

Contact: Jean Criss, Jean Criss Media, LLC
Phone: 908-247-8443
E-mail: info@JeanCrissMedia.com

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“DISCOVER SUMMIT ARTS” *FESTIVAL* COMING IN JUNE **Full Visual Arts Agenda**

Summit, NJ, March 18, 2013 – With planning well underway, the “Discover Summit Arts Festival” promises to showcase the breadth and depth of the arts in Summit. The festival will take place June 23rd - 29th in venues throughout downtown Summit. Local artists from the visual, performing, culinary and healing arts will be participating.

The Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts will kick off the week on Sunday, June 23rd featuring the work of over 75 artisans and craftsmen. This juried event includes work in the following media: clay, wood, fibers, metals, glass, jewelry, watercolors, oil, mixed media and photography.. These arts and crafts will be available for purchase. In addition, artisans will be conducting unique demonstrations in areas such as pottery, basket weaving and blacksmithing.

Also taking place in the area of visual arts, are a series of exhibitions accompanied by live presentations. Summit Public Art will offer “Public Art Walks,” guided walking tours featuring the sculptures spread throughout downtown. Additionally, the Visual Arts Center of NJ will host an art exhibit with a gallery talk, featuring the paintings of ‘*Frohawk Two Feathers*’ which reflect real and invented history. Lastly, Overlook Medical Center will feature the photography of Charles Miller, and host a “Meet the Artist” reception.

For those seeking an interactive approach, several live art demonstrations are planned during the week. Joni Rose Gallery at MONDO in Summit will conduct two live watercolor demonstrations, one for adults, and one for children. Bottle and Bottega will host “*An Evening with Klimt*” where participants will replicate “The Kiss” on a 16x20 canvas. Laura Hanley of Made with CLAY by Laura will hold a live wheel throwing demonstration for all ages.

Rounding out the visual arts portion of the festival, there will be three, week-long exhibitions. Reeves-Reed Arboretum will have a sculpture exhibit with the work of Tom Holmes. In a public-private partnership, Summit Free Public Library, in collaboration with Visual Arts Center of NJ, will have a “Local Scenes” exhibition of paintings. Overlook Hospital will display award-winning artwork by employees, volunteers and physicians from the 7th annual Atlantic Health System family art exhibition, “Passion Though Art.”

“From looking at this impressive series of events, it is obvious how alive the visual arts are in Summit. This is just one element of the festival, and the other two categories, Performing and Culinary and Healing Arts will be just as exciting,” says Mayor Ellen Dickson.

“We are excited to deliver a full range of “ART” entertainment throughout the week-long program and to launch such an engaging mix under one umbrella. Please look for more information in the coming weeks, and call us to become a corporate sponsor at ‘Discover Summit Arts,’” states Jean Criss of Jean Criss Media, LLC.

Details for the above events, including ticket information, will become available as the festival approaches. In addition to the above events, there will be a full program for the Performing Arts, and the Culinary and Healing Arts, details to follow. “Discover Summit Arts” was co-founded by Summit residents and art enthusiasts Lyle Brehm and Janet Whitman. Program management including media, marketing and sponsorship sales is being led by Jean Criss of Jean Criss Media, LLC. Events are being coordinated by Laura Ekstrand of Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre. Jean can be reached at info@JeanCrissMedia.com or 908-247-8443, and Laura at Laura@Dreamcatcherrep.org or 908-514-9654 for further program information.

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JEAN CRISS MEDIA

www.JeanCrissMedia.com | Info@JeanCrissMedia.com | P.O. Box 132 | Summit, NJ 07902-0132 | 908.247.8443 | 908.790.1659 fax