



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbus, Ohio 43215 – Fresh A.I.R. Gallery present a virtual exhibition called *Trust the Process*. Visit our website to be fully immersed in a visual art and audio clips experience from the exhibition. <https://southeasthc.org/services/freshairgallery/trust-the-process-exhibit/>

In recent decades, stringent drug policies have helped cause the U.S. prison population to swell to more than 2 million. Recognizing the potential of art to shed light on issues surrounding drugs and incarceration, this year, Fresh A.I.R. Gallery has sought artwork by currently and formerly incarcerated individuals whose lives have been affected by substance use. Select pieces were to be featured in a group exhibition at the gallery in July 2020. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered these plans, both temporarily closing the physical Fresh A.I.R. Gallery space and making it more difficult for incarcerated artists to obtain needed art supplies and submit their work. We have decided to postpone the full exhibition until these issues can be addressed.

In the interim, we are pleased to highlight the artwork of the show's co-curator, Aimee Wissman, along with that of returned artists Whitney Johnson and Jayme Santini. The work of currently incarcerated artists Michael and John, who were able to submit their work to us, is also included.

Trust the Process Co-Curator Aimee Wissman serves on the steering team of the Ohio Prison Arts Connection and is the creator of the Returning Artists Guild along with Kamisha Thomas. Since Wissman's release from prison she has networked relentlessly, and built relationships with a variety of Institutions, Artists, Teachers and Activists. In her artist statement, Aimee says that she was born an artist, but grew up a junkie. Heroin was her first love and it became her life.

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Eight years into her addiction, she had a daughter and her world imploded. While she was living in her personal hell, one night changed her life forever... Read more about Aimee's story and see her artwork: https://southeasthc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/AimeeWissman_Statement.pdf

For interview opportunities with Aimee Wissman, please contact us.

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Recovery) is a project of Southeast Healthcare since 2004. The Gallery's mission is to exhibit the work by 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 and/or substance use by bringing focus to the artist vision. Partial funding for the gallery thanks to the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Southeast Healthcare is a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare, vocational 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. We are currently closed to patrons due to the COVID-19 pandemic but exhibitions can be found virtually on our website at southeasthc.org/freshair. Fresh AIR Gallery's hotline phone number is 614-744-8110.

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