

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2018

Contacts: Laurie Van Balen, Project Director/Producer
lvanbalen@columbus.rr.com

Doug Swift, Documentary Filmmaker
Dswift1@columbus.rr.com

Laine Snyder, Executive Director
laine@zanesvilleart.org

***Columbus Crossing Borders Project* Opens at Zanesville Museum of Art**

ZANESVILLE, Ohio—The Zanesville Museum of Art will open its newest exhibition, *The Columbus Crossing Borders Project*, Saturday, February 3, from 1–4 pm, at the museum. It will run through April 7, 2018.

“We are very excited to host this unique and thought-provoking exhibition here at the ZMA,” stated its executive director Laine Snyder. Through partnership with Community Refugee and Immigration Services, *The Columbus Crossing Borders Project* allows an intimate look into the arduous journeys of refugees who are willing to share their stories.

The artists participating in this fascinating exhibition are fueled by the stories of refugees driven from their homes by war, terror, and persecution. Artists worked cooperatively, given the challenge to ‘cross the borders’ into each other’s paintings. As visitors move through the exhibition, they will notice that each painting contains an element that reaches into the painting beside it. In other words, each artist is asked not to be territorial with their work, allowing the neighboring artist to cross the borders into the painting. The result is a visual collage served up as tribute to the resilience, the strength of spirit, and the devotion to loved ones that sustains those who have lived through such hardship.

One Zanesville artist participating in the exhibition, Linda Regula, said, “I chose to express my feelings about a family’s attempt to escape from their once-peaceful neighborhood, now only a bombed out city of rubble. I titled it *RUN*. As refugees run from the horrors of war, seeking safe shelter, once they reach the border of a country refusing them entrance, they have nowhere to



The Zanesville Museum of Art ignites human imagination and understanding through the visual arts.

620 Military Road Zanesville, Ohio 43701 ■ (740) 452-0741 ■ www.zanesvilleart.org

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

"I was very moved by a photograph of a child who was alone, helpless, and resigned to her life literally behind a barb wire fence. She knows there is light and life outside, but cannot get to it. I connected my own feelings of helplessness from seeing her and watching this continuing, escalating humanitarian crisis, with this little girl's despair - and the millions of children suffering, unable to get to the light," said participating artist Paula Colman. One of her works depicts a child stuck behind a fence, entitled *One Child of Millions*.

Another participating artist, Paul Hamilton, said "I am particularly drawn to this exhibition because as an artist, we have a unique way of viewing the world and the situations in the world which need our attention. As artists, our goals are to visually represent the state of our current cultural affairs and present these as a means of creating an awareness to a larger audience. There is no question that the images and stories being told through this exhibition are already bringing to the forefront the many facets and details of our ever growing immigrant and refugee crisis."

The ZMA is proud to present a virtual reality [VR] experience for the first time in the museum. Accompanying the *Columbus Crossing Borders Project* at the museum there will be virtual reality headsets playing "The Displaced," a short, innovative VR video by the *New York Times* about three refugee children, from Ukraine, South Sudan, and Lebanon. Each child's story is presented in stunning 3D, giving the viewer a unique vantage point. "The virtual reality video allows guests an immersive experience with the refugee experience and I hope it deepens their understanding of the struggles of refugees all over the world," stated Laine Snyder.

Join us for the free exhibition opening of *The Columbus Crossing Borders Project*. There will be complimentary drinks, light bites, and live music by Bishnu Sunar. Members of the Project will give a talk in the ZMA's Great Gallery. In addition, during the opening there will be a special screening of Doug Swift's documentary film, *Breathe Free*, produced by Laurie Van Balen. This documentary spotlights the refugees' stories and the art inspired by those stories.

Exhibition Programs

- Opening, Saturday, February 3, 1–4 pm at the Zanesville Museum of Art. Free and open to the public.
- Screening of the documentary film *Breathe Free*, directed by Doug Swift, produced by Laurie Van Balen. Saturday, February 3, 2 pm in the Linn Auditorium.
- Gallery Talk by Members of the *Columbus Crossing Borders Project* Saturday, February 3, 3 pm.
- JumpstART | Crossing Borders, Friday, February 9, 10:30–11:30 am. Experience the power of collaboration with your preschooler as you explore the ZMA's special exhibition, *Columbus Crossing Borders Project*. Work together with fellow JumpstART classmates to create an excit-



The Zanesville Museum of Art ignites human imagination and understanding through the visual arts.

620 Military Road Zanesville, Ohio 43701 ▪ (740) 452-0741 ▪ www.zanesvilleart.org

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

- Art Voyagers | For Children Grades K–3, Saturday, February 10, 10:30–11:30 am. Discover the amazing diversity of techniques and styles artists use to portray a single subject in the ZMA's special exhibition, *Columbus Crossing Borders Project*. Work together with fellow Art Voyagers to create a one-of-a-kind collaborative art project that also celebrates individual perspectives.
- Master's Apprentice | For Children in Grades 4–6, Saturday, February 17, 10:30–11:30 am. Discover how artists come together for a cause in the ZMA's special exhibition, *Columbus Crossing Borders Project*. Work individually and with a partner to share ideas and create a beautiful, collaborative treasure box necklace.

For more information on this exhibition, please visit www.zanesvilleart.org, call (740) 452-0741, or look for it on Facebook.

###

The museum welcomes visitors: Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am–5 pm and Thurs 10 am–7:30 pm.
Admission: \$6 for adults; \$4 for adults 60 and older and students with valid ID; Free for children 10 and under.

Free Admission Thursday Evenings 5-7:30 pm.

Visit us at zanesvilleart.org

Look for us on Facebook



The Zanesville Museum of Art ignites human imagination and understanding through the visual arts.

620 Military Road Zanesville, Ohio 43701 ■ (740) 452-0741 ■ www.zanesvilleart.org