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ARTS & CULTURE

ART EXHIBITIONS THROUGHOUT TRI-STATE REGION THIS MONTH



Hannah Kasper

September brings a fresh crop of exhibitions to galleries and museums across Southwest Ohio and beyond, with artists exploring everything from cultural history and personal identity to nature, spirituality and the possibilities of found materials.

Highlights include Springfield Museum of Art's 75 years of Haitian metalwork, a new gallery in downtown Dayton, and an exhibit rooted in nature and spirituality that is worth the trip to Louisville. There are plenty of opportunities to encounter art that is both rooted in place and open to unexpected interpretations.

Here are a few shows to put on your radar this month:

Resilient Spirits: 75 Years of Haitian Metalwork

"Resilient Spirits" spans 75 years of Haitian metalwork, pioneered by Georges Liautaud (1899-1991) and carried forward by generations of artists in Croix-des-Bouquets. Hand hammered and chiseled from recycled oil drums, these intricate sculptural reliefs — also referred to as métal découpé — embody Haitian spiritual iconography and cultural endurance. Presented publicly for the first time, this exhibition explores resilience as both material and metaphor. In hammered steel and in the human story, the spirit endures.

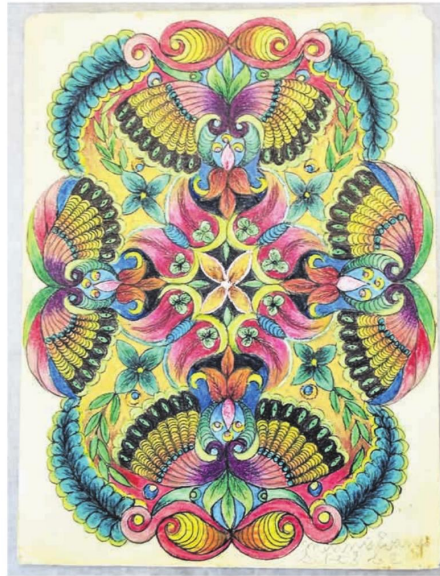
Featuring Georges Liautaud and the Louis-Juste brothers, and living artists Gabriel Bien-Aimé and Serge Jolimeau.

How to go: Exhibition is ongoing at The Springfield Museum of Art, 107 Cliff Park Road, Springfield. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday.

The Soul of Black Folks: 250 Years of Creativity, Leadership, and Innovation

The Fitton Center for Creative Arts and its partners will host a community celebration this month that highlights "The Soul of Black Folks: 250 Years of Creativity, Innovation and Leadership." This exhibition is curated by Carolyn L. Mazloomi of West Chester Twp. It is part of Handwork 2026, presented by Craft in America.

"It's been an absolute blockbuster exhibition. It truly was the star of season launch, and we had people coming in from Columbus, Cleveland and Kentucky to see this exhibition. We had over 25 artists from around the country come in for that exhibition. The exhibition itself is absolutely stunning, and it's available to view at anytime," said Ian MacKenzie-Thurley, executive director of the Fitton Center.



Minnie Evans, Untitled (Flower and peacock feather), 1962. Ink, crayon, gouache and graphite. Gift of William Banks Hinshaw, Jr. 2013.14.12. Collection of Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC © Estate of Minnie Jones Evans. CONTRIBUTED



Kevin Harris is the featured artist at Sinclair Community College's fall faculty show. CONTRIBUTED



How to go: The exhibition can be viewed through Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Fitton Center, 101 S. Monument Ave., Hamilton. More information can be found at fittoncenter.org/current-upcoming-exhibitions. Free parking.

The Callahan Art Gallery: The People Can

Here's one to put on your radar: a new gallery has opened in downtown Dayton's Oregon District. The Callahan is a Black-owned gallery run by Dorian A. Hunter who has co-curated the opening exhibition with artist Jamaal Durr. According to Hunter, the show is "a deep dive into personal takes on belonging, questioning, processing, and tranquility." The curators' experiences organizing Art Noire, an event celebrating Black expression held previously at Springfield Museum of Art, were instru-

mental in choosing artists for this exhibit. Featured artist Durr, whose figurative works blend reality with the surreal, explores identity and self-reflection.

How to go: The gallery, at 504 E. 5th St., Dayton, operates around scheduled exhibitions and special events. Follow social media updates for viewings at [instagram.com/the.callahanartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/the.callahanartgallery).

Deanna Newsom: Garden Parallax

Working from gardens and other realms of nature near her home, Newsom combines acrylic paint with pastels, ink, and charcoal to explore the colors, textures, lines and subtle movements of the natural world. Her work is rooted in close observation, appreciation, and wonder.

How to go: Opening reception is 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, and the exhibit will

be on display through Sept. 26 at The Contemporary Dayton, 25 W. 4th St., Dayton. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Free and open to the public. Street parking available as well as multiple nearby parking garages.

Kevin Harris: The In-Between Spaces

Each fall, Triangle Gallery and other spaces around Building 13 of Sinclair Community College display work from the faculty of Sinclair's Art Department. Kevin Harris is the featured artist in the Fine Art Faculty Exhibition. Inspired by urban birds' instinct to weave human-made materials into nests along with the jazz concept of Chromatic Elaboration of Static Harmony, Harris produces one-of-a-kind prints that evolve through many iterations. His work inhabits the in-between spaces where repetition becomes variation, structure gives way to improvisation, and forms are continually transformed.

How to go: The exhibition is viewable through Sept. 21 at The Burnell R. Roberts Triangle Gallery, at the downtown Dayton campus, Building 13, 4th Floor Atrium, 5th & Perry St., Dayton. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday.

We Care Arts: H.E.A.R. Me

This exhibit features artwork created by women participating in We Care Arts outreach classes and was made possible through the ADAMHS H.E.A.R. HER grant initiative, a local board supporting mental health and addiction recovery services. Centering the journeys, experiences, and dreams of mothers, H.E.A.R. ME invites visitors to see these women as more than their roles as parents. Through their artwork, they share personal stories of identity, resilience, hope and growth, offering an authentic glimpse into their lives, aspirations, and strengths.

Running concurrently is Creatures in Color, featuring Ezra Stinson and Ariel White in the Project Space.

How to go: The opening reception will take place 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, and the exhibition will continue through Sept. 25, at Dayton Society of Artists, 48 High Street, Dayton, noon to 5 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays.

Village Artisans Gallery: Magical Fantasies

In honor of the coming season of autumn and Halloween, artists were challenged to explore the theme "Magical Fantasies" either literally or abstractly. Village Artisans is a cooperative art gallery in Yellow Springs featuring locally-made art and crafts.

Exhibitions continued on C8

THINGS TO DO

COMIC CON, POPCORN FESTIVAL, MORE TO DO IN REGION

Alex Cutler
Staff Writer

This weekend, many events are slated to take place across southwest Ohio, including festivals, concerts and film screenings. Here's a look at what's happening.

BUTLER COUNTY

■ **FiveStar Comic Con Middletown:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at 4200 N. University Blvd., Middletown. More info: After Dayton's FiveStar Comic Con earlier this summer, the event is coming to Miami University Middletown's Johnston Hall. There will be cosplay contests, panels, vendors and more.

■ **Hamilton Hispanic Festival:** 2-9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at 116 Dayton St., Hamilton. More info: Tuesday, Sept. 15, marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, and to celebrate, Hamilton will host a festival featuring live performances, dance lessons, food and art vendors, a parade and more.

■ **'Wicked: For Good' screening at Trenton Community Park:** 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at 440 Dell Drive, Trenton. More info: For its final Movies in the Park event for 2026, the city of Trenton will host a free screening of "Wicked: For Good." Before the movie begins at 8 p.m., there will be various activities such as meet and greets with Elphaba and Glinda, a bubble truck and potion making.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

■ **Pony Wagon Days Festival:** Thursday, Sept. 10, through Sunday, Sept. 13, in St. Paris. More info: The annual Pony Wagon Days Festival will feature craft and food vendors, a DJ, axe throwing, a pizza eating contest and more. A car show will also be held noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **Mid-Eastern Regional Fly-in and Car Show:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at 1636 N. Main St., Urbana. More info: To be held at the Grimes Municipal Airport, this event will feature "an incredible display of regional aircraft and classic, custom and muscle cars." There will also be local vendors, a children's activity area and other offerings. This event is free for spectators.

CLINTON COUNTY

■ **End of Summer Bash:** 5-8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, at 123 Gano Road, Wilmington. More info: Hundreds of fireworks, drones and other effects will be used to light up the sky during the upcoming summer send-off show from Ralph's American Grill. Live music will also be performed and food trucks will be on site.

Weekend continued on C7

GO!

Exhibitions

continued from C7

How to go: The exhibition is viewable from Saturday, Sept. 12, through Nov. 10 at Village Artisans Gallery, 100 Corry St., Yellow Springs. There will be a reception 5-9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18 during the Yellow Springs Art Stroll.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday-Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free and open to the public.

KMAC Contemporary: The Visionary Art of Minnie Evans

The Visionary Art of Minnie Evans features mixed media artworks and ephemera from the Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, North Carolina. Born in 1892, Evans pursued art later in life following a vision in which she was told to “draw or die.” Deeply religious, she believed that God occupied the flora and fauna that surrounded her and often imagined a “lost world” following the events of the Great Flood from the Book of Genesis. While working as a gatekeeper at Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, she took inspiration from the botanical surroundings, often decorating the gates around the gardens with her artwork.

She combined the world around her with her dreams and visions, revealing an alternate reality where humans mingled amongst spirits, plants and animals and the omnipresent eye of a higher power.



“Resilient Spirits” spans 75 years of Haitian metalwork at The Springfield Museum of Art. CONTRIBUTED

How to go: The exhibition is on display through Oct. 4 at KMAC Contemporary Art Museum, 715 West Main St., Louisville, Ky. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.

Bradley Parsons: Treasure Trove

Treasure Trove, the debut solo exhibition of new works by New York-based artist Bradley Parsons, features ceramic sculptures and collages made from discarded, recycled and found materials. Parsons pulls from his library of damaged picture books and salvaged

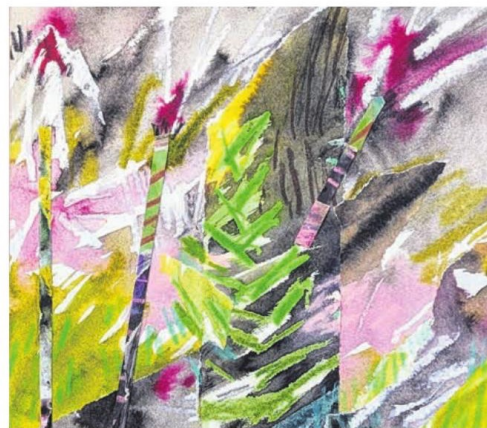
clay detritus gleaned from the beaches of NYC. Dense layers of meticulously hand-cut paper media or expertly reclaimed and refinished ceramic ephemera create new scenes, narratives and objects.

Playful, humorous and unlikely narratives emerge from the fragments as they re-relate and respond to each layer of found material.

How to go: The exhibition is being held through Friday, Sept. 18, at Chaos Contemporary Craft, 78 N. High St., Columbus. Hours are Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Charlie Goering: Anima, Animus

Taking its title from Carl Jung’s concept of the anima and animus, the exhibition considers the encounter between what is known and what remains obscured within oneself. For Goering, that encounter happens through the material and the intuitive processes of painting and collage. Meaning is not necessarily determined before a work begins. Instead, it is something that can reveal itself through the process of making. “The things in these works inhabit the



Deanna Newsom, “Garden, May 29, Looking Northeast,” 2026, mixed media on cradled panel, 10x10 inches is on view at The Contemporary Dayton. CONTRIBUTED

studio; the ideas behind them haunt it like ghosts,” says Goering.

Large oil paintings like “Awe,” a cloudscape resembling haunted eyes, are executed with palpable skill and a foreboding sense that we will never truly know our place in the world.

How to go: The exhibition will be on display through Oct. 8 at No Place Gallery, 1 E Gay St., Columbus, 5-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday and 5-9 p.m. Saturday.

Middletown Arts Center: Steel in a Different Light

“Steel in a Different Light” celebrates the union of fine art and Middletown’s steel heritage, according to the Middletown Arts Center. It is “showcasing works by renowned steel-based artist Mike Elsass alongside creations from employees of the Cleveland-Cliffs organization. These

steel-inspired artworks honor the material that has shaped our community while highlighting the creativity and vision of artists and industry professionals alike.”

“Through this exhibition, visitors can explore the history and impact of steel in Middletown, learn about Cleveland-Cliffs’ 125-year legacy, and see how steel continues to influence the present and future of our city,” the MAC website says.

How to go: MAC is at 130 N. Verity Parkway. Center hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and special hours on other days as events arise. For more information visit middletownartscenter.com

Hannah Kasper compiles a monthly guide to art for this news outlet. Have one to add for next month? Email her at hannah.kasper@gmail.com.