



# JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

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## Communication Department

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### **FIRST LADY OF OHIO PROMOTES OHIO ARTISTS AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE** ***Summer "Spotlight" Program Celebrates Artists Louise Captein and James Mason***

COLUMBUS – Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich's love for the arts can be seen year-round through a program she initiated nearly four years ago. [Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor's Residence](#) showcases the talents of artists from across the state on a rotating basis.



Currently, the paintings of Louise Captein and sculptures by James Mason are on display throughout the first floor of the Governor's Residence located in Bexley.

Captein is a skilled portrait artist, but says she is drawn intuitively to abstract painting.

"Throughout my career I have been fascinated by the mysterious content of abstract and semi-abstract forms, and by the poetic effects of arbitrary color," said Captein. "I seek depth, volume and richness, but without the use of the rules of linear perspective."

A native of the Netherlands, Captein now resides in Galena and teaches painting and drawing at Otterbein College in Westerville.

During a recent reception celebrating this quarter's Spotlight artists, First Lady Kasich remarked on what attracted her to Captein's work.

"While I'm not usually drawn to abstract art, Louise's paintings captivated me. There is a directness about them along with movement and texture that explodes on the canvas," said Mrs. Kasich.

For the first time, the Spotlight program included 3-D art, which will continue to be a regular part of the program.

"It's exciting to showcase two Ohio artists in the same quarter and literally introduce another dimension to the Spotlight program," said Mrs. Kasich.

Sculptor James Mason says he is at home in front of an easel or working away at a block of wood.

"I'll work in both ends of the art spectrum, going back and forth between the abstract and 'vernacular,' which is the folksy stuff that everyone can relate to," said Mason. "I started with the figure and have stuck with it throughout the years. It is the most basic fundamental expression of Western civilization; it's the icon used when you want to speak to other people about the human condition."

Mason also is widely known for creating exquisite topiaries. Columbus' popular downtown Topiary Park is Mason's reinterpretation of French artist Georges Seurat's painting *Sunday Afternoon on the Isle of La Grande Jatte*.

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 (OAC) and launched in September 2013, highlights the works of one selected Ohio artist each quarter at the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden.

The works of Captein and Mason will be at the Governor's Residence through the end of September. To see their exhibition and the works of other Ohio artists register for a free tour by calling (614) 644-7644 or going online to [governorsresidence.ohio.gov/tours.aspx](http://governorsresidence.ohio.gov/tours.aspx)

The OAC is preparing a "call for entry" for the 2017 Spotlight program. Ohio Artists interested in submitting an application should contact Ken Emerick at [kenemerick@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:kenemerick@oac.state.oh.us)

Learn more about the Spotlight program and other initiatives of Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich at [firstlady.ohio.gov](http://firstlady.ohio.gov).

