Bio -

**LEIGH CULVER** is an art historian, teacher, and painter. She holds a doctorate in Art History from the University of Pennsylvania and taught American Art for the University of Notre Dame's Washington Program for over a decade. Prior to teaching, she worked in the curatorial departments at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and in education at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Leigh returned to her studio art roots in 2006, studying at the Art League in Alexandria, Virginia. She has won multiple watercolor awards in the Mid-Atlantic region and recently served as President of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. She presently teaches watercolor at The Art League School in Alexandria, Virginia. Her exhibit of 33 works, “Transformations: Watercolors by Leigh Culver,” is on view until April 28th at NUMC’s Great Hall Gallery, 3401 Nebraska Ave., in Washington, DC.

**Talk description**

My art bears witness to two joys: intently observing the complexities of nature’s rhythms and variations, and celebrating the alchemies and accidents of water and pigment on paper. I vary close botanical observation with painterly dissolutions of form that call attention to the materiality of watercolor. Through nature and paint, I strive to capture organic transformations that embody the concurrent polarities of living: control with freedom, decay with beauty, frailty with resilience. I will be introducing my art and discussing what I’ve learned about art-making from art history as well as unexpected sources of inspiration. I look forward to answering and discussing any questions of process or technique and am happy to share thoughts from my perspectives as an art historian, artist, juror, and teacher.