

For Immediate Release

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Relics of Industry

COLUMBUS, OHIO (February 3, 2016) - Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Recovery) invites you to the exhibition *Relics of Industry*, Photographic Portraits of Landscapes in the Rust Belt by Brian Donald Cook.

Join us for the artist's opening reception Wednesday, February 17 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. The exhibition will run until March 25, 2016.

Brian Donald Cook is a native of Muskegon, Michigan whose photography captures portraits of landscapes in the Rust Belt. The majority of his work explores decaying industry and highlights the beauty of scenes that others might view as eyesores. Brian sees this as analogous to breaking down the stigma that surrounds mental illness. He creates much of his work to help himself combat the daily struggles of living mental illness and substance use disorders.

Brian states "After a ten year drug addiction, I am finally clean and loving sober life. My diagnosis has changed once more and I am now considered Bipolar 1, suffering from a numerical OCD as well as a mild form of Schizophrenia. After almost thirty-two years of life, I have found that photography is my direction and passion. It has replaced drugs, and created a way in which I can cope with almost any situation. During my darkest moments, art was somehow always there to keep me connected. It has been my one constant for many years, and for this I am grateful."

"My introduction to art was at a young age. My father is a very talented man; and, watching him draw and work with his hands sparked my interest early on. My love for photography stems from my grandfather, who was a hobbyist, and gave me my first 35mm camera.

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P2. Brian Donald Cook Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

I became involved in broadcast during high school, and this solidified my love of cameras. After graduation, I attended The Illinois Institute of Art, Chicago for film and editing; but, after two years my mental illness rapidly increased along with an increasing drug dependency. I dropped out of college, and my formal education ended. Since leaving Chicago, I have attempted to return to school three separate times. However, like my first attempt, it seems that the endless battle inside my head has prevented me from excelling. What I know about art is almost entirely self-taught.”

Along with his photography, Brian also creates all of his own frames. In cutting recycled glass from old window panes, creating and assembling lumber from a local sawmill, he makes each of his pieces unique, and further advances the meaning of his images.

2 openings 1 night! Top Downtown Galleries Host Collaborative Opening. Join us for Brian D. Cook's opening reception February 17 at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery and stop by our new neighbor the Mac Worthington Gallery (138 N. High Street) for a collective gallery experience!

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery met a milestone in 2014 by celebrating 10 years as a self-sustaining nonprofit art gallery with a mission to exhibit the works of individuals affected by mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Our mission is through art, we educate the community and work to break down the stigma of mental illness and/or substance use disorders by bringing focus to the artistic vision. Since opening our gallery doors in September 2004, Fresh A.I.R. Gallery has shown 60 exhibitions, displaying the artwork of over 200 artists and sold more than 250 pieces of artwork totaling over \$60,000. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery does not accept any commission for art sold through the gallery. All proceeds from sold work go directly to the artists to help them establish their careers. Many exhibits demonstrate the courage and struggles of the artists as they combat stigma and address social issues.

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In 2014 Vital Companies produced a video about Fresh A.I.R. Gallery:

<http://youtu.be/Vcn-SnOmYHk>

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is a project of Southeast Healthcare Services, a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare and homeless services that has been serving Columbus since 1978 and six surrounding counties. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located downtown at 131 N. High Street Columbus, Ohio. Our hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's hotline is 614-744-8110. Visit our website at www.southeastinc.com.

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