



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Downtown Open House Showcases Creative Scene: First Friday April 3, 2009

Greensboro, N.C. –The public is invited to experience Center city’s creative community for First Friday, April 3rd. First Friday is a free, self-guided tour of Downtown Greensboro’s shops, galleries and alternative art venues that participate with extended hours (until 9pm) on the first Friday of every month. First Friday in April offers specially programmed activities including live music and comedic performances, floral memory-making painting demonstrations, meet the artist receptions and belly dancing. The event is free and open to all ages. In addition to the featured venues, visitors can experience original spring treats at dozens of specialty shops and restaurants; many offering specials for the event. First Friday is an opportunity to discover our local artistic community and encourages commerce and support of locally-owned, independent businesses and non-profits located in Downtown. The event is sponsored by Downtown Greensboro Inc. and the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro.

For further updates and a downloadable map/guide, visit the First Friday Web site, www.downtownfridays.com.

PARTICIPATING FIRST FRIDAY VENUES TO DATE:

Greensboro Cultural Arts Center – 200 N. Davie St.

- **Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art** will host an opening reception from 5:30-8pm for their new exhibit, *Plane and Pedestal*. This exhibition brings the work of nine master artists in both two and three dimensional mediums. Artists include: Lin Barnhardt; Bill Brown; Chris Horney; Kenn Kotara; Mark Casey Milestone; John Nygren; Tom Suomalainen; Tim Turner; and Anthony Ulinski.
- **Greensboro Opera** will be performing favorites from Mozart, Puccini and more! Baritone Jeffrey Carlson and soprano Elena De’ Angelis with pianist Carmine Mann will entertain you in the Cultural Center atrium beginning at 7:30pm.

- **Center for Visual Artists** will be open for your Putt Putt enjoyment! Play on these artistic nine holes with a \$2 donation.
- **Troup Bellissima** will be hosting a Bellyjam beginning at 9pm in the Cultural Center's orientation room (street level). Belly dance students and teachers will perform and you're invited to join in! Bellyjam will also include a bazaar with hips scarves, veils and finger cymbals...all the fun stuff that bellydancers use.

Lyndon Street Artworks – 205 Lyndon St.

- Artist **Lida Witherspoon** will be demonstrating in the lounge painting light weight muslin summer pants with images of spring and summer.
- **Anne Marie Davis** will display a series of new coastal landscapes.
- **Kris Hohn** will present two exhibits, *Bound by Color*, a series of small watercolors which explore motion and shape. Kris will also be showing unique, hand-crafted wooden jewelry.
- At Studio T, in the upper level of Lyndon Street, view the handcrafted jewelry line, **Copper Chameleon Spring 2009 Collection**. An abundance of candy colors and airy hues to choose from that make great gift items as Mother's Day is just around the corner!
- Sneak preview a naval brass sculpture commemorating Greensboro's Bicentennial to be installed at the corner of Elm and Washington Streets created by resident artists, **Erik Beerbower** and **Brian Hibbard**.
- **Susan Ridenhour's** functional pottery is adorned in spring colors -- rich reds, beautiful blues and always something new.
- Also see paintings by **Karen Bjork Dischell** and **Charlotte and Erik Ström**.

Mack and Mack - 220 S. Elm St.

Drop-in throughout the evening to join in a Music Jam. Bring your own instrument to play or enjoy listening to music at this Fashion Design house turned music salon. All levels of experience are encouraged to attend. The two-hour jam session will end with a performance by F-Art Ensemble beginning at 7:30pm.

Mary Contrary – 227-A S. Elm St.

Ready for some flowers and sunshine after all the March rain falls? See Mary demonstrate "flower pounding," an old quilting process to capture the beauty and color of a real flower. She will show ways to preserve this art to make wonderful keepsakes for special occasions. This "anyone can do it" art is a fun way to teach young and old the beauty of their surroundings. Cider and cookies will be served. Watch an intriguing, fun (and loud) way to get rid of the doldrums of a wet March.

Simple Kneads Bakery – 227-B S. Elm St.

European-style bakery features artisanal sweet treats for spring like hot cross buns, potato knishes, spumoni cookies and caramelized onion and goat cheese galettes. Dozens of treats to try.

Studio B at the Broach– 520 S. Elm St.

Features Colombian artist, Edwin Gil, and his vibrant exhibit *Hi Paint, For Fun, For Love, For Life*. Also hear live music by Franco Londono throughout the evening. www.edwingil.com

The Honey Bun Boutique – 219 Summit Ave.

Owner, Rosalyn Womack, will show handmade and embellished designs from her own clothing line and host a truck show featuring new, handmade jewelry pieces by artist, Nichelle Latif. Sample and purchase locally made chocolate treats by Lyprel and hear live jazz by Antron Heggie.

The Tin Rooster – 602 S. Elm St.

Sue Seamon, artist turned writer turned comedian, will perform at The Tin Rooster with the humorous tales of “Letters to Lucky” a short story for the grown-up coffee table. Filled with sophisticated puns and gentle jabs, she uses over thirty different breeds of dogs to represent many personalities.

Winter Light Gallery and Art Studios – 410 Blandwood Ave

Winter Light will host a free opening reception until 9pm with Steve Clarke. His photography exhibit *Forms and Fantasies* will be featured on First Friday and throughout the month of April.

Carolina Theatre – 310 S. Greene St.

The Carolina Theatre presents Juan de Marcos & the Afro-Cuban All Stars, led by Juan de Marcos Gonzalez. The group will perform classic son montuno and danzon, Afro-Cuban jazz, swinging big band guajira, the best of the Timba, bolero and more. The ensemble hits the stage with a potent combination of driving percussion, a powerhouse horn section, piano and incomparable vocals! Doors open at 7pm; show begins at 8pm. Purchase tickets in advance by phone at 336.333.2605, online at www.carolinatheatre.com or at the door one hour prior to show time.

Additional venues may be open including many restaurants offering evening specials.

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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 is a non profit economic development organization 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. Visit www.downtowngreensboro.net for more information.

About United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro

The UAC invests in our creative community. Our mission is to inspire growth of creative expression in our community by providing strategic and financial leadership to arts organizations, artists and educators that enhances quality of life and cultivates economic vitality and educational engagement with the Arts. Our vision is for Greensboro to be nationally recognized as a vibrant center for the Arts with a community rich in creative expression. Visit www.uacARTs.org for more information.