



NEWS RELEASE:

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Art Building Art: Works by Wally Dreyer
Works of Popular Local Artist Exhibited to Raise Funds for Hermitage Visual Arts School

Norfolk, VA –*Art Building Art* celebrates the work of Wally Dreyer through a myriad of his pieces including photographs, watercolors, and prints. The exhibition will be on display at the Hermitage from September 4th through October 9th. A free public opening reception will be held on September 3rd, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Hermitage Museum & Gardens.

From the time Wally Dreyer came to Norfolk, the growth of art was his highest priority. Wally's dream became a reality through his ability to teach art to others. A former art professor at Old Dominion University, Wally held his studio at the Hermitage Visual Arts School and taught courses in photography and printmaking to high school juniors and seniors in conjunction with Norfolk's public schools Summer Enrichment Program. He continued to teach and produce art until his death in 1993.

In conjunction with the exhibition, silent and live auctions will be held providing a wonderful chance to take home Wally's art. The auction will feature over 100 works from Wally's Hermitage studio that have not been exhibited in fifteen years. All proceeds from the sale will launch fundraising efforts for the renovation of the Visual Arts School. The Visual Arts School played a vital role in Wally Dreyer's life; its revitalization and expansion brings the realization of his dream, as well as many others' to fruition.

The Visual Arts School, housed in what was the Sloane family horse and cow stable, began instructional classes in 1949. At present day, the school remains loyal to the original mission offering courses to the community. Five sessions of adult classes are held throughout the year in mixed media, photography, and ceramics. In the months of July and August the school runs seven, weeklong programs for children, stimulating minds through the education and the production of art. Growing demand at the Visual Arts School has brought about the need for renovations and improvements to expand program opportunities.

For additional information on the *Art Building Art: Works by Wally Dreyer* contact Kate Gebler, Public Programs Manager, at 757-423-205 x 207 or kg@thfm.org.

The Hermitage offers 45-minute guided tours, on the hour, of fifteen galleries filled with the Sloane family world-wide art collection, furniture, and history in this Norfolk historic home. The Visual Arts School houses classrooms, a complete ceramics studio, and darkroom photography facilities. Open daily 10-5, Sundays 1-5-closed Wednesdays. Free for Museum Members, children under 6, and Active Duty military. Admission: \$5 for Adults, \$2 for ages 6-18, and \$3 for students. For more information on the museum and membership offerings call 757-423-2052 or visit www.thfm.org.

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For high resolution images contact Matt Serino, Marketing Manager, at 757-423-2052 x 208 or ms@thfm.org.