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For Immediate Release

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

Presents

### **I WOKE UP**

Columbus, Ohio (43215) – Fresh A.I.R. Gallery presents *I Woke Up* an exhibition featuring the work Columbus artist David Leonard.

Please join us for an opening reception on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. *I Woke Up* will be on view at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery from July 19, 2017 through August 25, 2017. David will deliver an artist's talk on the final day of the exhibition from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

David has struggled with alcohol and drugs since he was a teenager, but in 2015, admitted that he had a problem and sought help. Although he has no formal arts training, art has become an important part of his recovery from addiction.

David creates mixed media pieces using found objects, such as discarded car and computer parts. For him, there is something therapeutic about the process of finding and storing these materials, and eventually creating something new from something old and broken.

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*P. 2 / Woke Up*

The subject matter of most of David's artwork - robots - is particularly significant. "When I was drinking, my life became very 'robotic': Every day was the same, and there was no end in sight," David writes in his artist's statement. "The robots are a reminder of who I was, how far I've come, and who I am today."

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Recovery) is a project of Southeast Healthcare Services. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's mission is to exhibit the work by individuals affected by mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Through art, we educate the community and work to break down the stigma by bringing focus to the artist vision. Southeast is a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare and homeless services that has been serving Columbus since 1978 and is in eight Ohio counties. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located downtown at 131 N. High Street in Columbus, Ohio. Our hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's hotline is 614-744-8110. [www.southeastinc.com](http://www.southeastinc.com).

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