

April 24, 2014

For Immediate Release

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Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

Presents

Illness is an Illusion

Artwork by Samuel Gillis

(digital images available upon request)

Columbus, Ohio – 43215, Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Recovery) presents *Illness is an Illusion*, works by Samuel Gillis. Gillis is a classically trained artist whose work has been featured in museums and exhibitions including the National Museum of Mexican Art, John G. Shedd Aquarium and River East Art Center. Gillis is based out of Chicago and now resides in Indiana. Sam’s paintings are part of international collections in Spain, Italy, New York, Guatemala and San Francisco. Gillis’ work can be found on his website at www.gillisfineart.com.

Please join us for the artist’s opening reception on Wednesday, May 14, 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 August 1, 2014.

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Gillis states “When I was 22 I had a drug induced psychotic break. Reality stopped having any meaning and for a few days there, I felt like everything I’d been experiencing in my life until that moment suddenly came rushing out in vividly artistic psychedelic animations. When I sank back into consciousness, I was surprised to find out my “real” world no longer existed. I had to rebuild. From scratch. So I made a painting. And then another one. And another one. And slowly but surely, a new world emerged.”

Samuel Gillis is a very prolific artist. “I create on anything I can find. Cardboard, canvas, doors. If there’s paint and something to paint on I create. Often, I don’t even use a brush. I’ll grab a business card or a popsicle stick and get to painting. My goal as an artist is to create without judgment and let everyone see whatever they see in my work. Because art, like life, is just a matter of perception.”

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery’s mission is to exhibit the works of these individuals affected by mental illness and/or substance abuse 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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