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Nelson Fine Art Center Showcases Artistic Culture in Johnson City

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.— More than 34 years ago in Johnson City, a small gallery and framing shop opened called the Lady Bug Gallery. Now, more than three decades later, that same gallery has developed into Johnson City’s epicenter of culture and activity. Nelson Fine Art showcases anywhere from 500 to 1,000 works of art at a time, while boasting the highest standard in custom framing for any fine art. By displaying art for public view, Nelson Fine Art works to create a bond within the community to raise awareness of local artists, and the culture this art brings to an area like Johnson City.

“Nelson Fine Art’s ambition is to provide the area with great quality, friendly service and competitive prices, while also educating the local community about the artistic culture of the region,” said Brenda Whitson, executive director of the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Home to more than 50 local and regional artists, Nelson Fine Art Center showcases unique art with more than 500 original artworks. The 8000-square-foot gallery carries a wide range of paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, weaving and sculpture, while the framing department will also create personalized frames.

“Downtowns are made for art galleries and creative use of space. Our gallery utilizes its space very creatively and has become a downtown destination,” said Dick Nelson, owner of Nelson Fine Art.

“Nelson guests can browse through many gallery rooms and experience the casual atmosphere,” said Whitson. “Within the art center, there are two galleries where guests may browse, and have the unique opportunity to watch the artists work on new pieces, each created to be candidates for home or office interiors.”

The Nelson Fine Art Center also offers private art classes.

“These classes will enrich your individual art experiences, and give you exclusive time to learn from some of the best artists in the region,” said Whitson.

Set in the historic downtown of Johnson City, Nelson Fine Arts has a tradition of a monthly festival called First Fridays. The festival features six to 20 local and regional artists on the first Friday of each month. This event began in 2001, and now the Nelson Fine Art show has the downtown district hooked. During the festival, the streets are closed to downtown traffic, allowing the artists and crafters to set up and sell their creations. These inspiring events incorporate an open house of new art showcased by regional artists.

“With a mixture of good weather, great food from local restaurants, live music, and time to chat with the local artists, the Nelson Fine Art shows are unforgettable,” said Whitson. “The Nelson Fine Art Center and monthly festivals have become a cherished attraction within the Johnson City community.”

The festival gives each artist an opportunity to feature unique material, and gives viewers the opportunity to find one of a kind pieces.

For more information, please visit www.nelsonartcenter.com or call (423) 926-2931. For more information on First Fridays, please visit www.firstfridayjc.com.

Johnson City is located in Northeast Tennessee and is the fourth largest metropolitan city in the state. Set in a region known as America's First Frontier, Johnson City is “Where the Pioneer Spirit Began”—a historically significant and culturally rich community surrounded by an abundance of unspoiled natural beauty. Johnson City has a history, which dates back more than 200 years, and its culture embraces individual creativity and encourages innovation through

expression. The area is world-renowned for its modern and traditional Appalachian and bluegrass music, art and cuisine, and outdoor recreation for the whole family throughout all four seasons. For more information on Johnson City, please visit www.visitjohnsoncitytn.com or call (423) 461-8000 or (800) 852-3392.

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