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Richmond Artist Maria Tuttle to Exhibit at Benicia Plein Air Gallery, Showcasing Deep Connection to Community and Transformative Power of Art



RICHMOND, CA – May 20, 2025 – Richmond-based BIPOC / Colombian-American artist, educator, and writer Maria Tuttle will join the esteemed [Benicia Plein Air Gallery](#) as an exhibiting artist in July 2025. Tuttle's work is deeply rooted in her personal journey, her connection to the landscape through outdoor sketching and painting, and her unwavering commitment to community empowerment through art education.

Tuttle's artistic path began in childhood, providing solace and expression after her immigration to the United States from Colombia. This personal experience fuels her understanding of art's transformative power, a vision she carries into her own artistic practice and her work with the community.

"Growing up, art was my constant companion," states Tuttle in her artist statement. "Leaving everything familiar behind after immigrating was challenging, but art became a bridge to my new home. Now, as a BIPOC / Colombian-American artist, educator, and writer, I understand the transformative power of art firsthand. Both my work with children and my personal art practice are ways of sharing the love of art and its ability to heal, connect, and empower, particularly within communities of color."

A graduate of the Art Academy of Cincinnati (BFA in Fine Arts), Tuttle also holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Texas at El Paso and an MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Cincinnati. Her dedication to making art accessible is evident in her decade-long career as a teaching artist and community organizer. In May 2023, Tuttle founded the [Children's Art Studio Richmond / Taller de Arte Para Niños](#), an affiliate of Independent Arts & Media, providing crucial arts education to historically excluded, low-income children and families in Richmond and nearby communities. This initiative is driven by her belief that art is a fundamental right and a foundation for academic and interpersonal success.

Prior to joining the Benicia Plein Air Gallery, Tuttle was a member and curatorial co-lead at the cooperative Gallery 2727 in Berkeley, CA (2023-2024), where she contributed to the "Secret Garden" (March, 2024) and "Gold" (September, 2024) exhibitions. Beginning July 2025, the Benicia Plein Air Gallery will offer a new platform for Tuttle to share her evocative artwork, which is often inspired by her direct engagement with the landscape. Her participation underscores her growing presence in the Northern California art scene and her dedication to connecting with audiences through her unique artistic voice.

Contact:

- **Location:** Benicia Plein Air Gallery, 307 First Street, Benicia CA 94510
- **Hours:** Thurs - Sun, 11 am to 5 pm and by appointment
- **Email:** beniciapleinairgallery@gmail.com; Phone: (707) 771-6166
- **Websites & Socials:** [Maria P. Tuttle](#) and [Benicia Plein Air Gallery](#); Social Media: IG: [Mariaptuttle_artist](#)

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