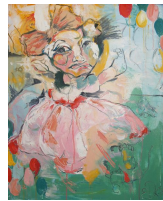


PRESS RELEASE
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Contact : Mike Coleman
mike@secondavearts.com / 616-638-3827

CELEBRATING WEST MICHIGAN PAINTERS



GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Mike Coleman of Second Ave Arts (NYC) has gathered 6 Grand Rapids curators together for a pop-up show titled 'Celebrating West Michigan Painters.' There is an opening reception free to the public on Friday, March 4th from 6 to 8 pm at the newly opened Brush Studio, located downtown at 50 Louis SW, Grand Rapids, MI. The show runs from March 4 to March 16 and is open for viewing during Brush Studio's business hours (Tues & Wed 10 - 5, Thurs - Sat 10 - 9).

The curators of the exhibit include Michele Bosak (Kendall College), Richard App (Richard App Gallery), Heather Duffy (UICA), Chris Protas (Fire Barn Gallery), Reb Roberts (Sanctuary Folk Art), and Mike Coleman. This all-star group has chosen fifteen artists who represent what they consider most exciting about contemporary painting in West Michigan.

"After working for a decade on the lakeshore, I've spent the past three years in the NYC art world. When I come back to Michigan and see the work that's inspired me for years, well it made me want to put together a showcase that honors some of the amazing talent in the area," says Coleman. "Collaborating with the area's top curators is a bonus."

On Wednesday March 16th, from 6 to 8 pm. there will be a discussion among a panel of curators, artists, and special guests concerning contemporary painting in West Michigan. The winners of three Purchase Awards will also be announced. Three local businesses have each pledged to purchase one of the artworks in the pop-up show to add to their collections.

"It's a great opportunity to discover new pieces, from a group chosen by professionals who I respect. I can't think of a better situation for adding to my collection," said Randy Smith of Michigan Rag in Grand Haven, who has been collecting local artists for years.

Among the artists represented are Jeff Kraus, Elizabeth Ivy Hawkins, Rick Beerhorst, Tim Kurtz, Tyler Loftis, Katie Moore, Maggie Bandstra, Adam Dahlstrom, Nora Faber, and Keemo.

6 CURATORS - 15 ARTISTS - 3 PURCHASE AWARDS

Opening reception - Friday March 4th, 6 to 8 pm @ Brush Studio 50 Louis SW