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GLASTONBURY ART GUILD CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY Colorful Palette of Community Events Announced

Glastonbury, Conn., Jan. 24, 2012 – This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Glastonbury Art Guild, an organization dedicated to promoting art and enriching the lives of Glastonbury citizens through art. To celebrate its golden anniversary, the Guild will be rolling out a year-long range of art-related activities for Glastonbury residents – young or old, artist or appreciator – including art exhibitions, diverse art demonstrations and discussions, an expanded Glastonbury Art Walk and featuring the well-attended and nationally respected annual On-the-Green Show in September.

“To honor our golden anniversary, we are making a concerted effort to draw residents into the world of art,” says Bridget Gallagher, First Vice President and Acting President of the Glastonbury Art Guild, in announcing the non-profit’s ambitious year-long line-up. “Our anniversary-year goals are to stimulate community interest in the arts, make art accessible, and enrich and engage individuals in the creation and appreciation of art for the greater Glastonbury community. We hope that people who don’t know us very well, or who are not even aware of the Art Guild’s presence in town, will attend one or more of our planned events to get a better sense of the Glastonbury Art Guild today and the role we hope to play in the community for the next 50 years.”

Starting next month, the Art Guild will kick off its “Got Art?” symposia, a monthly series of presentations and discussions designed to encourage attendees to learn a little bit more about art and the value it brings to one’s life. These programs are open to the public. The first session, “Fleurage,” will be presented by Harry White, a working artist living in Glastonbury who is credited in the *Book of Knowledge* with inventing fleurage, a unique form of collage where nature is art, will be held at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury on Thursday, March 1, 6:30-8:00 pm. One week later, on March 8th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at Naubuc School, Ralph Acosta, an accomplished watercolorist, will exhibit his love of teaching in a presentation about the use, freedom, transparency and spontaneity of watercolors. Nationally-acclaimed artist, lecturer and teacher David Dunlop, the host and Emmy Award-winning writer of the PBS television series “Landscapes Through Time with David Dunlop,” will be featured in October. The full line-up can be found on the Art Guild’s website (www.glastonburyartguild.org/GotArt). There is no fee to attend most sessions, but donations are welcome.

Member Exhibitions will play an important role in bringing art to the community this year. The Glastonbury Art Guild members include many fine artists of national acclaim and thus the Art Guild plans to share this depth and breadth of talent with the community in a series of Member Exhibitions held both in open-space areas throughout the town and online on the Art Guild’s newly designed website. An online gallery will be launched with a visual presentation of the

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pottery of Lois Eldridge, one of Glastonbury Art Guild's founding members. New online exhibitions will be added throughout the year.

The annual Glastonbury Art Walk, co-sponsored with the Glastonbury Town Center Initiative, will take place May 4-20 in downtown Glastonbury. Featuring members who are professional artists, local merchants open their businesses as venues for this juried exhibition to stimulate interest in and broaden community exposure to the visual arts.

The golden anniversary of this year's On-the-Green Show will be held on Sept. 8 & 9 on Hubbard Green. An anticipated 175 exhibitors will come from across the country to showcase their work in this juried, outdoor art festival, which will be enhanced this year with festivities befitting a 50th anniversary. Exhibitor applications are still being accepted – the deadline is June 1st – and volunteers are needed. For more information go to <http://glastonburyartguild.org/on-the-green/>.

In an effort to expand the presence of art in our community, the Guild will also be holding several creative fundraisers. Held amidst the lovely gardens of an historic home on Main Street, the first event, "Art in Plein Air" on June 3, is designed to celebrate the beauty of spring with original works of art displayed and auctioned, complemented by a wine tasting with heavy hors d'oeuvres. An "Everything Goes for Art" town-wide tag sale is planned for the summer, and an "Artist Open Studio Tour," in which attendees get to meet local artists in their studios, is planned for the fall.

Of course, the Art Guild continues to offer art classes and workshops to suit all levels of artistic ability across all ages in a variety of media. The winter class schedule offers classes from 3-8 weeks in length and many have not yet begun. There's still time to sign up at <http://glastonburyartguild.org/art-classes/>.

Detailed information about specific events will be released as it becomes available. If you're interested in participating or volunteering, please contact us at 860.659.1196 or info@glastonburyartguild.org.

About the Glastonbury Art Guild

Founded in 1962, the Glastonbury Art Guild is a local non-profit organization dedicated to promoting art and enriching the lives of Glastonbury citizens through art. Its members include both emerging and established artists, patrons and art lovers. Its mission – to stimulate community interest in art and make art more accessible to the community at large – is accomplished through a wide-ranging program of classroom instruction, workshops, lectures, exhibitions and demonstrations. To celebrate their 50th anniversary, The Glastonbury Art Guild will be holding an expanded and enhanced series of events throughout 2012. For more information on the Art Guild and this year's line-up, call 860-659-1196 or visit www.glastonburyartguild.org.

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