

Studio Montclair Presents “Remembering David Johnston (1933-2016)” and “Good Works: Studio Montclair Honors Our Volunteers” at Academy Square Galleries, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair, NJ

May 19, 2017 to July 28, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montclair, NJ (April, 2017) – Studio Montclair presents simultaneous exhibitions to run from May 19 through July 28, 2017 at Academy Square Galleries: “Remembering David Johnston (1933-2016)” in the Virginia Block Gallery on the second floor and “Good Works: Studio Montclair Honors Our Volunteers” in the first floor Academy Square Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 pm on Friday, May 19 to coincide with the Montclair Art Walk.

“Remembering David Johnston (1933-2016)”

This posthumous exhibit will commemorate the work of long-time Studio Montclair member David Johnston and will feature work from throughout his career. Curated by his long-time friend and colleague, Robert Koenig, who is also writing an essay to accompany the show, it will include watercolors, mixed media on Japanese paper, and acrylics on canvas.

A prolific and highly esteemed artist, Johnston had over forty one-person shows during his lifetime in France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, England, and the United States. Reviewing his one-man show at Montclair Art Museum, The New York Times wrote: “Poetic and distinctive... handles watercolor as if it were an effluence of his own blood.”

About the Curator:

Robert Koenig has been an important and integral part of the New Jersey arts scene since the 1960s, as the Director of the Montclair Art Museum from 1980 to 1991, of the Noyes Museum from 1991 to 1993, and of the SMA African Art Museum from 1996 to 2015. A recipient of BFA and MFA degrees from Yale University, Koenig also studied at Pratt Institute, the New School for Social Research, and Columbia University.

“Good Works: Studio Montclair Honors Our Volunteers”

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Studio Montclair, and in this, our twentieth anniversary year, we are mounting an exhibition celebrating those volunteer artist members who have generously donated their time to SMI. Curated by Gina Murray and RitaMarie Cimini, the show will occupy the first floor of the Academy Square Galleries and will include work across all visual media.

Participating Artists:

Kate Albright, Amy Becker, Virginia Schaffer Block, Janet Boltax, Irene Brandle, Marcia Miele Branca, Pam Cooper, Paul Di Zefalo, Caitlin Enz, Sally Fica, Allan Gorman, Catherine Kinkade, Ania Lesiak, Yvette Lucas, Fernando Mariscal, Dennis McKee, Elinor Meeks, Chas Palminteri, Arthur Paxton, Jim Price, Jack Quinn, Matt Roberts, Lucille Scurti, Michael Sherman, Hilary Shank-Kuhl, Stefanie Silverman, Paula Stark, Linda Streicher, Nancy Taiani, Lynne Toye, April Tracey, Katie Truk, Ken Weiner, Bill Westheimer, Kristin Zachares

About the Curators:

Gina Casolaro Murray, Ph.D. is a professional artist who has worked and volunteered in various capacities for arts organizations, museums, and galleries. She currently serves on the board of Studio Montclair as the Recording Secretary and assists with identifying and organizing professional development programs for artists. Her own art is inspired by nature and includes figurative and non-representational works in stone, wood, and kiln-formed glass. She is represented by the Glasshouse Studio in Seattle, WA and the Bank Left Gallery in Pullman, WA; her museum exhibitions include the Museum of Fine Art at Washington State University and the Montgomery (AL) Museum of Fine Art. Murray earned her MA in Studio Art at Adelphi University, NY.

RitaMarie Cimini is the Interim President of Studio Montclair and has been a board member and volunteer for several years. An MFA recipient from Bennington College, Cimini has shown her work across NJ, NY, MA, VT, and in Washington D.C. In addition to painting, she writes blogs about art and spirituality on her own website, as well as for the Huffington Post and Sivana.

Listing Information for the Exhibitions:

Curators: Robert Koenig, for “Remembering David Johnston (1933-2016)” ; Gina Murray and RitaMarie Cimini for “Good Works: Studio Montclair Honors Our Volunteers.”

Exhibition Dates: May 19, 2017 to July 28, 2017

Galleries: Academy Square and Virginia S. Block Galleries, 33 Plymouth St, Montclair, NJ

Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday, 7am-7pm

Reception: May 19, 2017, 6-9pm

Studio Montclair Contact Info: smi@studiomontclair.org, 862-500-1447

About Studio Montclair: Studio Montclair Inc. is a nonprofit organization of exhibiting professional artists and others interested in the visual arts. Its mission is to promote culture and education in the visual arts and encourage emerging artists. Founded in 1997, the organization includes over 350 members including artists from around the United States. For more information, contact smi@studiomontclair.org, or call 862-500-1447.

Images for Press: to come

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