

**Two Companion Exhibitions Exploring the Power of Handwriting: *Skewing Lines* & *Discerning Throughlines* by artist Marcia Haffmans**

*Skewing Lines*: The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen (Slantwall Gallery), VA

July 14 – September 8, Artist Talk Opening – July 17, 2026 (6 – 8 PM)

*Discerning Throughlines*: The Gallery at Main Street Station, Richmond, VA, August 2 – 30, '26

Artist Present August 7 (5:30 – 7:30 PM). The Gallery is open daily 8 AM–5 PM

This work stems from the throughlines of memory and cultural heritage of handwritings ranging from the Declaration of Independence (inspired by 1581 Dutch Act of Abjuration) and Dutch WWII diaries (Anne Frank) to current mass detention of women in the US. It will raise awareness of the Dutch role in the independence and equality for all people in the US in support of 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' through art installations highlighting voices too often disregarded. Using her *Script under Suppression* stage, artist Marcia Haffmans explores authentic personal handwriting as creative artform of liberation and resistance, inspired by her own WWII family stories. Over the past decade, Haffmans has been offering art making opportunities as her ongoing artist initiative for and with women detained at jails, first in MN and currently in Richmond, VA. Past participants of her programs have voluntarily shared their handwritten narratives, which Haffmans reconfigures through sculptural lines in two companion exhibitions focusing on creative agency and connection through handwriting. The installations made for both galleries are confined within 35 square feet, the unencumbered floor space of a single occupancy cell (American Correctional Association). *Skewing Lines* consists of one installation while *Discerning Throughlines* contains 5 exhibits and a film. The work strives to reveal that handwriting, as a unique yet also collective artform, may offer the possibility of transformation.

*This project is supported by Dutch Culture USA, a program of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States, to mark America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

**Bio Marcia Haffmans**

A former public defender of the Netherlands, Marcia Haffmans has expanded her women centered interventions over the past decade through art and installations transforming voices impacted by systems of domination. Her installations have been exhibited at galleries in Europe (NL, Italy, Spain), S Korea, and across the US, including a 2 year traveling exhibit organized by Norman Rockwell Museum. Since relocating from the Midwest to the Southeast, Haffmans has been a Trawick Prize Finalist (MD), and her work has been included in NCECA Annual showcase ('Rendered Fusion', Harnett Museum, Richmond, VA, '24) as well as the yearlong 'Word Powered' exhibition at National Liberty Museum, Philadelphia, '25. Benefits of her ongoing artist initiative with and for women detained in jail have been published in Women's Health Reports 2020, 'Inside Out: Change Through Art'. Haffmans has participated in residencies at Vermont Studio Center, Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at Tower View (MN), MAS museum (Antwerp, BE) and at Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA (studio access). Select funding sources have included Jerome Foundation (Textile Center MN), MN State Arts Board, CultureWorks/NEA and Dutch Culture USA ('26).