

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

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Zanesville Museum of Art Receives Paintings by an Ohio Artist

ZANESVILLE, Ohio— The Zanesville Museum of Art has received two important paintings that enhance the ZMA’s permanent collection. The paintings were created by Ohio native and realist artist Anthony Schepis and were donated to the museum by Mr. John Nativio.

“The ZMA is grateful to have acquired works by Cleveland-native Anthony Schepis,” stated ZMA Executive Director Laine Snyder, “which enhance the museum’s fine collection of art created by Ohio’s leading artists.”

Schepis, born in 1927, refers to his paintings as “stillscapes” rather than still-lifes because the primary subject matter in his realistic works are basic geometric shapes and simple, familiar objects. These objects are stripped of their original context and placed adjacent to one another on canvas in surreal and isolated environments. As a result, the meaning of his stillscapes remain mysterious. Schepis wrote that “there is a magical beauty inherent in the discarded object.”

For example, *Reverie*, from 2016, the first of two works donated to the ZMA, features a child’s ball and a ribbon placed on top of a small wooden table, which is set within an

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ambiguous, dark, and unsettling landscape. Flight of Fancy, from 2008, the second of two works donated to the museum, is just as curious and features a cast metal bird figurine suspended from a thin red ribbon in front of what may be a wall. Both paintings leave viewers guessing at Schepis's intentions. Museum guests will have the opportunity to view Flight of Fancy, which is now on view at the ZMA in the R. Donald Cultice Family Hallway Gallery located on the museum's third floor.

About the Artist

Anthony Schepis studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art before earning a Master of Fine Arts degree at Kent State University in 1977. Two years later, Schepis became the Professor of Drawing and Painting at the Cleveland Institute of Art. In 1980, he received a prestigious Individual Fellowship Award from the Ohio Arts Council. He retired from the Institute in 1996 and in 1999, Schepis received the Thomas J. Ruddy Memorial Award from the Pittsburgh-Carnegie Museum of Art.

Schepis's work has been featured in numerous national and international exhibitions during his long career and his works can be found in museum collections throughout Ohio, including the Zanesville Museum of Art.

Artwork Credit Lines

Anthony Schepis (1927–Present), Reverie, 2016, oil on linen. Gift of Mr. John Nativio, 2022.002.001.

Anthony Schepis (1927–Present), Flight of Fancy, 2008, oil on linen. Gift of Mr. John Nativio, 2022.002.002.

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