

<b>fi:af</b> french institute alliance française	<b>Artist Talk – “La Vie en Rose”</b> June 9 <sup>th</sup> - 7 to 9 pm
<b>Laurence de Valmy</b>	<b>Mary Beth McAllister</b>
	

**Artists Mary Beth McAllister and Laurence De Valmy are happy to announce an Artists Talk: La Vie en Rose on Thursday, June 9th, 2016 from 7 to 9 pm hosted by the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) in Montclair, an opportunity to meet the artists and share about their art. Light refreshments will be offered.**

Their respective exhibitions *French Reflections* and *Les Gardiens du Jardin*, the fruit of their artistic collaboration, are currently on view until Thursday, June 16, 2016 in FIAF Montclair's new, expanded space. The two artists have worked closely with Marie-Catherine Glaser, Director of FIAF Montclair and curator of the exhibitions. "The opening reception was a success and we're happy to host them one more time: there was an overwhelming curiosity about the 2 artists and their process and as an educational institution we encouraged them to give us another evening before the show moves on." said Marie-Catherine Glaser.

The joint exhibitions were born from the friendship between McAllister and Valmy. The artists working in different styles and medium share a common love for bright colors, happy paintings and are both inspired by French themes. When they looked for a name for the Artist Talk, *La vie en Rose*, the world famous French song by Edith Piaf was quickly adopted since it reflects their positive thinking and appreciation of good moments.

### **Mary Beth McAllister**

American artist and designer Mary Beth McAllister was influenced by a magical childhood garden, which became a muse for the worlds she creates in her paintings, sculptures, and designer showhouses. A student of fine arts at Marymount College and Richmond College in Surrey, England, McAllister found inspiration in her wanderings through France. She was on the original staff of

Condé Nast's *Self* magazine launch. Her own label of garden-inspired accessories sold to Henri Bendel and Bergdorf Goodman and was covered in *Vogue* and *Women's Wear Daily*. She expanded into murals and painted furniture for residential interiors. Mary Beth's latest *Mansion in May* Designer Showhouse was inspired by her illustrated characters The Garden Keepers, mischievous seed packets masquerading as landscape architects and the like. McAllister's newest works, in gouache, *Les Gardiens du Jardin* are their French cousins!  
<http://mbmcallister.com/> [Instagram@StudioMbMcAllister](#)

### Laurence de Valmy

After falling in love with the American artistic movements of Contemporary Realism and Photorealism, French painter Laurence de Valmy became a realist painter herself. Valmy believes that what we see influences our mood; therefore she chooses to paint colorful and bright paintings to create happy and peaceful moments in time. Born in Africa in 1974, Valmy grew up in France and the UK, and now lives and works in Basking Ridge, NJ. Valmy studied art at the University of Michigan and in France. Today, her work is exhibited internationally and included in several private collections in the US, Europe, and Asia. Recent shows include O'Cabanon in Chelsea, NYC ; the Ukrainian Institute on New York's Upper East Side; Trygve Lie Gallery in midtown Manhattan; and Richelieu Drouot in Paris, France. Valmy is among the artists featured on [www.photorealism.org](http://www.photorealism.org).  
[www.ldevalmy.com](http://www.ldevalmy.com) / FB Laurence de Valmy Fine Art / Instagram @laurencedevalmy