



BUTTONWOOD
ARTSPACE

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Press Release

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ARTISTS USE ALL THEIR SENSES TO BENEFIT

KATE WINSLETT'S AUTISM CHARITY: GOLDEN HAT FOUNDATION

A Kansas City gallery, Buttonwood Art Space, aims to raise awareness of autism and its rising numbers in the U.S.A. through artworks exploring textures, visual and sensory expressions. Net sales will benefit an international charity, Golden Hat Foundation, started by actress Kate Winslet. Smart phone accessible audio or video recordings accompany each artwork adding another dimension to the works.

KANSAS CITY, MO: Local mid-town art gallery, Buttonwood Art Space, will host "**Sensory Overload**", an art show February 7 – March 28, 2014. Buttonwood, located at 3013 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64108, announces in conjunction with the exhibit, a First Friday Art Evening March 7th, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. "This show, our focus is on the 1 in 55 children with an autism spectrum disorder in the United States, many of whom find normal social communication difficult. The **Sensory Overload** exhibition features artworks created to explore textures, visual and sensory expression. We are hoping the art selections will communicate in unique ways and on many levels, says Gallery Manager, Kathy Drungilas."

Net sales will benefit The Golden Hat Foundation (goldenhatfoundation.org), an international charity founded by actress Kate Winslet committed to honoring the intellectual capabilities of

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those challenged with autism. A representative from the foundation will attend the event and share their mission. Several pieces in the gallery have been created by individuals with autism, including Iris Grace, a four-year old artist from Britain. Iris Grace has extraordinary, impressionistic art skills. Her website is www.IrisGracePainting.com.

There will be several works by featured artist Jennifer Maestre, well-known on the East Coast as a sculptor working with colored pencils, (www.JenniferMaestre.com); video pieces by Turkish artist, Erdal Inci, sculpture by Jim Adams along with many local and regional artists. The First Friday Reception will give visitors an opportunity meet local artists, see and experience stimulating artworks, create artwork and includes a silent auction of selected works by autistic students from Shawnee Mission South and Iris Grace canvas prints. Pre-event art purchases are encouraged and may be arranged by contacting the gallery. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm or by appointment 816-285-9040.

In conjunction with the reception, a 6:00 PM Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will celebrate the recent expansion of Buttonwood's office and gallery space. An additional 3,500 square feet has been added with the acquisition and improvement of the former EB Bar. Complimentary appetizers, wine and beer, free parking is available on street and r!kc parking lot across from the gallery.

Buttonwood Art Space was founded by Jon and Wendy McGraw as longtime supporters of the arts in Kansas City and owners of Buttonwood Financial Group, which underwrites the Art Space. The McGraw's purchased the Buttonwood building in 2005 to house their wealth management financial advising firm, and opened the gallery as a place for local and regional artists to exhibit and sell their works.

If you would like additional information or images please contact Kathy Drungilas at (816)285-9040 or Kathy@ButtonwoodArtSpace.com or visit on the web at www.buttonwoodartspace.com.

List of participating artists:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Jennifer Maestre | Maynard, MD |
| Erdal Inci | Instabul, Turkey |
| John Puffer | Vincennes, IN |
| Roger Spohn | Baldwin City, KS |
| Debbie Wagner | Bennington, KS |
| Erin Lavin | Gardner, KS |
| Jamie Lavin | Gardner, KS |
| Leslie Campbell | Lawrence KS |
| Paul Chaussee | McLouth, KS |
| Stacy Krieg | Mission, KS |
| Sharon Rodriguez | Olathe, KS |
| Susan Righter | Olathe, KS |
| Julie Blichmann | Oskaloosa, KS |
| David Newsome | Overland Park, KS |
| Jenny Bauman | Overland Park, KS |
| Kimbell McCurry | Overland Park, KS |
| Rene Carrillo | Overland Park, KS |
| Susan Wilson | Overland Park, KS |
| Ben Gasser | Overland Park KS |
| Kathy Drungilas | Prairie Village, KS |
| Marla Craven | Prairie Village, KS |
| Baya Clare | Saint Paul, MN |
| Joe Dimino | Belton, MO |
| Inga Vereshchagina | Grandview, MO |
| Kathryn Krouse | Kansas City, MO |
| Natosha Keefer | Kansas City, MO |
| Rebecca Tombaugh | Kansas City, MO |
| Winnie Davis | Kansas City, MO |
| Rhoda Powers | Parkville, MO |
| Daniel Coonfield | Vinita, OK |
| Jim Adams | Houston, TX |

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