



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2006

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'Young at Art' Exhibit Opens at St. Matthew Center for Health

"Young at Art," an exhibit of paintings by six area seniors, will open April 28 with a reception from 4–7 p.m. at St. Matthew Center for Health in Park Ridge. The reception is free and open to the public. The show features landscape and still life paintings by Robert Bearce, plus works by Norma Traise Simmons, Ruth Jensen-Rud, Evelyn Wichmann, Lorraine Fabianich and Judy Klepitsch.

Bob Bearce has lived in Park Ridge for 26 years and began painting when he retired more than 20 years ago. He studied painting under several teachers, most recently under fellow exhibitor Norma Traise Simmons. Bearce uses color boldly in his still lifes and landscapes, drawing the viewer in with intense color combined with familiar subjects.

Park Ridge resident Norma Traise Simmons studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and has been teaching at the Park Ridge Leisure Center for 22 years. All of the other exhibitors in the "Young at Art" show have studied under her. Simmons has exhibited widely in Park Ridge and other suburbs.

Ruth Jensen-Rud, also of Park Ridge, began painting when her children were small, but stopped for many years during her corporate career. She began painting again when she retired and says "the challenges, fun and comradeship make art the perfect hobby."

Evelyn Wichmann has been a resident of Norwood Park Township for more than 30 years. She began drawing at an early age and studied art in high school. She has been painting in oil for more than 25 years and has studied under a number of instructors. She paints scenes from nature, still lifes and animals.

Lorraine Fabianich began studying art after her children grew up. She says her life-long passion for people-watching, coupled with gentle nudging by her husband, led her to drawing classes at the

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Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Figurative Art League in Evanston. She also studied at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. The Park Ridge resident paints primarily in oils, but also uses pastels and acrylics.

Judy Klepitsch has been painting for more than 40 years. She attended the Art Institute of Chicago and has studied with Norma Traise Simmons for 22 years. Judy also works in wood and clay, but her favorite is painting with oils. In addition to her Park Ridge association, she is a member of the Des Plaines Art Guild.

The “Young at Art” artists are all members of the Park Ridge Art League. “Young at Art” will be on display April 28–June 28 at St. Matthew Center for Health, 1601 N. Western Avenue, Park Ridge.

St. Matthew Center for Health, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), is a skilled nursing facility offering intermediate long-term care, rehabilitation services, respite care, hospice care, and a specialized Alzheimer’s and dementia unit.

For more information, call 847/825-5531; or visit www.StMatthewCenter.org.

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