



VERNON FILLEY ART MUSEUM

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**Press Release: November 1, 2014**  
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## Courtyard Dedication at the VERNON FILLEY ART MUSEUM:



**PRATT REGION:** The new Legacy Arts Society, a membership group of the Vernon Filley Art Museum, celebrated the dedication and opening of “Joe’s Garden and Courtyard” on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The art museum designed the evening to express their thanks to supporters who have enabled the operations of the new art museum. They also announced many milestones and plans for upcoming events during the celebration. After 4 months of business, the museum has a following of 201 members, has been utilized for 10 rental events, has served over 100 students through 2 sessions of art classes, has hosted over 2,000 visitors, and has brought a renowned guest exhibition, *Kansas Ties*, from the Sandzen Memorial Gallery.

The courtyard has been named “Joe’s Garden and Courtyard” in memory of Joseph Horwath, brother to Mimi Filley. Joe was a substantial supporter who enabled the museum’s construction. Jim Horwath, attended the event with his wife Kay. Jim described his Uncle Joe as an avid gardener and patron of the arts. Mimi Filley also attended and enjoyed the event.

The art museum extended their deepest gratitude to Doug and Kay Knight for their marvelous gift of two artistic and decorative Iron Gates installed at both the East and West entries to the courtyard, which were unveiled at the dedication. The gates represent a commitment to an earnest and conscientious undertaking to augment the museum with new fine art. Artist and Blacksmith Dustin Sypher, created the hand made masterpieces. He is a current Kansas City resident who grew up in Coldwater and lived in Pratt for a brief time. He designed the one-of-a-kind gates to reflect Kansas wildlife and greenery.

This event was a significant step forward for the art museum, as the gates represent a milestone of collecting their very first piece of artwork since opening. Wesley and Janice Norman donated funding for two bronze plaques mounted in the courtyard to honor Joseph Horwath and Doug and Kay Knight, and Dustin Sypher. Parson’s Jewelry is also to thank for their work in completing the plaques. The Filley Art Museum Staff and Board of Directors encourages and welcomes the Pratt area and beyond to explore the new courtyard and treasures at the art museum. Explore more work by Dustin Sypher at <http://www.tallgrassforge.com/>



Another special feature of the event on November 1st was a presentation given by Dr. Amy Clarkson called *Ars Maestus: The Art of Grieving*. Amy presented spectacular examples of composers and artists who have utilized their artistic medium to help process, react, and work through aspects of grief in their lives. Dr. Clarkson's multi-media presentation set the tone for the new unique Legacy Arts Society events to be hosted periodically by the art museum.

Please visit the Filley website for a photo gallery from the November 1st event!

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm - 7:30pm:** Family and Friend's Art Showcase, featuring student work from all of our Fall art courses. Come meet instructors and students, and enjoy refreshments at the art museum!

**Friday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00pm:** Mini Concert at The Filley; by Chamber Duo Duane Hanks, Harpsichord; & Lisa Rawlings, Cello; featured alongside the closing Reception for "Kansas Ties" guest exhibition from the Sandzen Memorial Gallery. A special event for our Members!

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm:** Member's Opening Reception for our Community Christmas & Holiday Exhibition!

**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2014:** Community Christmas & Holiday Exhibit; Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm: Our Holiday exhibition will be featured as part of the *Tour of Homes*

**January 9<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015:** Emerging Artists Exhibition; featuring Ceramic Sculpture and Pottery submitted by regional Graduate Faculty and Graduate Students.

**Filley Hours of Operation: (Tues-Fri 10am to 4pm) and (Sat 1pm to 4pm); Rental Hours by Special Arrangement; Closed Sun/Mon and Holidays**

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