

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 24, 2020

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[www.kalamazooarts.org](http://www.kalamazooarts.org)

## **Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo to host Virtual Art Hop**

Kalamazoo, MI – The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo will host a second Virtual Art Hop in May. On Friday, May 1 from 5-7 pm, the ACGK invites the public to virtually attend the event on their Facebook Page (@acgk359). “During these challenging times while we are all under orders to stay home and stay safe, many of us are looking for creative ways to stay connected to one another,” says Executive Director Kristen Chesak. “Whether you’re experiencing, observing, or creating – art is something that connects us all to each other.”

From painting and drawing, to jewelry making and pottery, to theatre and vocal performances, and more – all are welcome and encouraged to share their work. “We will be doing things a little different this month by asking people to send us on their artwork ahead of time,” says Chesak, “which allows us to understand the depth and breadth of what Kalamazoo will post the night of the event, not unlike a physical Art Hop.” Chesak says it also allows the staff get to know the artists a little better, so the Arts Council is able to thoroughly promote the work ahead of time.

Several artists have already agreed to submit content for the event, “including a beautifully curated exhibition by Maryellen Hains of eight artists whose work celebrates Earth Day,” says Chesak. “We can’t wait for the public to experience these pieces, and we hope to get many more works of art, video clips of music, dance, theatre and more.” She says last month some artists submitted “how do they do that” videos which, Chesak says, “were enthralling!”

“We realize there will be people who may not be able to provide their artwork to us ahead of time, and that’s okay.” Chesak says artists are invited to post directly to the Arts Council’s Facebook Page the night of the event. “All of the instructions for how to participate will be posted to our website and sent out in our weekly newsletter.” Chesak says they will also email invitations directly to artists. The Arts Council will also make all of the art from the virtual event available on their website at a later date.

Art Hop, typically the first Friday of the month, is one of the Arts Council’s longest-running programs. “Art Hop has been an important part of our community for decades,” says Chesak. In addition to bringing people together, “It strengthens the connections between artists and arts organizations and the community of people who love and support the arts.”

The event, which involves businesses (or venues) hosting an artist (or artists), takes place in and around Greater Kalamazoo with anywhere from 25-55 venues participating. There is no limit on the number of artists who may participate in the Virtual event. “The more, the merrier,” says Chesak.

Information on how to participate and view the Virtual Art Hop in May is online: [KalamazooArts.org/Art-Hop](http://KalamazooArts.org/Art-Hop).

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Additional artists participating in the Virtual Art Hop include:



Kevin Hamman: "Transcend" 3' X 5', a paper mosaic with magazine pages and marker. He is inspired by women and the strength that they possess.



Tracy Klinesteker: "Shipwreck Rocks" 2019, 19 x 16, pastel on sanded paper. Off the coast of Portland, Maine near the lighthouse. A famous spot for shipwrecks in the 1900s. I love the light on the rocks, the shape of them - squared off and stacked like blocks. They've been pushed up through the years, making them look like listing ships.

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