

# McDonough Museum of Art

YSU's Center for Contemporary Ideas, Art, Education + Community



## Sanctuary

**For Immediate Release:**

September 7 – October 26, 2018

Public Reception, Friday, September 7, 5-7pm

The John J McDonough Museum of Art, on the campus of Youngstown State University opens the fall season with **Sanctuary**, paintings by John Guy Petruzzi. This exhibition, along with **RESORT**, works by Andrew Ellis Johnson and Susanne Slavick, is one of two exciting shows that will be on display in the galleries September 7 – October 26. An opening reception for both exhibitions will take place on Friday, September 7 from 5-7pm. Susanne Slavick and Andrew Ellis Johnson will give a gallery talk at the reception beginning at 5pm.

John Guy Petruzzi is an Ohio artist and YSU alumnus whose watercolors explore issues of climate change, habitat loss, extinction, and ecological imbalance. In **Sanctuary**, he presents 11 native birds of Ohio that are classified as threatened, endangered, extirpated, and even extinct. Petruzzi uses realistic detail and coloration in combination with an unnaturally intense green tone to create flocks of birds that seem to be both magically multiplying and struggling to free themselves. This vision of plenty seems to evoke a sense of both irony and loss but is also a call to action and a message of hope. Photographs by the artist that were taken at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary will also be on display.

Petruzzi received his MFA. from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in partnership with Tufts University in 2011, and his BFA with an emphasis in painting from Youngstown State University in 2008. His work has been widely collected, nationally exhibited, and has been featured in publications including *Hi-Fructose*, *New American Paintings*, and the *Boston Globe*. He has worked as an artist in residence at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, painted professionally in the Manhattan studio of Jeff Koons, and has instructed a variety of 2-D arts at undergraduate and graduate levels.

There will be several events taking place in conjunction with the exhibition including:

**John Guy Petruzzi, Sanctuary Gallery Talk**

Wednesday, September 19, 5:10pm

**John Guy Petruzzi, Guided Bird Walk | Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary**

Saturday, September 22, 9am

Join local artist, educator, and Park volunteer John Guy Petruzzi for a guided bird walk at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. The walk coincides with **Sanctuary**, a new exhibition of watercolor paintings and photography by the artist. Access to the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary is by authorized permit only. There are no restrooms or other facilities on-site. Rain or shine, boots are recommended. Space is limited. Register at Ford Nature Center by 9/20, call 330.740.7107. Moderate, 2 mi.



**Sanctuary Panel Discussion: The Fate of Birds**

Dr. Brian Bonhomme, Dr. Ian Renne and John Guy Petruzzi

Wednesday, October 3, 11am-12pm,

This panel discussion brings together the expertise of two Youngstown State University professors: Historian, Dr. Brian Bonhomme, and Biologist, Dr. Ian Renne. Both, along with artist, John Guy Petruzzi, are avid ornithologists. Dr. Brian Bonhomme will discuss the origins of the idea of biodiversity and extinction as related to bird species between the 18th and early 20th centuries. Dr. Ian Renne will address avian conservation in the Anthropocene - the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. Artist, John Guy Petruzzi, who works with watercolor on synthetic paper, will moderate the conversation, and bridge the connection between his paintings of endangered and extinct birds, and the topics at hand.

**Sanctuary** and **RESORT** are made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion or veteran/military status in its programs or activities.

McDonough galleries are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am until 4pm.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

The Museum is open to the public and admission is free.

The annual exhibition and events calendar is posted on our website [mcdonoughmuseum.ysu.edu](http://mcdonoughmuseum.ysu.edu) • Follow us on facebook and Twitter!  
John J McDonough Museum of Art • 330.941.1400



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