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## Memory and music explored through photography and painting Local artist James Landry displays work in Mount Rainier as part of his new book

**Mount Rainier, MD:** Joe's Movement Emporium will present the work of artist James Landry in a show entitled *The Word Paintings and Music From The Film Blog Photographs* that coincides with the publication of a book of his photographs. The exhibit features 10 acrylic paintings, 10 framed color photographs, and a photoblog book of the same name - *Memory Music* - that includes 70 text-and-photo excerpts from his photoblog, *MusicFROMTHE FILM.blogspot.com*

**An opening reception is scheduled for October 12 from 3-5pm. The closing reception will be held December 28 from 3-5pm. Both receptions will include a book signing and gallery talk by the artist.**

In both his photographs and paintings, Landry explores the extremes of size and scale. What may physically be small is transformed by a dramatic change in perspective and scale while what was large is re-represented in a diminutive depiction. Light, color, and texture are explored in both his color photographs and canvases. While his subject matter is typically traditional—portraits and still life—this show depicts his subjects (small toys, architectural details, human faces) in the abstract. As a multidisciplinary artist, Landry says, "I've always felt that everything I do is connected. My photographs sometimes become paintings, which lead me to new subject matter for making pictures. My music becomes the soundtrack for all of this activity."

"When I got my first SLR camera, I was trying my hand at oil paints but couldn't afford the supplies I needed for the large paintings I saw in my mind's eye," says Landry. "The camera became a means to an end. As a photographer, I think I see like a painter and many of my prints have been mistaken for silk-screens or watercolors. Since I neither manipulate nor crop my prints in the darkroom, what the viewer sees is exactly what I saw when I tripped the shutter. In 1998, I began to create acrylic paintings based on my photographs and have thereby come full circle."

Landry, a native of Northern Virginia, began to make photographic prints when he moved to San Francisco after college. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English, but gravitated towards cinematography. Realizing the difficulties in pursuing film making, Landry decided that photography was the next best thing. Almost immediately he began to work in terms of thematic series, taking portraits of friends who were posed in their bedrooms (the Bed Series), and making prints of landscapes where shadows were the primary subject (the Shadow Series). Color photography soon followed with a series of skyscapes taken from airplane windows, abstract urban landscapes, and close-up studies of flowers and children's toys.

Landry has participated in a number of group and solo exhibitions over the years and his prints have been collected by individuals living in the Washington, DC area as well as in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. After a ten-year break from exhibiting his work while he pursued a second career as a musician, he revived his interest in printmaking and photography. He has also begun to transform his "Urban Landscape" images into large (36" x 48") acrylic paintings which have been exhibited in Hyattsville, MD, at the University of Maryland University College in College Park, MD and elsewhere. Most recently he has been working on a series of acrylic "Pixilated Portraits" of known (Malcolm X) and unknown (his wife and son) people. Landry moved to Prince George's County in 1990 with his wife, Nicole Burton, a playwright and author. He works at the American Association for the Advancement of Science where he is the Production Director for *SCIENCE* magazine.

For more information visit [www.joesmovement.org](http://www.joesmovement.org) or call 301-699-1819. Joe's is located at 3309 Bunker Hill Road in Mount Rainier, MD.

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*Joe's Movement Emporium is the largest independent performing arts center in Prince George's County, MD. Founded in 1992, it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that incorporates dance, movement and performing arts traditions from around the world into exceptional educational and artistic experiences. Joe's unique ability to utilize the arts as a vehicle for progressive education, workforce training and economic growth have made it one of the most well-respected nonprofit organizations in the region. For more information call 301-699-1819 or visit [joesmovement.org](http://joesmovement.org).*