

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Preview: November 4-5, 11 am – 6 pm
November 6-29, 2015

Touchstone Foundation for the Arts and Miriam's Kitchen present
"Handpicked: Works from Miriam's Kitchen Studio Artists"

Opening Reception: Friday, November 6, 2015, 6-8:30pm
at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Works by Chronically Homeless Artists to Be Showcased

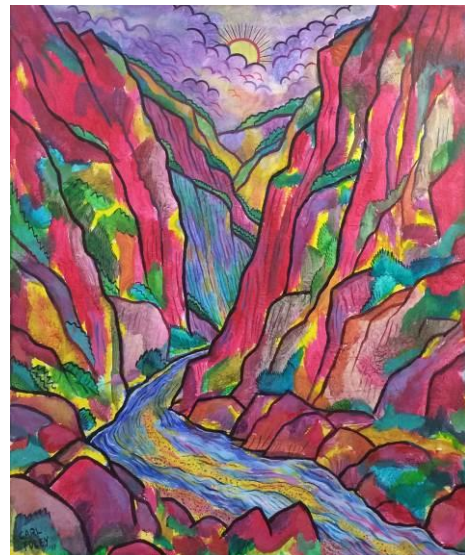
November 6, 2015 (Washington, D.C.) Artists from Miriam's Kitchen's award-winning art therapy program, Miriam's Studio, have been invited to exhibit their work in the upcoming "Handpicked" exhibit, presented by the Touchstone Foundation. The exhibition will run through November, 2015, and will feature work created in a variety of media, all created by chronically homeless artists served at Miriam's Kitchen in Foggy Bottom.

"The Touchstone Foundation is an excellent partner for Miriam's Kitchen, and the focus of the "Handpicked" exhibit mirrors our own philosophy that all artists have a place in the local arts community" said Miriam's Kitchen's Senior Case Manager and Art Therapist, Kate Baasch.

Miriam's Kitchen was selected to exhibit in Touchstone Foundation's "Handpicked" show in recognition of its therapeutic arts program, Miriam's Studio. The program is rooted in three core values: that art therapy is an expression of human **dignity**, it provides disconnected individuals with a sense of **belonging**, and it can be an effective vehicle for guiding people towards positive **change**.

Many of the artists at Miriam's Kitchen live with mental illness and substance abuse issues. As a result, they may be hesitant to engage with our staff because of bad experiences with therapeutic programs in the past. Art therapy in Miriam's Studio is one way we make a continuum of services accessible to the most vulnerable members of our community. It is proven to build clinical relationships through hospitality, expression, and creativity.

In the past year, several of the individuals housed with support from Miriam's Kitchen were regular Miriam's Studio participants. That means that Studio played a key role in their daily life's activities; it not only supported their engagement with our staff, it supported their motivation to access support services that ended their homelessness.



The structure of studio intentionally creates a safe space where guests can process their experiences and plan for the future, while also creating a place of belonging for right now.

Each guest is free to create, share, reflect and grow. These are the ingredients that create change.

“We could not be more thrilled to invite our guests to participate in this exhibit,” said Baasch. The Touchstone Foundation has a proud history of engaging the wider community through their programming. Including our chronically homeless artists in this show is a fantastic demonstration of the transformative power that art can bring to everyone, no matter their circumstances.”

About Miriam's Studio

Miriam's Studio groups are offered Monday through Friday, 8:15-9:45 am and 2:30-4:15 pm, and are overseen and facilitated by trained Art Therapists, interns, case managers and volunteers. In addition to open-studio Art Therapy, psychotherapeutic art therapy groups, psychoeducational groups, and empowerment groups, guests are also offered creative writing workshops, yoga sessions, resume assistance and other activities.



About Miriam's Kitchen

Miriam's Kitchen is committed to ending chronic homelessness in Washington, D.C. Miriam's Kitchen advocates for permanent supportive housing as a long-term solution, while meeting short-term needs by providing healthy meals and high-quality social services to more than 5,000 homeless individuals each year. www.miriamskitchen.org

About Touchstone Foundation for the Arts

The Touchstone Foundation for the Arts was created by the artists of the Touchstone Gallery, an artist-owned gallery for 39 years. The mission of the Foundation is to engage our community by creating opportunities for emerging and non-traditional artists to develop and exhibit professionally. The Foundation also partners with ArtSpaceDC to offer art-making workshops to our neighboring families. The gallery is located at 901 New York Ave NW in downtown Washington, next to CityCenter DC and the Walter R. Washington Convention Center. www.touchstonefoundationdc.org

Miriam's Kitchen Contact:

Tom Murphy
Director of Communication
202.452.8926, ext 235
tom@miriamskitchen.org

Touchstone Gallery Contact:

Ksenia Grishkova
Director
202.347.2787
info@touchstonegallery.com

EXHIBITION ADDRESS:

Touchstone Gallery
901 New York Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20001
info@touchstonegallery.com
www.touchstonegallery.com
Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Friday: 11–6, Saturday – Sunday: 12–5.

Images: "Red Canyon" by Carl Foley and "Untitled" by Mr. C