

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**August 5, 2024**

## **Dixie Art Colony Foundation relocates to Prattville, Alabama**

**Prattville, Alabama**—The Dixie Art Colony Foundation, established in 2015, is excited to announce that the organization has relocated from Wetumpka, Alabama, to the City of Prattville. According to Mark Andrew Harris, founder and director of the DAC Foundation, the reason for the move was multifaceted. "When I founded the organization, the plan was to create a permanent home wherever we received the most interest and support. We seriously considered numerous communities, including Wetumpka, Tallassee, and Andalusia, and ultimately decided on Prattville." Harris, a native of Wetumpka with strong ties to that community, said it was a tough decision to leave Wetumpka, but Prattville was the obvious choice."

One of many factors that contributed to selecting Prattville was its proximity to where the Colonists spent most of their time. The Dixie Art Colony held its first session in 1933 on the shores of Lake Martin. However, in 1934 and 1936, the Colony was held in the Prattville area. Beginning in 1935, with the exception of 1936, the Colony was held each year through 1948 in the Deatsville area, only a few minutes east of Prattville.

The DAC Foundation was founded with a clear mission to place greater emphasis on the research, documentation, and preservation of the legacy of Central Alabama's unique and historic Dixie Art Colony. The primary goal of the DAC Foundation is to preserve and promote the history and legacy left by the Colony participants. "We are dedicated to engaging, inspiring, and educating artists and the public at large about the colony. Our exhibitions and programs are designed to promote local tourism and inspire creative industry," said Harris. The DAC Foundation has meticulously documented the participation of 148 artists, a testament to the Foundation's commitment to preserving the Colony's rich artistic heritage.

The Foundation held its first Prattville "Lunch & Learn" program on May 16, 2024, at the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce in Downtown Prattville. The turnout for the program was excellent and included guests from Selma, Clanton, Auburn/Opelika, Montgomery, Wetumpka, and Birmingham. On Friday, August 2, 2024, the first DAC Prattville exhibition will open at the Prattville Creative Arts Center located at 342 South Chestnut Street in Historic Downtown Prattville. This exhibition will be followed by ongoing DAC exhibitions.. Through creative placemaking, the DAC Foundation is partnering with existing entities like the City of Prattville Cultural Arts Department to help shape the community around arts and cultural activities. The City of Prattville believes that supporting creative entities can pay substantial dividends in economic resilience, fellowship, cultural exchange, and physical community revitalization.

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### More About the DAC Foundation and its Mission:

Another significant part of the DAC Foundation's mission is to make fine art more accessible in underserved communities. While small community art centers and outdoor art festivals spotlighting current local artists are popping up everywhere, opportunities in rural and suburban communities to view and learn about art found in many museums are rare. Harris said, "This is an area where we can make a difference. Since our conception, we have held numerous exhibitions, educational programs, and other events spotlighting fine art in both large and small communities, such as Jackson, MS, Montgomery, Birmingham, Andalusia, Deatsville, Demopolis, Wetumpka, Tallassee, Dauphin Island, and Millbrook."

While many of the DAC artists were considered Sunday Painters or novices, a substantial number of them, including Frank Applebee, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Arthur Stewart, and Richard Brough, became well-known art educators and fine artists, attaining regional and national acclaim. Artwork by many of the DAC artists can be found in the collection of many art museums, national publications, and exhibition catalogs. It is also important to note that some of the artists were instrumental in forming some of the South's most important art museums.

The DAC Foundation holds the most extensive collection of artwork by Dixie Art Colony artists and related ephemera of any public or private institution. The collection consists of more than 1,600 works of art. The DAC Archives collectively includes over 1,000 restored vintage photographs and related documents.

### More About the City of Prattville and the Surrounding Area:

Prattville is a vibrant, growing city with an estimated city population of 39,000. It is located directly on the busy I-65 corridor, approximately 15 minutes from major tourist attractions in Downtown Montgomery and approximately 60 minutes from Birmingham. The I-65 corridor, a major tourist route, is the state's busiest and most densely populated corridor. The fact that the City of Millbrook, with a growing city population of more than 17,000 residents, and its new \$100 million "17 Springs" development is located right next door is also a big plus. These two cities, combined with the neighboring towns of Coosada and Pine Level, comprise a population base of more than 60,000 residences. A population base of this size can support an array of amenities and attractions that the other communities considered cannot, such as a wide variety of local and national restaurants, large shopping venues, a branch of Central Alabama Community College, and the Alabama Nature Center.

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Prattville is also home to Capitol Hill, part of the popular Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. "The Judge" at Capitol Hill is consistently ranked as one of America's top courses. "Golf Magazine" named "The Judge" as one of 10 public courses in America worthy of hosting the U.S. Open. Prattville is also home to the Marriott Capitol Hill Hotel and Conference Center, one of 17 hotels in the City of Prattville.

Four impressive projects currently on the table in Downtown Prattville include a new multi-million dollar museum and education center focused on the impact of Daniel Pratt, a new outdoor entertainment venue, major enhancements to Spillway Park, and an upscale restaurant in the historic Picker House located on Autauga Creek. The property for all four projects has been allocated, and the City of Prattville has budgeted \$4 million to construct the new outdoor entertainment venue. These projects are part of a very successful ongoing effort designed to create a Downtown District to promote local tourism and improve the quality of life for area residents.

In 2023, "The Mill at Prattville," a \$37 million investment in historic preservation and adaptive reuse, opened its doors, offering 127 loft-style luxury apartments on Autauga Creek. The original mill building, constructed circa 1848, is within easy walking distance of Downtown shops and restaurants. Regarding Downtown redevelopment, the City of Prattville has consistently been ahead of the curve since beginning its first Downtown revitalization project more than 22 years ago.

Prattville has a long-standing tradition of supporting the arts. In 1845, Prattville's founder, Daniel Pratt, an avid patron of Southern art, added an art gallery to his Prattville home to showcase the work of his friend George Cooke, one of the South's best-known painters. Born in 1793 in Maryland, Cooke went West, later returning to Washington D.C., where he studied painting with Charles Bird King. With the backing of Daniel Pratt, Cooke opened the National Gallery of Painting in New Orleans. George Cooke died in 1849 and was laid to rest along with Daniel Pratt in Prattville's Pratt Family Cemetery.

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**CARLOS ALPHA "SHINEY" MOON, 1906 – 1953**  
"Moonlight on Pickle Hill," c. 1942, oil on canvas, 29.75" x 23.75"  
Gift of the Mobile Museum of Art | CAM-2022.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

This dreamlike example of Moon's work demonstrates his signature style of distorted realism. This painting was included in the 2004 traveling exhibition titled "Tales from the Easel: American Narrative Paintings from Southeastern Museums, circa 1800–1959." In this exhibition, this painting hung alongside works of well-known American painters such as Thomas Hart Benton, Francis William Edmonds, William Glackens, Robert Gwathmey, Childe Hassam, Edward Hicks, Winslow Homer, Jack Levine, Reginald Marsh, and Andrew Wyeth.

This painting has been displayed at the Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL; Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA; the Speed Museum, Memphis, TN; and the El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX.



**RICHARD B. COE, 1904 – 1978**  
"Winter Landscape," 1948, oil on canvas, 34" x 4"1  
Gift of the Estate of Margaret Coe Cairnes | RBC-2024.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

Coe's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL. His work has recently been shown at the First Art Museum, Nashville, TN, and the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.

Coe served as the director of Alabama's Depression Era Federal Art Project. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Southern Modern: Rediscovering Southern Art" and "Magic City Realism."

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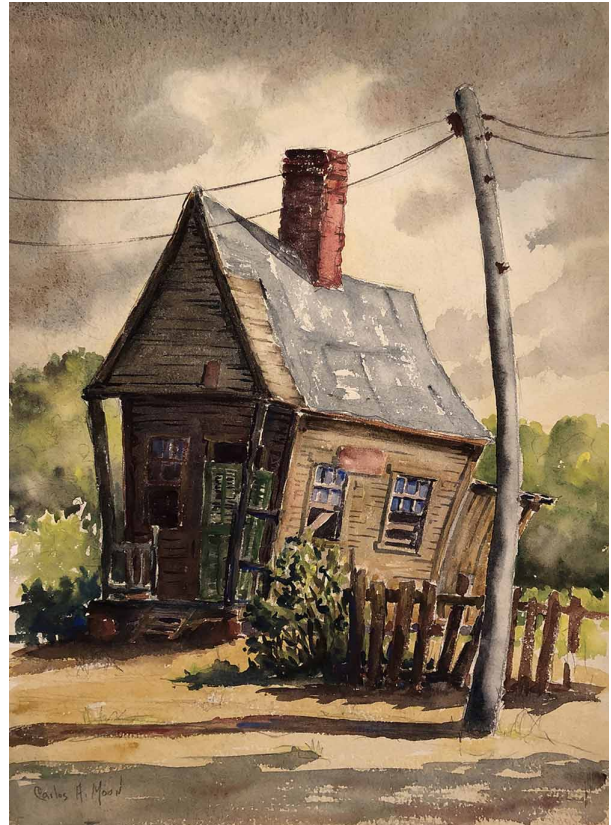


**J. KELLY FITZPATRICK, 1888 – 1953**  
"Elmore County Farm," 1942, watercolor on paper, 11"x 16.5"  
DAC Foundation Harris Collection | JKF-2022.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

Fitzpatrick's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, LA. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Southern Modern: Rediscovering Southern Art" and "American Art Review," and the 1939 World's Fair exhibition and catalog "American Art Today."

Fitzpatrick's work has recently been shown at the Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN, and the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.



**CARLOS ALPHA "SHINEY" MOON, 1906 – 1953**  
"The Little House," n.d., watercolor on paper, 22.5" x 15"  
Gift of Martha Moon Kracke | CAM-2021.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

Moon's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Birmingham Museum of Art in Birmingham, AL, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, LA. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Southern Modern: Rediscovering Southern Art" and "American Art Review."

His work has recently been shown at the Frist Art Museum and the Georgia Museum of Art.

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**CARLOS ALPHA "SHINEY" MOON, 1906 – 1953**  
"Shell Road Post Office, Coden," c. 1950, watercolor on paper, 29.75" x 23.75" | Gift of the Mobile Museum of Art | CAM-2022.AW.0004

**Special Note:**

Moon's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Birmingham Museum of Art in Birmingham, AL, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, LA. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Southern Modern: Rediscovering Southern Art" and "American Art Review."

This particular painting, along with five others in the DAC Foundation Collection, was featured in the 2011 Art in Embassies Exhibition held in Bucharest, Romania. Moon's work has recently been shown at the Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN, and the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.



**RICHARD B. COE, 1904 – 1978**  
"Still Life," 1970, oil on canvas, 36" x 40"  
DAC Foundation Harris Collection | RBC-2020.AW.0003

**Special Note:**

Coe's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL. His work has recently been shown at the First Art Museum, Nashville, TN, and the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.

Coe served as the director of Alabama's Depression Era Federal Art Project. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Southern Modern: Rediscovering Southern Art" and "Magic City Realism."

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**KARL F. WOLFE**, 1904 – 1984

"Southern Landscape," c. 1945, watercolor on paper, 15.5" x 22.5"

DAC Foundation Harris Collection | KFW-2022.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

Wolfe's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS, and the Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, GA. His work has been featured in many museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Mississippi Artists: A Self Portrait," "American Art Review," and the 1939 World's Fair exhibition and catalog "American Art Today."

Wolfe attended the Art Institute of Chicago, where he graduated in 1928. In his last year of study, he won the William R. French Traveling Scholarship and spent the next year traveling and studying in Europe.



**RICHARD B. COE**, 1904 – 1978

"Spring Landscape," n.d., oil on canvas, 24" x 27"

Gift of the Estate of Margaret Coe Cairnes | RBC-2024.AW.0005

**Special Note:**

Coe's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL. His work has recently been shown at the First Art Museum, Nashville, TN, and the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.

Coe served as the director of Alabama's Depression Era Federal Art Project. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Southern Modern: Rediscovering Southern Art" and "Magic City Realism."

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**RICHARD B. BROUGH, 1920 – 1996**  
"The Carol Ann," n.d., watercolor on paper, 14.5" x 20" | Memorial purchase in memory of Ellen Turner Harris Williams | RBC-2022.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

Brough exhibited his work domestically and internationally, holding more than 100 one-person exhibitions across the globe. In the U.S., his paintings were shown from coast to coast in many prestigious venues such as the New York World's Fair art exhibition and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. In Alabama, his work has been displayed at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and the Birmingham Museum of Art. Internationally, his work was included in traveling exhibitions in the Far East.

Brough's illustrations appeared in "American Artist" magazine, "Ford Times" magazine, and the "World Book Encyclopedia." He also illustrated a book titled "99 Fables" and a recipe book featuring a collection of Bon Secour, AL recipes. Brough is best known for his watercolor paintings, which capture scenes from throughout the United States, and his extensive travels in Central America, South America, Italy, China, and Malaysia.



**ARTHUR W. STEWART, 1915– 2001**  
"Rural Alabama Landscape II," 1939, watercolor on paper, 14" x 20"  
Gift of Elizabeth Olds Ludvik | CAM-2023.AW.0001

**Special Note:**

Stewart's work is in the collections of numerous museums, including the Birmingham Museum of Art in Birmingham, AL, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, AL. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions, catalogs, and periodicals, including "Birmingham Home & Garden" and "Alabama Heritage." His work has recently been shown at the Frist Art Museum and the Georgia Museum of Art. In 1938, Stewart's work was featured in a one-man exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Stewart's work has hung in Milan's La Scala opera house, the White House, the Pentagon and is included in the personal collection of Queen Elizabeth II.