



JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

Communication Department

July 24, 2015

Laura Jones, (614) 420-6946, Laura.Jones@governor.ohio.gov

FIRST LADY OF OHIO HOSTS SUMMER 2015 "SPOTLIGHT" PROGRAM *Celebrates Northeast Ohio Artist's Work at Governor's Residence in Bexley*

COLUMBUS – Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich, along with artists and other special guests from across the state celebrated the summer installment of Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor's Residence. This quarter's featured artist, Lee Heinen of Mayfield Heights, and Mrs. Kasich provided remarks during the reception held yesterday afternoon at the Governor's Residence in Bexley.



"I was first drawn to Lee's figurative art pieces because of her focus on family scenes. In particular, her beach-themed paintings brought to mind the many happy days I've spent at the ocean with my own family," said Mrs. Kasich. "Equally impressive is the depth of talent Lee shows in her art, from the figurative to abstract paintings."

Negative space and expressive use of color are hallmarks of Heinen's works, according to the artist.

"I'm keenly interested in how people communicate with their bodies, how even from a distance we can identify who we are looking at by a gesture they make, how they are standing, or walking," said Heinen. "It's great having my artwork here at the Governor's Residence. I'm proud, of course, that the Mrs. Kasich appreciates my art, but even more that she loves art in general. It is reassuring to know someone at that level is interested in promoting the arts, which is so important."

Mrs. Kasich was inspired to create the "Spotlight" program as a way to help promote the wealth of artistic talent in Ohio. The program, developed in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council and launched in September 2013, features the works of one selected Ohio artist each quarter at the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden. Heinen's art will be on display at the Governor's Residence through the end of September.

In addition to celebrating the summer installment of the Spotlight program, the First Lady noted to guests that other Ohio artists have their works on display year-round at the Governor's Residence, most of which are on loan from various museums around the state.

Learn more about the Spotlight program and other initiatives of First Lady Kasich at firstlady.ohio.gov. Ohio artists interested in the Spotlight program should contact Ken Emerick, with the Ohio Arts Council at kenemerick@oak.state.oh.us. Examples of Lee Heinen's work can be viewed at leeheinen.com

