



THE UMBRELLASM
ARTS CENTER

IN NEW EXHIBITIONS, TWO ARTISTS – ONE WITH A TELESCOPE CAMERA, THE OTHER A PAINTBRUSH – BUILD IMAGES OF BEAUTY AND WONDER

*Marsha Wilcox's ANCIENT LIGHT illuminates celestial landscapes through March 22.
Carl Ristaino's INSPIRATIONAL JAM builds freestyle acrylic paintings January 26-March 29.*



CONCORD, Mass. – January 14 2026 – Two Umbrella Arts Center exhibitions, Marsha Wilcox's **ANCIENT LIGHT** and Carl Ristaino's **INSPIRATIONAL JAM** center two artists who, through unique processes, capture ephemeral moments in time that evoke wonder and imagination. Wilcox uses a powerful telescope camera to create photos of great depth from dozens of long exposures that capture ancient starlight in deep space. Ristaino uses freestyle paint application techniques to layer acrylic colors that build energetic scenes inspired by improvisation.

An opening reception for both exhibitions takes place Wed., January 28, 6 to 8 pm. [RSVPs requested.](#)

In **ANCIENT LIGHT**, on view through March 22 in The Umbrella's Allie Kussin Main Gallery, Wilcox's long-exposure astrophotography documents stars, nebulae and galaxies by using a telescope as a camera lens. Each of her images is constructed from dozens, sometimes more than 100, individual exposures captured over many hours on clear nights. The patient practice allows light that has traveled vast distances over time to be recorded in detail. The resulting photographs reveal celestial phenomena that are simultaneously delicate and violent, static and constantly evolving. Many of the images evoke celestial awe, suggesting landscapes of light.

Marsha Wilcox (r.) is a Boston-area photographic artist and educator, whose work spans intimate terrestrial detail and the vastness of deep space. She holds an MPS in Photography from the School of Visual Arts, and advanced degrees in music, special education, behavioral research, statistics and epidemiology from Columbia and Harvard. Wilcox exhibits her work extensively; it has been seen at the Griffin Museum of Photography, Fitchburg Art Museum, and New York's Foley Gallery. She is featured in *The Big Picture Colorado* (2025–27). Her astrophotography has earned national recognition, including being a finalist in the Critical Mass annual photography initiative.





Ristaino's INSPIRATIONAL JAM, on view January 26 through March 29 in The Umbrella's Wedge Gallery, features acrylic paintings that explore the ephemeral nature of musical performances (specifically jazz), and imagined locations that combine architectural and fantastical elements. Using colorful layered acrylic and a freestyle painting technique, Ristaino's works emphasize rhythm and movement, whether among musicians or landscape elements.

Carl Ristaino (r.) is a Hopkinton, Mass.-based artist whose work is deeply influenced by improvisational music, live performance, and the observation of daily life. He began drawing and cartooning at a young



age and later exhibited paintings in pubs, cafés, and music venues throughout Somerville and Brighton. His visual style draws inspiration from concerts, cross-country travel, and urban culture. Ristaino has created live paintings for music performances, been featured on WICN 90.5 Jazz, and presented solo exhibitions accompanied by live jazz. He currently works from his studio, known as the "Art Shed."

ANCIENT LIGHT and INSPIRATIONAL JAM are on view during gallery hours, 10 am to 9 pm seven days a week. In addition to the January 28 joint opening reception, special events offer additional insight into the artists and their exhibitions:

- **Galaxy Walks** – Tours with artist Marsha Wilcox: Tue, February 3 @ 11 am; Sat., February 28 @ 1 pm; Thu., March 5 @ 11 am; and Sat, March 21 @ 2 pm. [RSVP requested.](#)
- **Artist Talk** – With artists Marsha Wilcox and Carl Ristaino: Sat., February 21 @ 2 pm in The Umbrella's Black Box Theater. [RSVP requested.](#)

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MEDIA INFORMATION

- Wilcox, Ristaino and Umbrella Arts Center leaders are available for interviews about this work and these exhibitions.
- High-resolution photos of ANCIENT LIGHT and INSPIRATIONAL JAM will be available soon.
- Visual art reviewers are welcome to visit the Gallery during regular business hours.
- For more information, photo assets and interviews, contact **John Michael Kennedy**, jmk@jmkpr.com or 212-842-1752 (m/t) or **Jennifer Astin**, ja@jmkpr.com or 424-333-1718 (m/t).

PHOTOS – p.1 (top) "Great Orion Nebula" by Marsha Wilcox, (bottom) Marsha Wilcox photo by Jim Zebrowski; p. 2 (top) "Bring Out Them Horns" by Carl Ristaino, (bottom) Carl Ristaino by the artist.