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For Immediate Release**Images available upon request****The Adjacent Possible | Exhibition Dates: August 27 – September 27, 2019**

Williamsburg, Va. (August 2019) – ***The Adjacent Possible*** exhibition grew out of a collaboration between professors Elizabeth Mead, an artist and curator, and Jennifer Stevens, a scientist. The theme of the exhibition ponders an area of science called neuro-aesthetics and considers how artists process the creation of their work as well as the analysis of the viewer’s perspective when confronted with abstract art. While narrative and representational works of art may easily lend themselves to words that allow one to describe an experience – which leads to deeper processing and greater encoding of the experience – abstract works are unique in their structural novelty and alternate vision. Just as poems unite words into metaphorical prose, abstract visual forms draw away from the obvious and invite the individual to consider the self and society against a backdrop of cognitive connections not typically made.

This exhibition will bring first-hand experiential interaction with contemporary abstract works from a distinguished group of living artists: Michelle Benoit, Phil Chang, Stefan Chinov, Jaynie Crimmins, Sara Dochow, Diane Englander, Pamela Farrell, Karen Fitzgerald, Helen O’Leary, Lorraine Tady, Jo Volley and Susan York. The twelve invited artists make work that moves back and forth between two and three dimensions. Some are painters who work three dimensionally while others work in and across dimensions and mediums.

Concepts central to the exhibition include perspective and boundary or specifically looking beyond the limits of creative potential and how those boundaries grow and enlarge the more one explores them. Art, as created by the artist or perceived by the observer, has the ability to transform an individual. The transformation may be personal or social, physical or mental, predictable or unpredictable. Artistic expression is a place for subjective, unbound expression and invites originality. Science, in contrast, is based on the objective and measurable. The juxtaposition of art and science in this exhibition offers a unique and compelling landscape for discussion and learning.

Curator Elizabeth Mead states: *Collaboration is at the very heart of the liberal arts, and this exhibition exemplifies that core value. **The Adjacent Possible** is about working across disciplines and boundaries. The Muscarelle Museum of Art is literally serving as a laboratory for “Neuro-aesthetics: The artist and the mind,” my and Neuroscience Professor Jennifer Stevens’ new team-taught course, which stems from our work as W. Taylor Reveley III Interdisciplinary Fellows. The exhibition brings to Williamsburg twelve distinguished contemporary artists from around the world. It is a spectacular opportunity for our students as well as the community at large to experience their work first-hand and to see the liberal arts in action.*

About the Muscarelle Museum of Art

Since its founding in 1983, the mission of the Muscarelle Museum of Art at William & Mary has been to integrate and celebrate the role of artistic exploration. The Muscarelle Museum of Art is located on the campus of William & Mary at 603 Jamestown Road in Williamsburg, Va. For more information, call 757-221-2700 or visit muscarelle.org. Follow on Twitter (@Muscarelle), Instagram (@muscarellemuseum) or on Facebook (Muscarelle Museum of Art). General public admission is \$5 for this exhibition. Admission is free to members, William & Mary students, faculty and staff, as well as children under the age of 12.