



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sarah Paris

(828) 989-5330

sarahrparis@yahoo.com

www.artstroll.org

Announcing the Downtown Lincolnton Art Stroll: Over 70 Artists in 15 Locations on One Special Night

Lincolnton, NC (December 12, 2008) – The **Downtown Lincolnton Art Stroll** will be held on Friday, January 23rd, 2009 from 5:30-9:00PM and will showcase the artwork of over 70 professional and local artists in 15 venues all located in beautiful, downtown Lincolnton. The concept of the Art Stroll involves the transformation of downtown Lincolnton storefronts into 15 art galleries on one special night with everyone working together toward a common goal. The event is free with maps of the locations available for art enthusiasts and downtown supporters to navigate by foot.

The **Downtown Lincolnton Art Stroll** is a collaborative effort comprised of professional and local artists, downtown business and property owners, and select city and county agencies. According to participating artist and Art Stroll volunteer Karen Banker: “What makes this event so unique is that no one organization or individual “owns” the event, yet each organization and individual is responsible for its collaborative success in creating a lively, safe, and enjoyable community event in our beloved downtown.”

Each business, agency and/or property owner is paired with a participating artist(s) to develop their own venue and participate in publicity efforts as part of the **Downtown Lincolnton Art Stroll**. Refreshments and live music are planned for various locations. The types of artwork on display include original

paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, and mixed media; pottery; fine art photography; woodturning; and sculpture.

Many of the participating artists have long and distinguished careers. Collectively their work:

- Has been exhibited at the Mint Museum (Charlotte), the Lannon Foundation (Palm Beach), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Miami), Art Basel-Miami, NoDa Arts District, the Haen Gallery (Asheville) and the American Crafts Council Show (Baltimore).
- Is in notable private collections in New York, Dallas, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Charlotte, Detroit, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Austria, South Africa, and Australia.
- Is in multiple private collections including Former President Jimmy Carter's.
- Is in permanent collections with Bank of America, Rauch Industries, the Mecklenburg Courthouse, and Wachovia.

Says Sarah Paris, a volunteer helping to publicize the event, "I am thrilled to see an event like the Art Stroll in our community, because I don't think people realize the depth of artistic talent in this county. It's a great opportunity to see the arts and meet these accomplished artists that are part of Lincoln County while showcasing our beautiful and historic downtown."

"The Art Stroll concept began to take shape from a desire to create an event that would expose all types of people, young and old, to new ideas, new people, and a new way to have fun. Art is proven to pull people together," says Mary Whisonant, one of the participating artists, an Art Stroll volunteer, and longtime advocate of the arts in Lincoln County. "The people of Lincoln County are looking for something new to do. The Art Stroll gives everyone from the west end of the county to Denver and beyond a centralized place to gather for lively, fun and free family entertainment."

The Art Stroll is no longer accepting additional artists or locations for the January event.

Anyone interested in participating in future Art Strolls can email info@artstroll.org. Interested parties are encouraged to attend as "Art Strollers" in support of the much anticipated event.

A list of participating artists and venues follows, and is also available on our website, www.artstroll.org, along with details of the event.

Confirmed, participating artists include:

Karen Banker
Nick Batounis
Libby Baxter
Paula Bell
Laurie Bostian
Ginny H. Boyd
Lynne Brown
Jennifer Childers
Renee Clemmons
Lydia Collier
Hal Dedmond
Lynn Dermott
Wendy Edwards
Kimbrell Frazier
Richard Gilbert
Ann Godley
Corine Guseman
Heidi Heavner
Karen Hinkle
Gerald Johnson
Angela Van Johnston
Peggy Lafferty
Gary Lee
Rosemary Leonard
Charles Lisk
Gail Little
Katie Wood McCloy
Raine Middleton
Don Olsen
Ewa Powell
Carol Preston
Max Schrone
Dene Scott Smith
Zac Vinson
Mary Whisonant
Kae Wright
8 LEDA Art Invitational Fine Art Photographers
25 Lincoln County Amateur Photographers

Confirmed, participating locations include:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
The Last Picasso
Cochrane Gallery
Carolina Mills Gallery
Lincoln Economic Development Association
(LEDA)
Southern Charm Winery
Law Offices of John O. Lafferty
Rising Sun Pottery
Rusty's
Classic Art & Framing
Downtown Development Association (DDA)
The Personal Artist
Ink to Go / Integrity Computers
Lincoln-Lincolnton Chamber of Commerce
36th Street Bakery & Café

#

The **Downtown Lincolnton Art Stroll** is a collaborative effort comprised of professional and local artists, downtown business and property owners, and select city and county agencies. No single organization is in charge and everyone participating is responsible for the event's success.