

**December 3, 2014**

**For Immediate Release**

**PR Contact: Myken Pullins, 614.225.0980**

[pullinsm@southeastinc.com](mailto:pullinsm@southeastinc.com)

# **Fresh A.I.R. Gallery**

Presents

## ***Finding My Way***

Artwork Richard Duarte Brown

*(digital images available upon request)*

Columbus, Ohio – 43215, Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Recovery) Finding My Way, artwork by Richard Duarte Brown.

**Please join us for the artist’s opening reception on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located at 131 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 and our hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The exhibition will run until January 30, 2014.**

The focus of Duarte’s show is his growing desire to connect with the family of mankind. Duarte abandoned by his father and confronted with the needs of his mother grew up quickly; helping her parent his four younger siblings. “Living with mental illness and substance abuse was a normal way of life says Duarte. By the time I was thirteen. I was truant from school and drank alcohol to fit in.” One of his five older siblings Darnell moved to Ohio with a scholarship award to attend the Columbus College of Art and Design.

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After a year Duarte moved in with him to work on his dream to find wealth as a fine artist with hopes of fixing his family.

Duarte paints from a place that probes intense relational desires of the heart with bursting and vibrant colors using various texture derived on mixed media surfaces that communicate his cry for life. Duarte feels compelled to provide outlets for teenagers to have places to create dream through community spaces. Duarte has spent the last thirty years partnering with GCAC, Ohio Alliance for Arts and Education, Short Stop, Transit arts, and Central Community House and many others places as a Teaching Artist. Duarte was honored with the Art Educator award from GCAC in 2013. Duarte was chosen to be Key note speaker for OAEA in 2014. Duarte partners with community leaders to create healthy environments for young people to grow.

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's mission is to exhibit the works of these individuals affected by mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Through art, we educate the community and work to break down the stigma of mental illness by bringing focus to the artistic vision. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is operated by Southeast Inc. Southeast Inc. is a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare and homeless services that has been serving Columbus since 1978 and five surrounding counties. Southeast's telephone number is (614) 225-0980 or Fax (614) 225-0986 or visit <http://www.southeastinc.com/freshair>.

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