

# CANVAS

ARTSPACE

For Immediate Release

October 5, 2017

**What:** "Small Works / Big Heart" Exhibition to benefit MountainTrue

**When:** Nov. 16, 2017 - Jan. 12, 2018; Opening Reception, Nov. 16, 5-7 PM

**Where:** CANVAS ArtSpace, 212 S. Church Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792

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CANVAS ArtSpace is pleased to present *Small Works / Big Heart*, a juried exhibition of small artworks interpreting humanity's love and admiration for the natural world around us. Proceeds from exhibition sales will benefit MountainTrue, an environmental non-profit that champions resilient forests, clean waters, and healthy communities in Western North Carolina. The exhibition will run from November 16, 2017 - January 12, 2018 at CANVAS ArtSpace, Hendersonville.

Nature in its many forms has been interpreted by artists since the early cave paintings of Lascaux, France. Our natural environment and the relationships we develop within its context are, indeed, rich with inspiration. 'Small Works/Big Heart' will include small artworks inspired by this theme - the artist's love of flora and fauna; seascape and landscape; the celestial and otherworldly. CANVAS ArtSpace has issued an open call for artwork submissions to more than 12 community arts organizations in 5 counties. "We are continually amazed by the abundance of high-quality artwork in our region, and are excited to see how local artists interpret the theme of the exhibition," says Joel Edwards, Co-Director of CANVAS ArtSpace.

The exhibition namesake, 'Small Works / Big Heart,' is both a theme and a call to action. The exhibition is slated to run during the holiday season, a time when many of us like to carry out "small works" of kindness that show our love for our communities and our world. With this in mind, CANVAS ArtSpace is proud to be partnering with local environmental organization MountainTrue to raise awareness of the environmental challenges in our area, and to support the organization with funds raised through the sale of artwork.

Joel and Jennifer Edwards, Co-Directors of CANVAS ArtSpace, were deeply involved in environmental advocacy when living in New York State. "Living in the Catskills, the threat of fracking hit close to home. We became involved, and years later, when the long dreamed about fracking ban became a reality, we discovered just how effective community-organized environmental activism could be," Jennifer recalls. "Something that was intentionally effective in New York was working across false barriers, to engage whole communities. Artists, musicians, and actors were as much a part of the movement as non-profit organizations and politicians. It was a wonderful, community-wide collaboration, and something we wanted to echo here, by

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using art to raise awareness of the problems faced by our region, and to raise funding for MountainTrue, a group that understands the importance of community engagement.

Gray Jernigan, Southern Regional Director with MountainTrue concurs, "Art, healthy communities, and a healthy environment go hand-in-hand. Art makes people think critically and look for connections to the world around them, and that's exactly what we try to do through environmental advocacy every day. We're thrilled about this exhibition and the partnership with CANVAS ArtSpace to facilitate support for our work to protect the places we share."

Meet the directors of CANVAS ArtSpace, participating artists, and representatives from MountainTrue at the Opening Reception on November 16th at CANVAS ArtSpace. Information about MountainTrue, it's current campaigns and programs, and ways to get involved will be available at the opening.

The Open Call for 'Small Works / Big Heart' can be found at <http://www.canvaswnc.com/opencall.html>

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### **About MountainTrue**

MountainTrue is Western North Carolina's premier advocate for environmental stewardship. We are committed to keeping our mountain region a beautiful place to live, work and play. Our members protect our forests, clean up our rivers, plan vibrant and livable communities, and advocate for a sound and sustainable future for all residents of WNC. MountainTrue is home to the French Broad Riverkeeper, Green Riverkeeper, Watauga Riverkeeper and the Broad River Alliance, the protectors and defenders of their respective watersheds.

### **About CANVAS ArtSpace**

CANVAS ArtSpace is a gallery, working studio and classroom. We host rotating exhibitions of emerging and mid-career regional and national artists; provide art instruction for adults and youth; and paint heirloom-quality commissioned artwork.

For more information about CANVAS ArtSpace, visit [www.canvaswnc.com](http://www.canvaswnc.com); for more about MountainTrue, visit [www.mountaintrue.org](http://www.mountaintrue.org).

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