

## news release



akron area **arts** alliance

140 East Market Street Akron, Ohio 44308 330-376-8480 [www.akronareaarts.org](http://www.akronareaarts.org)

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Contact: Jessie Raynor, Director  
[info@akronareaarts.org](mailto:info@akronareaarts.org)

### Images Available Upon Request

#### Highlights in this Release

- New Gallery Show Opens Friday, May 1 with Public Reception
- Paintings Featured by Artist Couples from Akron, Kent and Medina
- Free Art Workshops Offered

### **Creative Couples to Show Work at Summit Artspace May 1-June 13**

(Akron) – “pARTners,” an exhibition of art created by three outstanding artist-couples will be on display at Summit Artspace May 1 through June 13. Featured artists are Thompson and Frances Lehnert of Kent, Steve Levey and Debra DeGregorio of Akron and Charles Basham and Julie Friedman of Medina. The public is invited to a free meet-the-artists reception Friday, May 1 from 5-7 pm.

“It will be interesting to have works by these creative couples displayed side-by-side, so we can see if their lives together influence their art or not,” said Joan Colbert, gallery coordinator.

The Lehnerts and Basham and Friedman are long-established artists with national reputations. Levey, a BFA graduate of the University of Akron, and DeGregorio, a BFA graduate of Kent State University, are young, emerging artists who have garnered local respect for their talents.

Also on display in the Summit Artspace hall gallery will be Boys and Girls Club Portraits by photographer Laura Ruth Bidwell of Peninsula.

The public is invited to participate in two free Saturday workshops during the exhibition. Although participants may want to register with a friend, it is not necessary. Summit Artspace workshops are designed for adults and older teens. Register by emailing [psargent@neo.rr.com](mailto:psargent@neo.rr.com).

May 16 at 1 pm: *Art Two by Two* - Creating intaglio stamps and printing with Susan Mencini

May 23 at 1 pm: *Partnering* – Paint with string creating collage elements together  
with Pat Sargent and Marian Steinert

Summit Artspace, a project of the Arts Alliance in cooperation with Summit County government, is located in a historic downtown Akron building at 140 E. Market Street, one block east of the Akron Art Museum. It is dedicated to displaying local art and presents seven exhibitions per year. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday noon to 5 pm.

Summit Artspace will be open noon to 9 pm May 2 for the First Saturday Artwalk. A City of Akron trolley will transport people between arts and entertainment venues along East Market Street and in the Northside District. This is a free event.

The Akron Area Arts Alliance is a non-profit advocacy group. Its membership includes 45 arts and culture organizations plus 65 artists and arts advocates. Summit Artspace is supported by the Akron Community Foundation, Welty Family Foundation and Ohio Arts Council.

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