



News Release—MassMu to Exhibit *A Thrilling Act: The Art of Anthony Eterovich*

The Massillon Museum's *A Thrilling Act: The Art of Anthony Eterovich (1916–2011)* will open in MassMu's Aultman Health Foundation Gallery on Saturday, June 12. A public reception with live music by Uno Lady will be held on June 12, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Reservations are required. The exhibition will remain on view through September 26, 2021.

Karen Eterovich-Maguire describes her father's abstract portraiture and photo-realistic cityscapes as colorful and imaginative with "almost whimsical choices of subject matter." Bill Tregoning, who curated the initial retrospective exhibition of Eterovich's work in 2016 at Tregoning and Company, writes of the artist's "brilliantly colorful, ebullient paintings and works on paper."

Born in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, Anthony Eterovich began drawing at the age of three. He steadfastly celebrated his hometown with his art throughout his life. He was influenced by his Croatian heritage and his Army mapmaking experiences during World War II. He admired the paintings of Pierre-August Renoir, Edgar Degas, and Édouard Manet for their color and the work of Edward Hopper and Richard Estes for their use of cityscapes and photo-realism.

Eterovich studied under John Teyral and Viktor Schreckengost at the Cleveland School of Art (now the Cleveland Institute of Art), where he received a full scholarship, earning a degree in portraiture in 1938. He earned a bachelor of science in education and a masters degree in art education from Case Western Reserve in 1947.

A total of 55 paintings by Anthony Eterovich were included in the Cleveland Museum of Art's prestigious *May Shows* between 1934 and 1971. During his lifetime, he participated in more than 150 exhibitions in Ohio and New York. One of his paintings was selected for the annual Ohio Artists and Craftsmen exhibition at the Massillon Museum in 1971.

As a result of his first place award in the 16th Annual National New Year's Show at the Butler Institute of American Art (Youngstown, Ohio) with his painting, *The Merry Bench*, Edith Halpert asked Eterovich for a painting for her famous Downtown Gallery in New York City. In May 1951, Howard DeVree of *The New York Times* gave *Table Charade* an excellent review.

"The educative force of creating and appreciating the arts goes beyond the final art product; it makes other areas of human endeavor thoroughly enriching," Eterovich wrote. He influenced countless students as an educator in Cleveland Public Schools for 40 years and at the Cleveland Institute of Art for more than 50 years.

His work is in the permanent collections of the Butler Institute of American Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve, ARTneo, and the Southern Ohio Museum.

"The wide range of styles and subject matter seen in Anthony Eterovich's body of work reflects a vibrant, artistic life and career spanning eight decades. Working with the artist's daughter has provided us insight into his personal life that informed Eterovich's process, and we are thrilled to present this iteration of the exhibit in Massillon. A special website has been developed that will allow visitors to dig deeper into his biography, sketches, and journals to reveal more content and connections to the artwork on view."

A color catalog containing essays and more than 75 images will be available for purchase in the Museum shop, OHregionalities.

A complementary exhibition, *Eterovich Contemporaries*, will be on view in MassMu's Flex Gallery from June 12, 2021 through January 2, 2022. It will feature artwork from the Massillon Museum's permanent collection by artists including Moses Pearl, Clyde Singer, and Honoré Guilbeau.

Visitors to the *Anthony Eterovich* exhibition can also see *Rebecca Cross: Suspended Animations* (through June 16), *John Chang: In Ink—Transformation of Calligraphy* (June 26 through August 11), and *Judi Krew: Hoard Couture* (August 21 through October 6) in Studio M; *Play Like a Girl* and *Massillon's Pro and Semi-Pro Teams* (through July 3), *Flu and Football (July 31, 2021 through January 9, 2022)*, and the Paul Brown/Massillon Tiger Timeline in the Paul Brown Museum; the Immel Circus; and exhibits in the Massillon History, Albert E. Hise Fine and Decorative Arts, American Indian, and Photography galleries.

The Massillon Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and ArtsinStark and marketing support from Visit Canton.

All exhibitions can be seen during regular hours, Tuesday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. MassMu participates in Massillon's Last Saturday each month by remaining open until 7:00 p.m.

The Museum maintains its building for maximum safety. Visitors must wear masks and distance themselves from others. Precautions and guidelines are posted on the Museum's website for guests to review before they visit.

MassMu is located at 121 Lincoln Way East in downtown Massillon. A visit is always free. Free parking is available on adjacent streets and in nearby city lots. For more information, call 330-833-4061 or visit massillonmuseum.org.

Media Contacts:

Alexandra Nicholis Coon, Massillon Museum Executive Director • 330-833-4061 x111
Margy Vogt, Massillon Museum Public Relations Coordinator • 330-844-1525

Victory at Samothrace, 2006, oil on Masonite, 24" x 43"



Creation, 1994, oil on Masonite, 32" x 48"



Abstract Still Life Flowers, 1960, oil on Masonite, 27" x 36"

