



**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
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**STUDIO MONTCLAIR, INC. OPENS:  
“STUDIO MONTCLAIR – GENESIS AND EVOLUTION”  
IN MONTCLAIR’S NEWEST GREEN BUILDING**

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*INAUGURAL SHOW HONORS FOUNDERS OF THE ORGANIZATION*  
September 24, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Montclair, NJ, August 1, 2010

Studio Montclair Inc. (SMI) unveils it’s new gallery space at Academy Square with two inaugural shows that celebrate the rich past and bright future of visual arts in the Montclair area.

“Studio Montclair – Genesis and Evolution,” which opens Sept. 24 on the first floor of the new Academy Square office building, will include work by 14 SMI founders and board members. Highlighting work from artists who laid the foundation for the thriving organization that exists today, ***Genesis and Evolution*** – curated by Montclair artist Rachel Leibman, gives a rich history of the area’s visual arts.

The artists featured in the show are: *Virginia S. Block, Alice Bryant Cubicciotti, Elaine Golt Gongora, Jean Kawecky, Catherine Kinkade, Hilary Shank Kuhl, Clarence Mather, Arthur Paxton, Sharon Pitts, Patricia Ritchie, Christina Saj, Charlee Swanson, Sarah Teofanov, Joan Vaccaro*

Many of the artist’s showing their work are still involved with SMI’s organization; including Catherine Kinkade; Christina Saj; and Virginia S. Block – who was the founding president for five years and remains in the organization as the ***Virginia S. Block Gallery*** director.

Ms Block creates mixed-media paintings that explore content related to artifacts, portals and the passage of time. From recent trips to China, Block has created a series of paintings that let the viewer feel the visually rich culture and the deep layering of centuries of tradition through the building up of numerous layers, the balancing of universal forms and the saturated use of color.

Exhibits at Academy Square will run concurrently three to four times a year. The galleries will be open to the public from 9am-5pm Monday through Friday or by appointment. The first shows, which run through **January 2, 2011**, will open with a reception **Friday, September 24 from 6-9pm**.

The Academy Square property, located at 22 Plymouth Street in Montclair, was the site of the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School from 1950 to 2004. In 2004 Cadbury Properties LLC purchased the Gibbs property, and in 2007 partnered with Montclair’s Bravitas Group, Inc., to preserve the building’s architectural details and rehabilitate and restore the building, refitting it for

use as business, professional and medical offices. Recognizing the enormous impact that buildings have on our environment, the development team committed to pursuing LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification through the U.S. Building Council.

SMI's business offices will remain at the group's former exhibition space in the historic Clark House (108 Orange Road, Montclair).

**Listing Information About the Opening Exhibits:**

**Exhibition Dates:** September 24, 2010 to January 2, 2011

**Artist Reception:** Friday, September 24, 2010 from 6 – 9pm

**Gallery Hours:** Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or by appointment

**Address:** 22 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ ~ 07042 ~ 973 744 1818

**Email:** [studiomontclair@aol.com](mailto:studiomontclair@aol.com)

**Website:** [www.studiomontclair.org](http://www.studiomontclair.org)

**THE SMI GALLERY @ ACADEMY SQUARE** - Ground floor of the building.

*The SMI Gallery will feature the work of working professional artists.*

**“Studio Montclair – Genesis and Evolution”**

*Featuring the work of 14 founders and board members of Studio Montclair – Virginia S. Block, Alice Bryant Cubicciotti, Elaine Golt Gongora, Jean Kawecki, Catherine Kinkade, Hilary Shank Kuhl, Clarence Mather, Arthur Paxton, Sharon Pitts, Patricia Ritchie, Christina Saj, Charlee Swanson, Sarah Teofanov, Joan Vaccaro*

Gallery Director and Curator: Rachel Leibman

Assistant Gallery Director: Pam Cooper