



BUTTONWOOD ART SPACE
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Press Release

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ART PURCHASES HELP SAVE THE VANISHING PRAIRIE

KANSAS CITY, MO, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015: The opening of the 7th Annual Visions of the Flint Hills Benefit and Sale is set for First Friday, October 2, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at the Buttonwood Art Space, 3013 Main, Kansas City, Missouri. The gallery exhibition includes a 153 artworks by 58 artists all derived from and inspired by the Flint Hills of Kansas and the Great Plains. Once covering over 750 million acres, the Flint Hills represent the last expanse of intact tallgrass prairie in the nation and the best opportunity for sustained preservation of this unique habitat that once covered the Great Plains.

Purchases of art during this exhibit will benefit the research education and preservation of this unique ecosystem. A portion of the sale price compensates the artists for their beautiful art with the remainder going to the Friends of Konza Prairie organization as a charitable donation.

The Visions of the Flint Hills Benefit and Sale runs from October 2nd through November 27th, 2015, and net proceeds from the event will benefit the Friends of the Konza Prairie, a non-profit organization. Located in the Flint Hills of northeastern Kansas, approximately six miles south of the City of Manhattan, the Konza Prairie Biological Station is an 8,600-acre native tallgrass prairie preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Kansas State University (KSU). Operated as a field research station by the K-State Division of Biology, Konza Prairie is dedicated to a three-fold mission of long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation. Diane Barker, current President of Friends of Konza Prairie, states, "That three-fold mission of research, education, and conservation is vitally important, but you can't really understand the passion that drives those activities until you see the art the Flint Hills inspires. When an artist hauls canvas, paint and an easel out to paint a stretch of grass and sky, an intimacy is created that

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takes on a life of its own. When a photographer chases a fire at night to catch the bright necklace circling a hill, that devotion to capturing how people relate to their land enriches our understanding. This is a great show because it celebrates not only beauty but an enduring dependence all people have on the place that shelters and feeds them. Come celebrate this unique landscape and help us protect it for future generations.”

Meet participating artists at the Opening Reception on Friday, October 2, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Buttonwood Art Space, 3013 Main, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Sponsors of the show include: Meadowlark Hills, The Trust Company, Briggs Auto, Burnett Automotive, Community First National Bank, Ladybird Diner, Little Apple Toyota Honda, Blueville Nursery, Civic Plus, Tallgrass Brewing Co., all located in Manhattan, Kansas and The Nature Conservancy.

Background Information:

Friends of the Konza Prairie is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the support of the Konza Prairie. For more information on the Friends of the Konza Prairie, please visit <http://keep.konza.ksu.edu/about>.

Buttonwood Art Space was founded by Jon and Wendy McGraw as longtime supporters of the arts in the Kansas City region and owners of Buttonwood Financial Group, which underwrites the Art Space. The McGraw's purchased the Buttonwood building in 2005, and then they added the gallery as a place for local and regional artists to share their works. A recent expansion doubled the size of the gallery to 7,500 sq. ft. A portion of all sales go to local and regional charities. Background information on the Flint Hills on the web at www.VisionsOfTheFlintHills.org or www.ButtonwoodArtSpace.com.

Buttonwood Art Space is underwritten by Buttonwood Financial Group, an independent wealth management firm based in Kansas City, Missouri, working closely with individuals and families to simplify the complexity that comes with wealth. The firm serves as a Family CFO, coordinating and integrating tax, insurance, estate planning, investments, cash flow, retirement, education, and business strategies to achieve clients' specific goals.

If you would like additional information or images of artworks, you may contact Jon McGraw, Buttonwood Art Space, at 816-285-9040 or Jon@ButtonwoodArtSpace.com.

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