

Summer 2014 "Spotlight" on Robert Wright



Festival 04, 2008, 24" x 18", acrylic and collage on canvas.

[Robert Wright](#) believes the way people move reveals a great deal about the human condition. Because he is deaf, he is especially sensitive to body language and gesture; figurative motion acts as a catalyst for his artwork. He integrates a gestural, calligraphic drawing and painting style with recycled photos and text from various mass media sources. These mixed media works question society's obsession with fame and celebrity and ponders mainstream American consumer and visual cultures. More recently, Wright has been painting landscapes and portraits in a more traditional, realistic style.

Wright received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design and a Master of Arts in art education from The Ohio State University. After working for a graphic design firm as an art director for 30 years, he became an art educator in 2006. He currently teaches art at Circleville High School and lives in Lancaster.

“Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor’s Residence” is a new program created by Ohio’s First Lady Karen W. Kasich which celebrates the work of Ohio artists. The program showcases works by an Ohio artist selected by the First Lady and enhances the ongoing partnership between the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden and the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). Since 1985 the OAC has assisted in placing artwork by Ohio artists and Ohio cultural institutions in the Governor’s Residence and throughout the Governor’s offices located in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. The “Spotlight” program offers quarterly shows that highlight an artist whose work is on display at the Governor’s Residence. All Ohio artists are eligible to submit their work for consideration. Quarterly artists will be selected by Mrs. Kasich with assistance from the Ohio Arts Council. Ohio artists interested in submitting work for consideration should contact OAC Individual Artist Program Director, Ken Emerick ken.emerick@oac.state.oh.us for further details. To be eligible for the program the artist cannot be a student enrolled in a degree granting program and must be a resident of the State of Ohio.



About the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden: The house has been the official residence of ten Ohio chief executives and is a showcase of our state’s artistry, culture, industry and landscape. The Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden is a unique and historic home that represents Ohio to a diverse range of visitors. The Ohio Governor’s Residence offers a living exhibition of Ohio history, industry and craftsmanship, while the Heritage Garden strives to educate visitors on the importance of conserving and preserving the natural beauty of our state. To schedule a free tour of the residence call 614/644-7644 or residence@governor.ohio.gov



Ohio Arts Council

About the Ohio Arts Council:

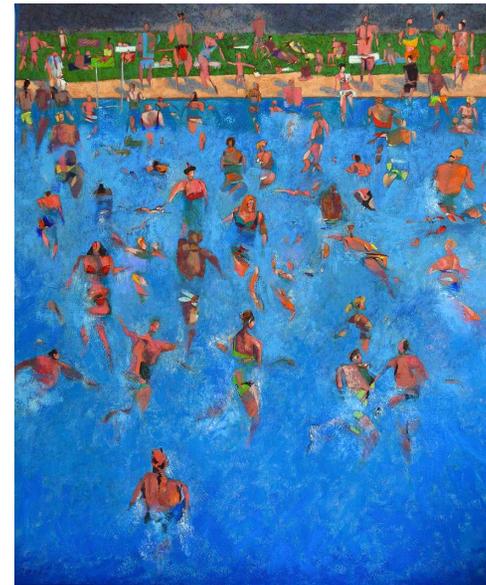
The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.



**SPOTLIGHT:FEATURED
ARTISTS AT THE OHIO
GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE**



ROBERT WRIGHT



Tiki Thunder 2, 1996, 60” x 50” acrylic on canvas

JULY 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2014



Festival 04, 2008, 24" x 18" acrylic, collage on canvas

**SPOTLIGHT: FEATURED ARTISTS AT THE
OHIO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
FEATURED WORKS BY ROBERT WRIGHT**

Purchase information: all inquiries please text 1-740-901-1638
or email robert.wright@cvcasd.com

Being a deaf artist situates **Robert Wright** in a unique experience. His deafness leaves him sensitive to body language and the implications of gesture, since he relies on visual cues. Although he can hear music with the help of hearing aids, his disability makes him look for meaning in the way people move. He prefers observing and drawing from dancers because they are less inhibited. His inner dance world is important to him, as he communicates self via calligraphic marks. He feels the way people move reflects their identities. By capturing the odd angles and juxtapositions he sees in life, he creates an abstracted world of human energy and meaning, as well as works reflecting beauty, grace, strength, balance and rhythm. Since 2000, he has prepared his canvas surfaces with collage for cultural referencing and messaging, leaving the collage exposed within the marks. This serves as a visual zeitgeist, as catalogue of place and culture. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Wright completed his M.A. in Art Education from The Ohio State University in 2006. He currently teaches Art at Circleville High School, while making art in his home studio in Lancaster. He recently rediscovered traditional realism, and has been doing portraits and landscapes in oils the past several years as a challenge and a diversion.



County Fair Candy Apples, 2010, 18" x 20" oil



Woida Sisters, 2013, 36" x 24" oil on canvas