

NEWS RELEASE

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Award-Winning Pacesetter Gallery Celebrates Three Years of Promoting Mississippi Art and Creative Events

Public invited to a party on July 27 and will have a chance to win Mississippi-made art

FLOWOOD, MS (July 20, 2024) – Pacesetter Gallery invites the public to their 3rd Annual Birthday Party on July 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. to celebrate three years in business and being named the 2024 Best Mississippi Art Gallery by the readers of Mississippi Magazine! Partygoers will have a chance to win art and will be treated to cake at the gallery’s Flowood, Mississippi location, in the Dogwood area next to Kohl’s at 310 Ridge Way.

Pacesetter’s doors opened in July 2021, with 42 Mississippi artists and artisans, growing to a current roster of 72 and a mission to provide customers with opportunities to be inspired through original Mississippi-made art. From emerging artists to long-established and highly acclaimed artists, the gallery focuses on making art accessible with a memorable, relaxing gallery experience and prices for all budgets. Keri Davis, Pacesetter Gallery owner and artist, said, “I want to provide meaningful art throughout a person’s life. When you are young, you can start your collection with something small and grow it over the years. Searching for and surrounding yourself with art that brings you joy is a great way to improve your own quality of life.” Davis draws on her studio art and art education degree and 28 years of teaching to help reach this goal.

Pacesetter aspires to be a catalyst for the arts in Mississippi and a hub for cultural arts that propels tourism growth, bringing tourism dollars into Flowood and the state. The gallery has hosted 250+ cultural arts events and their cutting-edge website combines art sales with stories of Mississippi art and artists, bringing more exposure. True to its name, the gallery is setting the pace for Mississippi art and has been featured in Elle Décor, Delta Magazine, Mississippi Magazine and Stages Mississippi.

Davis is also active in local civic organizations and the Mississippi Tourism Association. Kathy Smith, Flowood Alderman, said, “Pacesetter has been enriching our community for the past three years by delivering art classes and hosting nightlife events, catering to both the young and old. With a plethora of locally made art pieces, from functional items like platters and mugs to exquisite fine art, the gallery's welcoming staff and diverse collection have created a space for both learning and collecting. Keri, an educator at heart, has fostered a warm and engaging environment that inspires creativity and appreciation for the arts.”

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In 2024, Pacesetter collaborated with Greater Greenville to feature gallery artist Cliff Speaks from Brandon at the Hot Tamale Festival. “Pacesetter Gallery brings collectors and creators together in

memorable ways! I love being a part of the gallery and appreciate all the opportunities to showcase my art and creative process,” said Speaks.

During the gallery’s first year, Davis worked with marketing and tourism expert, Dee Gardner, to expand her vision of promoting Mississippi art. Gardner, owner of Dee Gardner Communications, LLC, said, "Working with Keri during Pacesetter Gallery's first year was an inspiring journey. Together, we explored how the gallery could become a cornerstone of Mississippi tourism and how Keri herself could become a wonderful partner to our tourism industry, promoting Mississippi art to a broader audience. Keri's dedication to fostering a vibrant art community has been pivotal in attracting tourists and celebrating the rich culture of Mississippi. Her vision and commitment have truly made Pacesetter Gallery a beacon for both art lovers and travelers alike."

Since then, Davis has collaborated with the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Museum of Art, created the “Wild Wonders: Painting Natural Mississippi” painting classes at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, and spearheaded four plein air painting competitions by partnering with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Renaissance at Colony Park, and the City of Flowood. The competitions bring artists together to create work live and visitors can purchase artwork they have watched come to life.

Susan Wellington, Flowood, Mississippi artist, said, “As an artist who has a strong belief that painting ‘en plein air’ is key to creating a strong body of work, I’m grateful to Pacesetter Gallery for being a true leader in introducing this genre of painting to the metro area. In addition, Pacesetter’s multiple events have provided artists, like myself, opportunities for exposure and interaction with the public, which is invaluable. Not only are we given a venue to showcase our work, but we are also able to be inspired by both the other artists and the viewing public.”

Visitors, traveling families, and touring groups are always welcome to enjoy a “Drop In Anytime” Art Scavenger Hunt for a deeper look into the current art collection. Additionally, the gallery hosts workshops for beginner through advanced levels, small group classes and special “paint and sip” events that are part art, part party for individuals, conferences and small group tours, and regularly hosts customized events for groups up to 50.

Local businesses like Pyron Group, Neblett’s Framing, Community Bank, Complete Exteriors and Basil’s Killer Eats, have joined Keri in her vision, adding their sponsorship to events and including original Mississippi art to the walls of their businesses.

For more information, visit www.pacesettergallery.com or call 601-488-0345. See our Creative events calendar at <https://www.pacesettergallery.com/events>. Follow us on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/pacesettergallery> or <https://www.instagram/pacesettergallery>.

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