DAYTON ART INSTITUTE EXHIBITION TO FEATURE THE ‘LIGHTPAINTINGS’ OF ARTIST STEPHEN KNAPP

(DAYTON, OHIO) – September 28, 2012 – A very different form of “painting” will be displayed in The Dayton Art Institute’s special exhibition galleries beginning October 6 – the “lightpaintings” of artist Stephen Knapp.

Stephen Knapp: Lightpaintings, on view October 6 – January 6, 2013, extends the traditions of op art and abstract painting. The artworks are created entirely with light and glass.

Knapp’s lightpaintings are the intersection of sculpture, painting and technology. They explore color, light and space, and are one of many possible directions for the future of painting. Called a new art medium of the 21st century, lightpaintings dispense with traditional media and narrative content. The resulting objects are intangible, multi-dimensional compositions of pure luminosity.


Knapp creates his works by using dichroic glass, which is treated with layers of metallic coatings. These combine to act as a selective prism, separating focused light into different frequencies of the spectrum. Knapp cuts, shapes and polishes the glass to create a palette that refracts and reflects light onto a surface and the surrounding space.
Knapp has been creating installation art and exploring the possibilities of light for more than 30 years, and his work can be found in museum, public, corporate and private collections. For nearly a decade after graduating from college in 1969, Knapp worked as a fine art photographer. From photography, Knapp moved on to more permanent materials, such as ceramic, mosaic, metal, stone and glass. This ultimately led to work in kiln-formed glass walls, sculpture, glass and steel furniture, ceramic murals, etched metal walls, carved stone and large mosaics.

Knapp developed his lightpainting techniques in the late ’90s and perfected his craft by 2002. Over the next several years, Knapp continued to develop this signature form, with his work being featured in numerous shows and exhibitions.

The Dayton Art Institute will display 13 of Knapp’s lightpaintings in its special exhibition galleries. A preview of the exhibition is currently on display at the museum – Knapp’s lightpainting Prelude was installed on the front façade of the museum earlier this summer and can be seen after dark.

A number of related programs are planned, including glass fusing workshops, an after-school program about light and color presented in partnership with the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, and a painting workshop focusing on light and color. For more about the exhibition and related programs, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/lightpaintings or call the museum at 937-223-5277.

Admission to Stephen Knapp: Lightpaintings is $12 for adults, $9 for seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more), and $6 for youth (ages 7-17). Admission is free for museum members and children 6 and under. Anyone who comes to the museum dressed in one of the colors of the rainbow will receive $2 off the price of admission. Exhibition admission prices include entrance to both Lightpaintings and the museum’s permanent collection. A $1 Historic Preservation Fee will be added to all ticket sale transactions.

This special exhibition is organized by The Dayton Art Institute and lent by Stephen Knapp. For more about Stephen Knapp and his work, visit www.lightpaintings.com.

For more information about The Dayton Art Institute, go to www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-5277. Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook and Twitter for additional information and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. With support from the Chase Endowment Fund, suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The Cafe and Museum Store have been moved to a temporary location on the lower level, and will be open during all regularly scheduled museum hours. For more information, please call 937-223-5277 or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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