

## news release

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Images available on request

### For Release Before June 26

#### Summit Artspace Gallery News in this Release:

- **New Show Features Works of Art by 8 Area Artists from Summit, Portage & Medina Counties**
- **Meet-the-Artists Reception Friday, June 26 5-7 pm**
- **Free Public Workshops & Art Talk during Exhibition**

### “Plein Air Around the World” Opens at Summit Artspace

(Akron, OH) – Art and nature lovers need travel no farther than downtown Akron to enjoy beautiful scenery from Ohio, the United States, and many countries worldwide. From June 27 through August 1, Summit Artspace Gallery is featuring an exhibition of landscapes created in *plein air* art by eight highly accomplished area artists – Dino Massaroni, Judith B. Carducci, Lawrence Churski, Judy Gaiser, Ann Ferguson Kah, Carolyn E. Lewis, Jack Liberman, and Patricia Rohrbacher. The public is invited to a free meet-the-artists opening reception Friday, June 26 from 5 to 7 pm.

Massaroni, an award-winning artist specializing in portraiture, still life and plein air landscape painting, was invited by the gallery to be guest curator and assemble the show. *En plein air* is a French term that means “in the open air.” Painting *en plein air* refers to painting out-of-doors, a practice of landscape painters for five hundred years. As a charter member of the Ohio *Plein Air* Society, Massaroni was able to enlist the participation of fellow plein air painters from Summit, Portage and Medina counties.

According to Massaroni, *plein air* painting is currently enjoying a revival in popularity in the United States. “It seems that Americans are in love with scenes of their familiar surroundings as well as depictions of far away lands,” he said. “In this exhibition, the artists share diverse interpretations of intimate woodland areas, sweeping panoramas, and cozy street scenes.” Massaroni will be giving a free, noontime tour and talk on the exhibition Thursday, July 2. The public is welcome.

Along with Massaroni, Carducci and Lewis are professional portrait painters and together their clientele list reads like a who’s who of prominent regional and national portrait subjects. They teach *plein air* workshops throughout Italy, France and Greece. Liberman teaches at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center. Churski is a well-known illustrator/designer turned fine artist. Gaiser is a retired art teacher and president of the Akron Society of Artists. Artists Kah and Rohrbacher paint because it makes them happy and fulfilled.

Also during the show, there will be two Saturday workshops. These events are free, although registration is requested by emailing psargent@neo.rr.com.

- July 11 1-3 pm *Plein Air Workshop with Patrick Dougherty*
- August 1 1-3 pm *Graffiti En Plein Air Workshop with The Mystery "Tagger"*

Summit Artspace is a project of the Akron Area Arts Alliance (AAAA) in cooperation with Summit County government. The gallery is dedicated to displaying works by local artists. It is located in a historic art deco building at 140 E. Market Street in downtown Akron one block east of the Akron Art Museum. Gallery admission and parking are free. Exhibition hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday noon to 5 pm.

Summit Artspace is a growing arts center. Its goal is to provide a comfortable place where artists and the public can interact. Besides Summit Artspace Gallery, the building also houses the AAAA offices and the collaborative studio of the Akron Society of Artists. This summer the Artists of Rubber City will also be opening a gallery in the building. Future plans include collaborative office space for arts organizations including cost-saving, shared facilities plus affordable studio space for emerging artists. Similar arts facilities established in communities across the country have proven to be valuable economic development tools helping to revitalize downtowns, initiate development in marginal neighborhoods, create jobs and enhance tourism.

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**The Akron Area Arts Alliance is a non-profit advocacy group.  
Its membership includes 46 arts and cultural organizations plus 70 arts supporters.  
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& Ohio Arts Council.**