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Morean Arts Center Starts off 2022 with a Bang

From Abstract Works to Portraits: Opening Friday, January 14

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – The galleries at the Morean Arts Center will be filled to the brim this month, celebrating everything from abstract painting, ceramics, portrait photography, children’s art and more with six individual exhibitions on view beginning Friday, January 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

BEING SEEN celebrates the genre of the photographic portrait, whether it’s a selfie, a candid, or a composed studio shot. Nearly 250 entries were submitted, narrowed down to 32 works by 26 artists from 13 states by famed photographer Gregory Heisler.

“You have before you an exceptionally strong group of portraits; they are as unique as the artists who made them. What all the images share, though, is a deep love of the humanity of their subjects, who may be passive and unaware of the photographer, performing for the photographer (and us), collaborating with the photographer yet remaining partially hidden, or portraits (possibly self-portraits) where the subject is not only being seen, but is seeing us as well.” Stated Heisler.

Photography fans will recognize Heisler’s name (and work) from his long list of accomplishments including numerous awards and recognitions and is perhaps best known for his more than 70 cover portraits for Time magazine.

The following three shows focus on abstract art, albeit using different mediums and narratives, the works still utilize a visual language of shape, color, and form to create unique compositions.

New Retro features works by three artists who showcase a timeless quality that is colorful and engaging with a “mid-century modern” feel in a variety of mediums. Paintings by Jessica McCormick, mixed media work by Susan Peloubet and ceramics by Rebecca Zweibel will be on display at the Morean Arts Center.

Rootman: Expressions of Self features paintings by a self-taught artist, Frederick Woods, a.k.a. Rootman. Influenced by the Old Masters’ techniques Rootman combines different styles with a modern twist to create a story on canvas. Using vibrant colors, bold subjects, and different subject matters, Rootman’s intent is to create artwork that connects with the viewer’s soul on a spiritual level.

Making Marks: Students of Kerry Didday is a wonderful display of works created during an intensive workshop held at the Morean Arts Center last Fall titled “Creative Mark Making”. One painting was chosen from each of 11 participants taught by Kerry Didday, based on Steven Aimone’s book, “Expressive Drawings”. Didday guided his students through a freeform and abstract approach to their work creating richly satisfying compositions.

The Morean Arts Center is also proud to feature works by the artistic youth in our region. Working with Pinellas County Public Schools, Arts4All Florida coordinates a statewide *My Art My Way* artist in residence program for students with and without disabilities in public schools. Teaching artist, Yarrow Ries, taught visual arts lessons at the respective school for seven hours over the past few months.

Student artists from Dunedin Middle School will showcase their work based on the lessons learned during the residency. The artwork focused on respecting the earth and that of sustainability and is entitled ***“The World, Let’s Make it Better Together!”***.

The **Word & Image** program, a partnership with Morean Arts Center and Pinellas County Public Schools in its 24th year will open its Elementary School Exhibition titled ***The Most Magnificent Thing*** featuring 75 artists from 32 schools around the county.

For more information on events and classes, please visit MoreanArtsCenter.org or call 727.822.7872.

Morean Arts Center is free and open to the public Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. CLOSED on Sundays.

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About the Morean Arts Center:

The Morean Arts Center, with roots dating back to 1917 as the Art Club of St. Petersburg, focuses on an innovative, community-oriented approach to art and art education. The mission of the Morean Arts Center is to connect people with art and to contribute to the economic development of the region. Operating under the Morean Arts Center includes the Chihuly Collection, Morean Glass Studio and the Morean Center for Clay.