



NEWS RELEASE

FUSED: Garden Gallery of Art & Metal Opens June 1st

Sculptures Inspired by Gertrude Seiberling's Paintings

June 1, 2019– Akron, Ohio – Inspired by the paintings of Gertrude Seiberling, Stan Hywet presents **FUSED: Garden Gallery of Art & Metal**, June 1 – October 1. A garden installation of fifteen one-of-a-kind metal sculptures, this outdoor exhibit complements Gertrude's paintings on display in the Manor House and is part of this year's theme, *Lasting Impressions*, a celebration of her art. Stan Hywet staff member and artist Joe Ott, and four local artists — Mike Esminger, Megan Louise Shane, Kim Thomas and Stephen Yusko — are creating the unique metal sculptures. *See artists' bios on pages 3-4.*

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is located at 714 North Portage Path, Akron, Ohio.

Each artist is designing and building three sculptures for FUSED, two of which are inspired by the paintings of Gertrude Seiberling, and featuring a weatherized aluminum reproduction of one of her works in each installation. The third piece is informed by the artist's personal vision and style. The sculptures vary in size and will be located in garden beds throughout the estate. All of the sculptures in the exhibit are for sale. The artists and their sculptures are:

Joe Ott

The whimsical metal frame on one of Joe's Gertrude-inspired pieces features sheet music and musical notes, with rose vines climbing around it, as an homage to Gertrude Seiberling's love of music. In another, the English Garden is featured in a metal lattice with metal ivy growing around and through it, and mounted in a wooden pergola-style trellis. To honor his family's heritage, Joe's third sculpture features the Scottish thistle, the national flower of Scotland.

Mike Esminger

Mike's pieces are created from steel. One of his two Gertrude-inspired pieces is about 6-7 feet wide, with a painting of the West Terrace Overlook and bench, created from a natural edge slab of wood. A third sculpture is a butterfly on a flower, standing nearly 9 feet tall.

Megan Louise Shane

Megan's Gertrude-inspired pieces stand 8 feet tall, and are created from steel. Stained glass is fused into one of her pieces, a nod to Stan Hywet's iconic windows. Megan's third piece is titled "Wild Tree Flower Wind Chime," and hangs from a tree made of stainless steel.

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Kim Thomas

All three sculptures for FUSED will be created out of iron, and at a comfortable viewing height of 5-6 feet. One of his Gertrude-inspired pieces will also include glass, and Kim's third piece is entitled "Puff Ball."

Stephen Yusko

Stephen's sculptures for FUSED are forged, machined and fabricated steel pieces, augmented with wood, glass and other materials.

FUSED is included in a self-guided "Gardens, Gate Lodge & Conservatory" admission. The estate is open 10am – 6pm, with last admission at 4:30pm. Admission is \$12 adults, 18+ and \$5 youth (ages 6-17), free, children 5 & under. Tickets may be purchased upon arrival.

FUSED: Garden Gallery of Art & Metal is presented with support from Peg's Foundation.

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FUSED: GARDEN GALLERY OF ART & SCULPTURE — ARTISTS' BIOS

Joe Ott

Akron, Ohio

joeottart.com | Instagram/facebook: @joeottart

Joe Ott is a self-taught multimedia artist. Although he specializes in metal and wood sculpture, he also works in a very wide range of other media. As Joe notes, "Exploring new media and developing new skills is exciting. When I create, I go into a piece with an idea, but let go of my expectations of how it *should* turn out. I free myself from the fear of making a 'mistake' or something not turning out the way I intended, and go with the flow of a piece. I don't think we should fear 'mistakes,' because they are necessary for the learning experience." Most of Joe's pieces are inspired by nature because "I don't believe nature makes mistakes." Nature flows, which is how Joe creates art and lives life.

Mike Esminger

Elyria, Ohio

Ironimagedesigns.com | Instagram: @steelsick

Mike has been welding for the past decade, and creates everything from three-dimensional sculptures to decorative functional and structural art. His work has an industrial appeal stemming from the environment around him, and the media he's worked on. He enjoys creating pieces out of media that others may consider scrap, and each of his one-of-a-kind pieces is marked on the bottom with his initials "M.E." He likes the challenge of new projects and large-scale sculptures.

Megan Louise Shane

Akron, Ohio

Meganshane.com | Instagram/Facebook: @meganlouishane

Megan Louise Shane is a metal sculptor, jeweler, and art enthusiast. Much of her inspiration comes from nature and Akron. She learned to weld when she was nine years old, and grew up experimenting in her father's steel fabricating shop. She was drawn to the strength and permanence of steel as an art form. Her favorite is stainless steel, because of its brilliant shine and resilience. Megan's creative process explores techniques meant to transform unloved waste and dull discarded scraps into useful and unique artifacts. Texture, light play and symbolism are prominent elements found in her work.

Kim Thomas

Seville, Ohio

Thomasironworks.com

Mr. Kim Thomas specializes in restoration and reproduction of historical masterworks in iron. Kim restored the Front Gates of Stan Hywet in 2012, He has performed large scale restoration on several iron gates made by Philadelphia Mastersmith Samuel Yellin as well as works by Edgar Brandt and Eero Saarinen and has worked on other iron work around the estate.

In 2017 Mr. Thomas was given the ACANTHUS AWARD by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, for Craftsmanship in the field of Ornamental Iron. For many years Mr. Thomas has been recognized for his 18th century reproduction ironwork by Early American Life Magazine including 2019's Directory of fine craftsmen.

Stephen Yusko

Lakewood, Ohio

Stephenyusko.com/wordpress

Instagram: @stephenyuskostudios

Stephen Yusko lives and works in Cleveland, OH, where he creates forged, machined and fabricated steel vessels, furniture and sculpture. Yusko has taught at several schools and universities, including Haystack School of Crafts in Maine, Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, and State University of New York at Purchase, where he was a Windgate Artist-in-Residence. He served on the board of the Haystack School of Crafts for nine years. Stephen has exhibited his work widely, including at the Metal Museum in Tennessee, and the Ruthin Craft Centre in Wales. He is the recipient of two Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Excellence Awards and a Cuyahoga County Creative Workforce Fellowship Award.