

Contact: Carolyne Babcock
574.936.3607
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kegarise Challenges Us to Look at the World Differently

Don Kegarise, the artist, has a goal: - "to see the beauty in everything" and to make others aware of this beauty through his art. He will be the featured artist at Heartland Artists Gallery from Jan. 30 - Feb. 24.

Mesmerized by the vast expanse of flat land and large sky, Kegarise decided Indiana was a perfect place for an artist to live and capture the wonder of it all through painting. His family moved from western Pennsylvania in 1972 and he and settled in Kewanna, Indiana.

As a self-taught artist, Kegarise began drawing as a child. He was given his first oil paints at the age of 14 beginning his career in oils but has since worked with other media including; pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil, watercolors and now acrylics. His works feature landscapes, old barns, farms, vehicles and buildings. His art is scattered throughout the US, Europe and South Asia. Don's work has been in shows throughout northern Indiana, including Honeywell Center's Clark Gallery in Wabash, Diane Tesler's Annual Art Show, "Works in Progress" in Kewanna, MoonTree Gallery at The Center at Donaldson, The Village Pines in Valparaiso and Heartland Artists Gallery Juried Show in Plymouth. His art has achieved various awards, including several Best of Show and first place.

Kegarise has always had a studio in-house and at times has located in local store fronts, allowing other artists from the community to display their works. He also offers drawing and painting classes. He continually promotes art and artists and has been involved with the following groups; Pulaski County Art Assoc., Rochester Art Assoc., Indiana Arts Commission., Logansport Art Assoc., Akron Area Arts League, Heartland Artists Gallery, The Heartney, Rochester Woodcarvers, and Tippecanoe Valley Woodworkers.

Besides his paintings, Don has created promotional art for special occasions, pen and ink drawings of the state park inns for the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources and local scenes in Kewanna and Cass County.

Furniture making and woodcarving are Don's hobbies. Earlier he created a 1/12 scale model of the Cass County Dentzel Carousel from Logansport. He meticulously carved and painted 43 animals of the original likenesses. The animals carved from basswood are; giraffes, deer, horses, rams, lions, and tigers. The carousel is 46" in diameter and 24" tall and has been featured throughout northern Indiana including the Door County Festival in LaPorte to promote the original carousel.

Don Kegarise's personal philosophy is "to give back to the world more than I take". His favorite phrase taken from Dr. Wayne Dyer, "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." Kegarise challenges visitors to look at the world just a bit differently, and see the beauty in all things.

The community is invited to meet Don Kegarise, view his paintings and the miniature woodcarved carousel at the Open House Reception, Sun., Feb. 4 from 1-4. The Gallery is located at 101 North Michigan St. downtown Plymouth. Join us with a heart for art!

The Gallery's mission is to support area artists; to bring and to teach the arts to our community. Our not-for-profit Gallery fulfills the mission by giving area artists a venue to show and sell their art, and art classes fulfill our mission for educating. Art classes assist in our financial means to maintain the Gallery. More information can be found at www.heartlandartgallery.com, facebook or call 574.936.9515.

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Caption 1: Don Kegarise carved a 1/12 scale model of the Cass County Dentzel Carousel from Logansport that measures 46 x 24".
Photo Caption 2: 'Making Hay' is this title of Don Kegarise's acrylic on canvas now hanging at the Heartland Artists Gallery.