

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

Laine Snyder, Executive Director
(740) 452-0741
laine@zanesvilleart.org

January 19, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Exhibition Opens at Zanesville Museum of Art January 29.

Constructing Meanings: The Paintings of Michael Weisel

Zanesville Museum of Art, exhibition located on the 3rd floor in the Great Gallery

Opens January 29, 2015 and runs through March 21, 2015

Member Preview Day: Thursday, January 29, 10 am–5 pm

Artist Gallery Talk: Thursday, January 29, 6 pm, FREE to the public

Exhibition Opening: Thursday, January 29, 6:30–8 pm, FREE to the public

Columbus-based artist Michael Weisel will exhibit his work for the first time at the Zanesville Museum of Art beginning January 29, 2015. His bold, captivating scenes of everyday life are incredibly nuanced and complex. "I like the idea that a work can take on a life of its own," says Weisel, "even if that life is far apart from my original intention. Each viewer standing in front of the work... may see or interpret that work in strikingly different ways than the next viewer."

Searching for a deeper, underlying meaning in Weisel's imagery is both tempting and gratifying. At face value, the subject matter of his striking painting *Urban Exterior*, for example, depicts a father-daughter outing. The painting's large scale, complex compositional structure, dynamic brushwork, and fundamentally electric color palette produce a psychologically charged and evocative scene. Notice how Weisel conveys both presence, with the young girl engaging the viewer, and absence, as the father walks away from her, talking on his cell phone.

"For me," says Weisel, "a painting usually starts with an idea, personal experience, or an image that caught my attention." There is an element of voyeurism when viewing his intimate and nostalgic family portraits, like *Composition in Blue and White*. Compositionally, it bears a striking resemblance to candid and spontaneous family photographs taken during beach vacations. Stylistically, the experimental use of pure flat colors defined by the bold outlines of the mask-like faces pays homage to Post-Impressionism. This exhibition, which is the first solo exhibition for the artist, provides an opportunity to view how Michael Weisel constructs meaningful images based on life experiences and memories.

Images:

Composition with Squirrels, by Michael Weisel, oil in canvas, 2007

Composition in Blue and White, by Michael Weisel, 2007

Urban Exterior, by Michael Weisel, 2014

We welcome visitors: Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am–5 pm and Thurs 10 am–7:30 pm. **Our office hours:** Mon-Fri 10–5 pm.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for adults 60 and older and students with valid ID; Free for children 10 and under.

Free admission Thursday evenings 5–7:30 pm

Visit us at www.zanesvilleart.org



Zanesville Museum of Art programs and events are funded in part by a grant from The Ohio Arts Council. The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.