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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilton Library captures a tranquil atmosphere in October art exhibition

Wilton, CT – Nature’s tranquility will be brought inside Wilton Library with the “John Harris and William McCarthy: Water Air Earth” art exhibition opening this month. The exhibition will run from October 10 through November 8, with the artists’ reception on Friday, October 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

Harris is most interested in exploring water’s physical properties – reflection, turbidity, rhythm, pattern, that make up its unique viewing experience. McCarthy’s landscapes have evolved over the years evoking a subtle variation of light and atmosphere. Combined, their talents bring a sense of calm and peacefulness to viewers. Both artists have exhibited in countless local, regional and national shows.

Norwalk artist John Harris isolates and exaggerates forms, colors and sequences found in nature. His large scale, realist paintings take one to two months to complete, as he meticulously works to recreate various environmental complexities from photographs, memory and artistic expression. The process begins with mapping out large shapes of color on canvas then details are added. When the paint dries, more paint and glazes are added. The repetition of this careful glazing technique results in the dramatization of translucent layers - a visual effect that is conceptually harmonious with its subject: water.

Harris noted, “These organic abstractions, layers of paint and color, depict the hypnotic and fleeting display of imagery created by water.” Harris also will be exhibiting landscapes. He graduated from University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts. He is affiliated with the Center for Contemporary Printmaking and Silvermine Guild Art Center.

McCarthy, who lives in Hamden, has been painting landscapes completely from memory and imagination for more than twenty years. He does not work outside “plein air,” nor does he use photography. The images he captures on canvas are strictly his own. All of his work is

(More)

completed in a basement, first created as thumbnail sketches based on drawings he makes in a small book that is always at his side. From his sketches or ‘first thoughts’ as he refers to them, he starts laying out marks of charcoal, then the painting begins.

Remarking about his technique, McCarthy said, “My desire at this point is to create a sense of place by creating Atmosphere. The suggestion of clouds, motion in the sky, a glimpse of distant hills, the water cutting through a marsh, the relationship between the sky and the land, all blended together forming a spiritual inner space – reality, an Atmospheric Landscape.”

McCarthy’s education includes Columbus College of Art and Design and Wesleyan University.

The majority of the more than 60 paintings will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the library. The media sponsor for the exhibition is *The Wilton Bulletin*.

Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. Library hours are Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. For information and directions, visit www.wiltonlibrary.org or call 203-762-6334.

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John Harris
Disarray, oil on linen



William McCarthy
Morning Rise, oil on canvas

Caption: Wilton Library’s art exhibition this month, “John Harris & William McCarthy: Water Air Earth,” runs from October 10 through November 8. The artists’ reception is Friday, October 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; it is free and open to the public. More than 60 works will be featured by the two Connecticut artists with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the library. For information and directions: visit www.wiltonlibrary.org or call 203-762-6334. Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT; www.wiltonlibrary.org; main number: 203-762-3950.