

IMMEDIATE

Contact: Bob McGill

FOR RELEASE:

Mailed March 11, 1981



YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - "Painterly Deliberations," an exhibition of new paintings by Russell Maddick, Youngstown State University associate professor of art, will be featured March 16-April 8 at the University of Akron's Davis Art Gallery.

More than a dozen of Maddick's works will be shown. The oil and acrylic abstract compositions range from six feet square to small works on paper only 22 by 30 inches.

All of the paintings in the University of Akron exhibition have been produced during the last six months.

A native of Youngstown, Professor Maddick lives in New Bedford, Pa. He has been a member of the YSU faculty since 1966.

He attended Indiana University, Bloomington, graduated summa cum laude from Youngstown University in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, and received his master's degree in 1966 from Ohio State University where he held teaching assistantships.

He has received many awards and honors for his paintings. They include the Margaret Evans Award at Butler Institute of American Art's Area Artists Annual Show in 1967 and '68, a Friends of American Art Purchase Award at Butler Arts' Area Artists Show in 1971, and a First Award at the 1972 Midyear Show at Butler Art. He has also received YSU research grants in painting and a Youngstown Foundation Grant for painting research. His works have been featured in many art exhibits and he has had one-man shows at Ohio State University, Westminster College and at Butler Art and YSU.

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YSU's programs are part of "Gallery of the Arts Week" coordinated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Similar programs by colleges and universities across the nation that week will illustrate that these educational institutions are making significant contributions to the arts through their graduates and alumni.

The special events at YSU featuring these three artists will be free and open to the public.

Opening performances will be a "Showcase" by O'Neill at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 5, in Bliss Recital Hall, Wick Avenue. He will present a sampling of famous roles he has played on Broadway, in movies, and on television, exhibiting his range of talents as an actor.

O'Neill's "Showcase" will be followed by a public reception for him in the Bliss Hall Gallery and Lounge.

At 9 a.m. Monday, the press conference for the three guest artists will be held in the Telecommunications Center.

Next in the spotlight will be Gary Glaze, who will present a public recital at 8 p.m. Monday in Bliss Recital Hall.

The opening of an exhibition of Ralph Humphrey's acrylic works will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, in Youngstown's famous Butler Institute of American Art on Wick Avenue adjacent to the campus.

The Humphrey exhibit will be featured at Butler Art for three weeks.

Another highlight of YSU's "Gallery of the Arts Week" will be a public awards ceremony honoring all three talented alumni at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Ford Auditorium of Bliss Hall.

Public performances of the University Theatre comedy, "The Owl and the Pussycat," will be April 8, 9, 10 and 11.

All three visiting artists have received acclaim and their stars are expected to go even higher in their professional careers.

When Ralph James Humphrey was 6, one of his teachers told his mother the boy had unusual artistic talents. Today he is one of America's leading artists in ultra modern art, with works hanging in many major museums.

Among other activities at Chaney High he played football, but most of his spare time, including nights, was spent furiously painting everything from board to canvas.

Humphrey attended YSU in 1951-52, served in the Army in Korea and France, then returned to this university in 1959-60. He taught at Hartley House in New York City, at Bennington (Vt.) College, and at Hunter College in New York.

As his one-man exhibit at Butler Art will illustrate, his abstracts are done with acrylic paint that is physically dimensional and have a maximum effect when displayed with controlled lighting.

In 1961, the Guggenheim Museum in New York included Humphrey in the now legendary exhibition, "Abstract Expressionists and Imagists," which represented the major artists of America.

Writing in "Arts Magazine," Priscilla Holt said: "Humphrey's new works are splendid achievements by an unremittingly serious artist, and in their way are as moving as anything I have seen in recent abstract painting."

Wallace Stevens, in an intense review of Humphrey's work over the years wrote in "Artform Magazine" in 1977 of the artist's use of color and the thick three-dimensional paintings he now does: ". . .they include as part of themselves the intended relations with the emotional feeling of a viewer in a room."

His works are now in collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Dayton Art Institute, San Francisco Museum of Art, and Australian National Gallery, Canberra, and others.

He has had many one-man exhibitions and has been part of group exhibitions in France, Germany, Italy and throughout the U.S.

On the horizon is one of his greatest honors, a "Humphrey Retrospective," that is scheduled for the Chicago Institute of Art later this year.

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