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## Open House Showcases Downtown Creative Scene: First Friday February 6, 2009

January 23, 2009, Greensboro, N.C. –First Friday, a self-guided tour of the creative community in Downtown Greensboro, is scheduled for Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Downtown art galleries and studios, retail shops, and alternative arts venues will host special events, demonstrations and give visitors an opportunity to meet featured artists. Many locations will offer sales and affordable gift ideas for under \$20 in anticipation of Valentine's Day. The event is free and open to the public and is held on the First Friday of every month from 6-9pm. Further information and a detailed, downloadable map on a dedicated web site, [www.downtownfridays.com](http://www.downtownfridays.com), will be available on the day of the event.

### Participating venues and featured artists for Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> include:

#### **Cheesecakes by Alex**

##### **315 S Elm St.**

The bakery is introducing a new Valentine's Cheesecake for the First Friday event---a Banana's Foster cheesecake: banana cheesecake with a graham cracker crust and vanilla wafers topped with a caramel glaze. Stop by for a sample or purchase a slice. The shop is open until 11pm on Fridays and orders will be gladly taken (Valentine's Day is February 14).

#### **Heart of Living Home Gallery**

##### **320 S. Elm St.**

The gallery will launch "Steals and Deals from the Heart." - a significant sale on local and regional artwork, fine furniture, blown glass, table top art, and handcrafted one-of-a-kind pieces priced to sell. Abundant Valentine's and wedding gift items and more.

#### **Lyndon Street Artworks**

##### **205 Lyndon St.**

Lyndon Street Artworks houses over 40 local artists' working studios: potters; painters; sculptors; film-makers; glass artists; and metal smiths. For this event, studio artist, Emmett Williams will be holding a classic nude painting demonstration on the Stage in the Lounge. This will be one of the final public shows by Williams this year.

Handcrafted metalwork jewelry by Brittany Sondberg of Copper Chameleon will be featured at the upstairs studio space. Sondberg crafts jewelry that is created using responsibly sourced precious metals, including recycled sterling silver. She offers the wearable art as gift ideas for Valentine's Day.

Cass Catlett presents art by Taylor Elkins, a Western Guilford High School senior. Both Cass and Taylor will be demo painting in the studio show. Refreshments will be served.

Handmade offering bowls made by Susan Ridenour are inspired by the Alms Bowls carried by Buddhist Monks. Also view work from Erik Beerbower, Karen Bjork Dischell, Charlotte and Erik Ström, Andrew Comstock, Kris Hohn and Lida Witherspoon.

## **Mack and Mack**

### **220 S. Elm St.**

Mack and Mack will host a Music Jam. Enjoy participating or listening to the casual jam session at this fashion design showroom. Musicians of all abilities are encouraged to bring your own instrument from drums to dijeradoo or try your hand at tickling the ivories on their baby grand piano.

## **Pat's Parcels**

### **620 S. Elm St.**

See Folk Art on display from 6-9pm. The shop is located in the Gateway Center - Third Floor, Suite 365.

## **Simple Kneads Bakery**

### **227 S. Elm St., Suite B**

The artisan bakery will be offering their European, hand made goodies including various fruit danishes and strudels, turnovers, pies, tarts and cakes along with other pastries.

## **Studio B at the Broach**

### **520 S. Elm St.**

Studio B hosts an opening reception for Renowned North Carolina Photographers. The month-long exhibit features original pieces from renowned photographers who have ties or live in North Carolina. Artists include Karen Dresser, Joanna Frazier Hudson, Terry Nelson, Justin Nixon, Todd Smith, Shelly Strider and Robert Weston.

## **The Tin Rooster**

### **602 S. Elm St.**

The Tin Rooster will feature "By the Fire", a product demonstration by local quilt maker Kathy Fetzer. Handmade, cozy, colorful quilts of all sizes and styles will be available for purchase. Kathy will be sitting by the fireplace quilting away while customers can watch and ask questions. Commissioned work can be ordered. Assorted hot teas and homemade cake will be served.

## **Winterlight Gallery and Studio**

### **410 Blandwood Ave.**

Dr. Steve Robinson and his recent oil paintings will be featured for this event at the Winterlight Gallery- home to 13 artists. Winterlight is located on the corner of Blandwood Avenue and Spring Garden Street, within walking distance of S. Elm St.

## **Yew Tree Gallery**

### **604 South Elm St.**

Yew Tree Gallery has moved to 604 South Elm Street. The gallery is home to 19 artists. Meet Chuck McLachan, a nationally known watercolorist, and view a selection of his works. A silent auction of two McLachan watercolor paintings will conclude the evening at 8:00 p.m.

Please note that additional Downtown venues may be open offering promotions and receptions.

This once-a-month, free Downtown event will continue through 2009 on every first Friday of every month from 6-9pm. The 2009 First Friday schedule is: Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec. 4.

### *About First Friday*

*First Friday is sponsored through a partnership between Downtown Greensboro Inc. and United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro to promote and encourage participation in the Downtown Greensboro arts scene.*

### *About Downtown Greensboro Inc.*

*Downtown Greensboro Incorporated was established in 1997. Our core purpose is to lead the development of downtown Greensboro as a prosperous and vibrant urban center, memorable and meaningful for those who choose to live, work, play and invest here.*