

# NEWS RELEASE

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(Jpegs Available)

## ***“Art Still Has Truth, Take Refuge There”***

**A SOLO EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS BY MARY KAY NEUMANN OPENS 24 MARCH AT PILATESPA STUDIO, 2045 ATWOOD AVE, SUITE #107, MADISON,WI 53704-6605**

### **OPENING RECEPTION 24 MARCH 2012, 5-9pm.**

“Artmaking can be an avenue of social change. This past year, Wisconsin has been overwhelmed by explosive politics. Many families, neighbors, friends and coworkers have become estranged from each other during this tumultuous time. My intent is to bring people together, leave their differences aside, and seek refuge in art”, says Mary Kay Neumann.

Neumann is also a trauma therapist and started a psychotherapy clinic for feminist therapy in 1988. Advocating for social change has been part of the fabric of her life as both artist and therapist. “I work with many people who have been abused and see dignity and bravery in their efforts to overcome trauma. While painting or doing psychotherapy I move back and forth between what is painful and what is joyous. The faces of my intensely colored flowers sometimes reflect a struggle to exist. I deliberately infuse emotion in my flowers and invite the viewer to see the beauty in imperfection. Making art and doing psychotherapy both involve the search for what is honest and true...to make meaning out of chaos. ‘Art still has truth, take refuge there’ is a line from a poem by Matthew Arnold. I experience that phrase as a clarion call.”

“As a feminist, the personal IS political”, says Neumann. She donates 10% of all her art sales to non-profits. This time she will be donating to "Options for Community Living", a local group that provides residential services to adults with developmental disabilities.

Mary Kay Neumann’s paintings have been featured in solo and group shows in galleries and art centers across the US, including New York City, Chicago, and

California. Her numerous exhibitions in Wisconsin have included shows at Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton's Office at the State Capitol, the Wisconsin Arts Board gallery, the Pyle Center at the University of Wisconsin, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Artful Women Show at the UW Hospital and Clinics. Neumann's paintings are held in hundreds of private collections nationally. Corporate collectors include Meriter Hospital, Petkovsek & Moran and Red Sage Health in Madison; Dean Clinic in Janesville and D&K Pattern in St. Charles, Michigan. Neumann was selected for the Percent for Art Program in 2010, and the State of Wisconsin purchased one of her paintings for their Public Art Collection.

The exhibition space for "Art Still Has Truth, Take Refuge There" is PILATESPA Studio, an "art gallery for bodies". The Studio is a gem in the midst of Atwood Avenue and is an elegant alternative art venue that rivals Madison's commercial galleries. The owner, Kathleen Conklin, has been an active arts supporter and promoter for many artists over the years. She has created a lovely art and movement venue that is well loved. Her beautiful space truly is a refuge for the body and spirit, and the perfect gallery for Neumann's colorful paintings of flowers.

PILATESPA is a private Pilates and intelligent movement studio, and is generally not open to the public. The exhibition will be up for 6 weeks, but interested persons will need to make an appointment with the artist to view the show if they want to see it outside of the Opening Reception on March 24. You can contact the artist by email for a private showing at [marykay@mknart.com](mailto:marykay@mknart.com).

"Art Still Has Truth, Take Refuge There," will run through April 30, 2012. An opening reception will be held for the artist on March 24, 2012 from 5-9 pm at PILATESPA Studio, 2045 Atwood Ave, Suite #107 Madison, WI 53704-6605.

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