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Arts Council to open its new Fresh Gallery - A Collective of Fine Art & Craft on April 3

After almost seven months of waiting while the building was being renovated, the Springfield Regional Arts Council will open its new gallery April 3rd in conjunction with First Friday Art Walk. Called Fresh - A Collective of Fine Art & Craft, the gallery is located at the S.W. Corner of Campbell and Walnut in the former Corner Printing building. Hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. On First Fridays, the gallery will be open until 10:00 p.m.

For the month of April, two member artists have been selected as featured artists: Bruce Burnaugh, a sculptor, and Carol Penprase who does fiber collages. Burnaugh, a stone sculptor, has lived in the Springfield area for fifteen years. In 1990 he travelled to Pietrasanta, Italy for a month as a teacher's assistant in exchange for help with a class working on large marble pieces. In 1991, he founded Rox Stoneworks in Lake Elsinore, California, where he finished granite countertops and other pieces for clients including baseball star Barry Bonds, Wolfgang Puck's Spago, and for Barbie Benton's home at Starwood in Aspen, Co. In 1993, Bruce moved Rox Stoneworks to Ozark, Missouri where he worked on everything from a large table for Kenny Rogers to the restrooms at Lander's Theatre. During that time, Rox did work appearing in Architectural Digest and 417 Magazine which named his "Best bathroom ever" which he designed for Dr. and Mrs. Carl Price.

Carol Penprase, a graduate of Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, concentrated on pottery early in her career. In recent years, she has explored combining traditional art forms with found objects or by using non-art materials in her work. She uses embroidery to mesh abstract surface designs with forms derived from a variety of sources ranging from cast-off automobile parts to beads and mirrors. An eclectic artist interested in creating art that incorporates found and recycled objects, she has exhibited works in Michigan and Missouri ranging from hand-built clay items to digital pieces that are a combination of images and actual computer parts. "Having never met a medium or technique that I didn't like my goal is to combine them all using fabric as a base medium," she says.

Fresh will be run by member artists who have signed contracts with the Arts Council. Those juried in for gallery membership, representing a wide range of artistic mediums, are: Dolores Bauer, Janice Brueggemann, Bruce Burnaugh, Stephanie Cramer, Holly Elkins, Alicia Farris, Clarissa French, Mary Hamilton, Joy Hyde, Ann Meese, Jeanie Morris, Angel Nahon, Carol Penprase, Kevin Richardson, Peggy Thatch Sibley, Sandy Strother, Denene Taliaferro, Karla Breeding Trammell, Sharon Warren and Elaine Willig.

All artists will take turns monitoring the gallery one day a month, and have formed committees to take charge of exhibition layouts, hanging operations, publicity and promotion, cleaning and maintenance.

Says Sandra CH Smith, executive director of the Arts Council, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our local artists to share in the gallery experience, giving them a chance to sell their artwork. The Arts Council is charging members a quarterly membership fee and a nominal commission on sale of works just to cover rent, utilities and insurance. We are grateful to a generous donor who is helping us get it open and we are hoping the gallery will be able to stand on its own before too long."

For more information about Fresh, contact the Arts Council, 417-862-(ARTS)2787 or info@SpringfieldArts.org