



For Immediate Release
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“Living in the Human Soup”
Opens March 8 at Tai Sophia Institute’s Himmelfarb Gallery
Paintings and Drawings by Mia Halton

February 10, 2012 (Laurel, MD) – “Living in the Human Soup,” by Baltimore artist Mia Halton, opens Thursday, March 8, in the Himmelfarb Gallery at Tai Sophia Institute. An artist reception will be held on Wednesday, March 14.

Mia Halton’s complex work is dense with figures, and her art evokes the joys and entanglements of human life with intensity and humor. In these drawings and paintings, dense visual fields record the artist’s observations of how human beings interact and affect each other. The urgency of expressing these relationships is embodied in the vigorous use of materials and the intuitive quality of the mark-making. Life’s stuff, both the physical evidence and the emotional baggage we all carry, is the raw material of this art. At the same time, the work is a way to make sense of the world, and of the ever-shifting balance of chaos and order in both our private and social lives. An added feature of this exhibition is a site-specific installation.

Halton says, “Layered generations of figures populate much of my work, creating a dense thicket of visual information. I often scratch through the top layer to get a glimpse of what’s underneath. The images have a graffiti – almost child-like – look to them. At times the visual style can appear to be at odds with the gravity of the content being considered. Ultimately my work concerns the issues we face as human beings: our relationships, what we want from life, and how we can begin to make sense of the world.”

Artworks from the show will be on sale through the Meeting Point Bookstore, which is adjacent to the gallery. Visit the [Himmelfarb Gallery online](#).

WHAT: “Living in the Human Soup”

Paintings and drawings by Mia Halton

WHEN: March 8 – June 2, 2012

WHERE: Himmelfarb Gallery, Tai Sophia Institute - 7750 Montpelier Road, Laurel, MD 20723



**Tai Sophia
Institute**

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ARTIST RECEPTION: Wednesday, March 14 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS: Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ABOUT THE ARTSIST

Mia Halton was born in Philadelphia in 1950 and grew up in a family of artists, including her mother and her maternal grandparents. She remembers her early art-making as both a refuge and a way to make sense of the emotional vagaries of family life. At Kenyon College she majored in art and religion, and encountered the work of French artist Jean Dubuffet. She was in awe of his ability to access the dark side of inner life, and for his direct use of raw materiality. Other painters important to Halton’s development include Jackson Pollock and Philip Guston. After college, Halton moved back to the East Coast, began illustrating children’s books, and then taught high school. She received an MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art in 1985. She has won two Individual Artist Awards in painting from the Maryland State Arts Council and has exhibited regionally and nationally, including one-woman exhibitions at Danville Museum (VA) and Rosemont College (PA). See more of her work at www.miahalton.com.

ABOUT TAI SOPHIA INSTITUTE

Founded in 1974, Tai Sophia Institute (<http://www.tai.edu>), is a private, nonprofit, academic institution for health and wellness education. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Institute offers graduate certificate and degree programs in a wide range of health and wellness topics, as well as individual academic courses, community workshops, and continuing professional education programs. The Institute’s 12-acre main campus in Laurel, Maryland, also houses a clinic, a bookstore, a library, and herb and meditation gardens, all of which are open to the public.

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