

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2009

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ARTS AT THE AIRPORT: NEW WINTER FLYING SOLO SERIES

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The winter installment of the art showcase at Nashville International Airport (BNA) opened Dec. 6 and will run through Feb. 28.

The Flying Solo series gives talented local artists an opportunity to display their work at BNA.

“Nashville International Airport is fortunate to have such talented artists display their work,” said Raul Regalado, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority. “The Arts at the Airport program is an excellent way to bring the Nashville Airports Experience to passengers, partners and employees.”

The winter 2010 Flying Solo series artists are Bonnie Gravette and Audry Deal, who join three previously featured artists, Justin Terry, Diana Johnson Wiles and John Donovan. Images of selected works are available online at <http://flynashville.com/newsroom/photos.aspx>.

Audry Deal

Art Case at Concourse C/D Meeter-Greeter Area

Deal is a ceramics and mixed-media artist whose work focuses on plant forms and problems facing botanical ecosystems. Deal is a native of Franklin, Tenn., and has had her art exhibited in the United States and in Germany. Deal has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramic studio arts from the Ohio State University. She is currently teaching at Vanderbilt’s Sarratt Art Studios, The Renaissance Center and Watkins College of Art, Design and Film.

“My broader goal is to convey the interconnectedness of the natural world in which the problems affecting one species are indicative of larger environmental issues to be faced by other organisms,” Deal said.

Bonnie Gravette

Concourse C

Gravette, a native of Memphis, Tenn., attended Memphis College of Art to study photography, drawing and painting. Gravette graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in painting. Gravette’s work can be viewed at the law firm Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, and at the Uptown Square

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Apartments in Memphis. She has shown her work in more than 20 galleries throughout the Mid-South.

“There is an essence of discovery with each area of the painting I take away and reassemble. The work itself resembles an artifact, revealing something new with each layer,” Gravette said.

Justin Terry

Ticketing Lobby North

Terry was born in Knoxville, Tenn., grew up in Nashville and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado. In 2009, he completed a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting, as well as a Master of Science degree in theory, criticism, and history of art, design and architecture from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. His two 8-foot-by-6.5-foot paintings for the airport are a continuation of an abstract series he began in 2007 called “The Daily Series” and are his largest works.

“In this abstract body of work, the material qualities of paint are exploited to create a surface built up from movement over time,” Terry said. “Each painting’s title comes from the date on which it is completed, thus producing a meditative gesture toward the anonymous day.”

Diana Johnson Wiles

Global Connections, Ancient Influences – Ticketing Lobby South

Wiles spent 30 years as a museum exhibit producer and designer. Reflecting that career, her art pieces are created to interpret global cultures and their relationships with one another and with nature. With more than 40 clients ranging from the Smithsonian to various state museums, art museums and European galleries, she has worked with all media associated with exhibit production since 1973. After her retirement from the museum field in 2004, she began working as a full-time artist.

“When I begin a piece, my first concern is the narrative I want to convey. After establishing the story through sketches and narrative writing, I focus on integrating architectural elements or found objects with hand-cut glass, tile and wood in the final piece. This process can take several days as I continue to allow narrative into the work and finally to take over the work,” Wiles said.

John Donovan

Art Case at Concourse A/B Meeter-Greeter Area – Myth

Donovan is an assistant professor in the art department at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches 3-D design. Clay has remained his material of choice for most of his artistic career. There is a sense of playfulness in his work which belies the often grim underlying notions being explored. Donovan’s art has been exhibited nationally

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and is represented by LeMieux Galleries in New Orleans and Zeitgeist Gallery in Nashville

“I am fascinated by cultural history and how clay has contributed to creating and recording that history. By blending ancient and contemporary themes, I call attention to the role art once played in human history, and how that role has changed in our contemporary culture,” Donovan said.

Concourse A Cases

Prints from Goldsmith Press and Rare Type Collection

The Goldsmith Press and Rare Type Collection, located on the campus of Austin Peay State University, is a unique letterpress facility that includes 60,000 hand-carved wood letters, antique printing presses, papermaking materials and bindery equipment.

In 1997, the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts and the Department of Art at Austin Peay State University purchased a rare collection of wood type and poster-printing equipment. The retired print shop was transported to Tennessee, refurbished and reinstated as the Goldsmith Press and Rare Type Collection. The repurposed letterpress studio was dedicated to Arthur Goldsmith —librarian, bibliophile and longtime Clarksville resident. The Goldsmith Press was established to create an interdisciplinary self-publishing facility on the campus of Austin Peay for students, faculty, visiting artists and community members.

Arts at the Airport

Working closely with the 15-member Arts at the Airport Foundation Board, the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority showcases the region’s visual and performing arts through its Arts at the Airport program, which receives some funding from the Tennessee Arts Commission. The Flying Solo series is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Arts Commission. The award-winning Arts at the Airport program reviews and presents works by local, regional and national artists for the enjoyment and enrichment of Nashville International Airport’s (BNA) and John C. Tune Airport’s (JWN) passengers and visitors. In addition to visual art, Arts at the Airport includes music since it is an integral part of Nashville. The arts come alive daily with musical performances on stages throughout BNA’s passenger terminal.

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