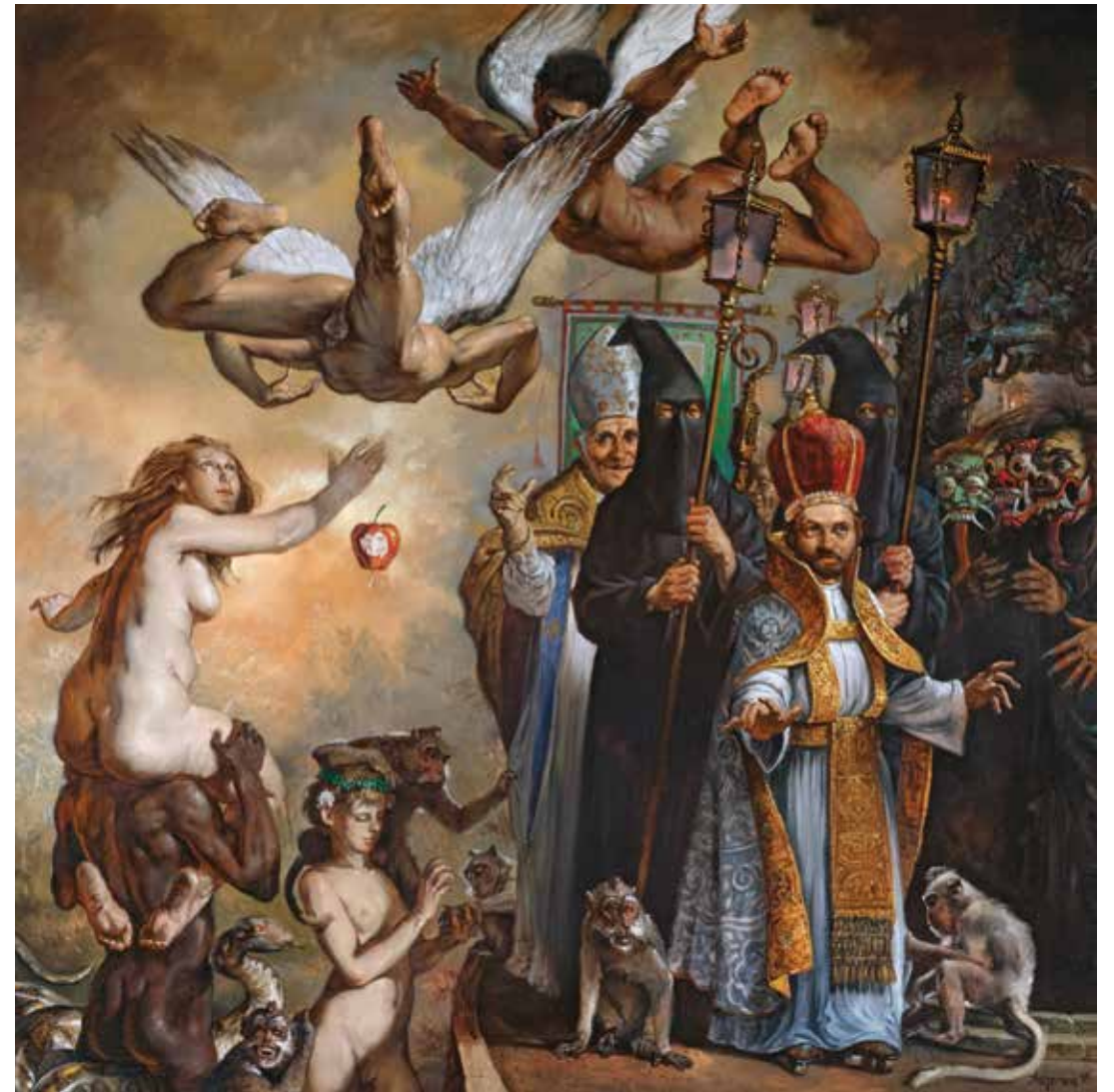


Fiori da Rita
2001, oil on canvas, 83 x 69 in.



The Big Three

not dated, oil on board, 36 x 30 in.



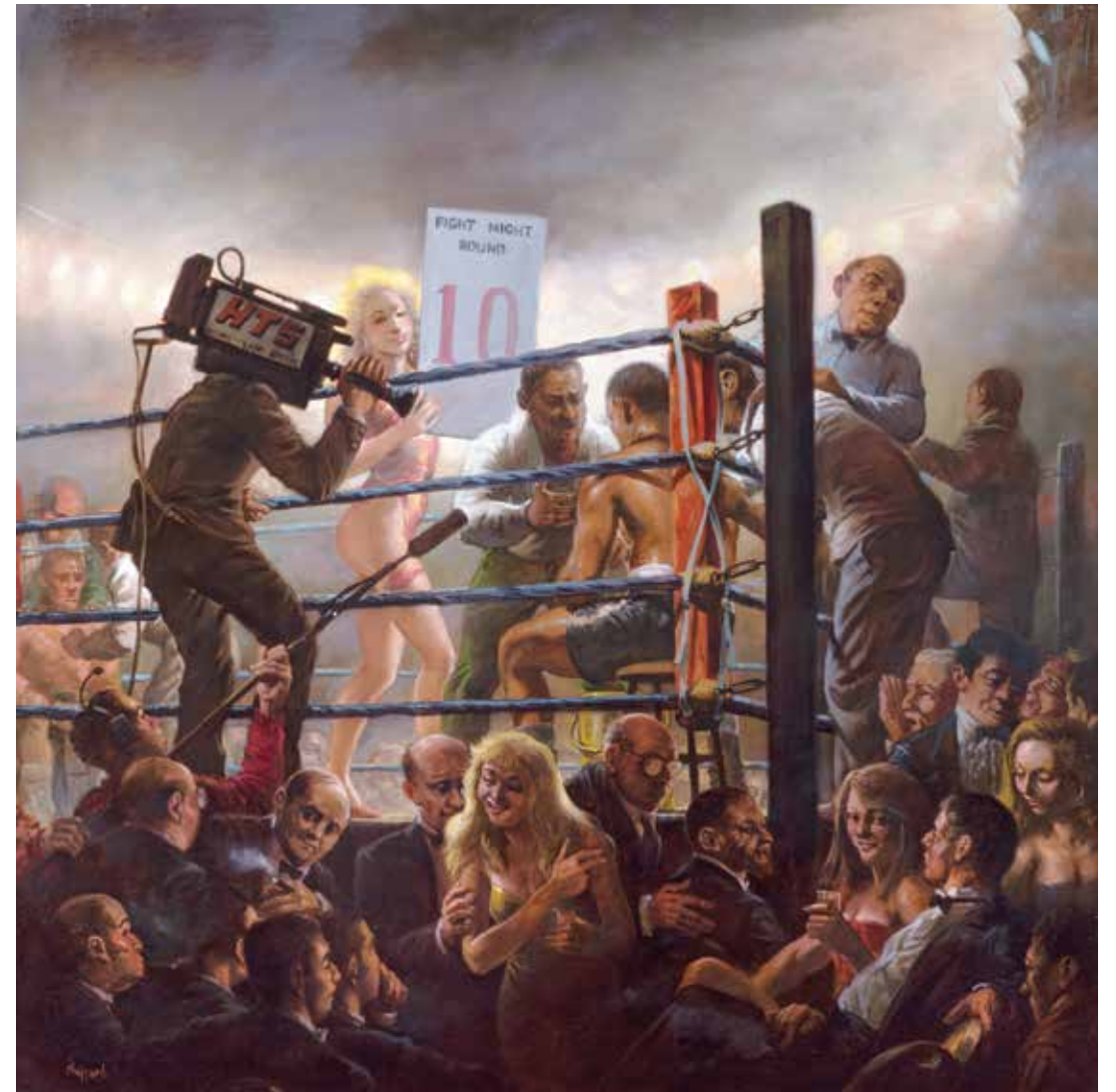
Expulsion

circa 1995, oil on board, 40 x 40 in.



Football

2001, oil on canvas, 60 x 69 in.



Between Rounds

not dated, oil on canvas, 45 x 45 in.



Rock and Roll

2000, oil on canvas, 60 x 60 in.



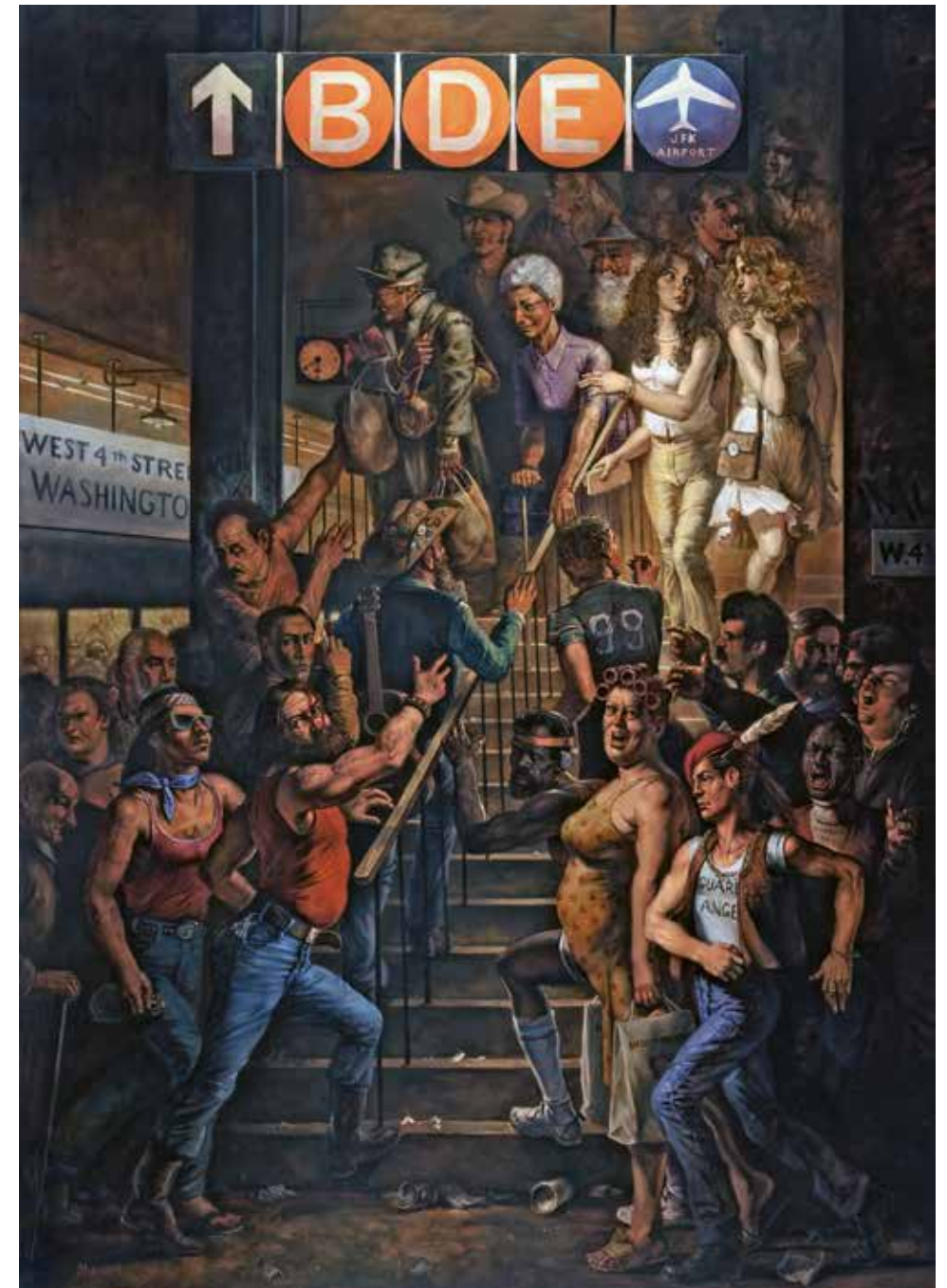
The Beach

2000, oil on canvas, 59 x 82 in.



Driving the Peg

2008, oil on canvas, 39½ x 44 in.



West 4th Street Station

not dated, oil on canvas, 82 x 59 inches



Bad Mickey

circa 1996, oil on board, 36 x 30 in



Halloween

1999, oil on canvas, 60 x 65 in.



Hot Summer Evening in the City
2001, oil on canvas, 60 x 60 in.



Why Not Ride the Metro?
2010, oil on canvas, 39½ x 39½ in.



Self-Portrait with Art Pieces
not dated, oil on canvas, 48 x 72½ in.



On the Ganges
not dated, oil on canvas, 60 x 79 in.



Volleyball

2001, oil on canvas, 60 x 69 in.

Bad Mickey
circa 1996
oil on board
36 x 30 in.

The Beach
2000
oil on canvas
59 x 82 in.

Between Rounds
not dated
oil on canvas
45 x 45 in.

The Big Three
not dated
oil on board
36 x 30 in.

Bringing in the Boat
circa 1969
oil on canvas
39½ x 39½ in.

Driving the Peg
2008
oil on canvas
39½ x 44 in.

Expulsion
circa 1995
oil on board
40 x 40 in.

Fiori da Rita
2001
oil on canvas
83 x 69 in.

Football
2001
oil on canvas
60 x 69 in.

Halloween
1999
oil on canvas
60 x 65 in.

*Hot Summer Evening
in the City*
2001
oil on canvas
60 x 60 in.

Iris on a Hillside
2010
oil on canvas
39½ x 59½ in.

La Lizzatura
not dated
oil on canvas
39½ x 39½ in.

On the Ganges
not dated
oil on canvas
60 x 79 in.

Rock and Roll
2000
oil on canvas
60 x 60 in.

Self-Portrait with Art Pieces
not dated
oil on canvas
48 x 72½ in.

Volleyball
2001
oil on canvas
60 x 69 in.

West 4th Street Station
not dated
oil on canvas
82 x 59 in.

Why Not Ride the Metro?
2010
oil on canvas
39½ x 39½ in.

Cover artwork:
Bringing in the Boat
circa 1969
oil on canvas
39½ x 39½ in.

About UMGC

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

About the Arts Program at UMGC

Since 1978, UMGC has proudly shown works from a large collection of international and Maryland artists at its headquarters in Adelphi, Maryland, a few miles from the nation’s capital. Through its Arts Program, the university provides a prestigious and wide-ranging forum for emerging and established artists and brings art to the community through special exhibitions and its own collections, which have grown to include more than 2,900 pieces of art.

Artworks are on display throughout the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center and the Administration Building in Adelphi. The main, lower-level gallery in Adelphi is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week, and the Leroy Merritt Center for the Art of Joseph Sheppard is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. More than 75,000 students, scholars, and visitors come to the Adelphi facilities each year.

Arts Program Mission Statement

The UMGC Arts Program is dedicated to furthering the university’s objectives by creating a dynamic environment in which our diverse constituents, including students and the general public, can study and learn from direct exposure to our art collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.



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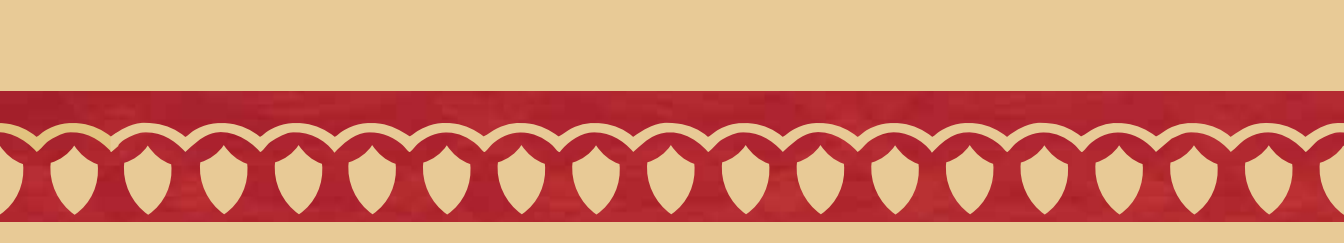
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Joseph Sheppard:
Scenes of Figurative Narration

UMGC Arts Program Gallery
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