



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tonight: City Hall Gallery Features Louis Joseph Testa

The Springfield Arts Commission is pleased to present an exhibition of work by artist Louis Joseph “Luigi” Testa. The show will run through March 31 with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m., today, March 9. Make the Gallery a stop on your Springfield Second Friday Artwalk!

The reception, which is open to the community, will also feature light refreshments and live music by Eugene-based Laurel Chamber Players. Founder and cellist Donna Blanc is a Bay Area native, where Laurel Chamber Players originated.

The Laurel Chamber Players perform a large variety of performances, some of which include private parties, art and Museum openings, weddings, concerts for large audiences, recitals, and house concerts. Donna Blanc lives in Springfield Oregon and her teaching studio is in Eugene.

Located on a 90-foot wall just outside the entrance to the Springfield library, City Hall Gallery is seen by approximately 3,700 visitors each month. Since 1989, the gallery has featured monthly shows by regional artists chosen by the Springfield Arts Commission. The Commission issues a public call to artists each year. More information is available on the website, springfieldartscommission.org.

For additional information contact: Thea Hart, arts commission liaison, 541.726.2238 or thart@springfield-or.com

About Testa

Luigi Testa was born in 1938 in Detroit, Michigan to a traditional Italian family. He would later move to the Bay Area to study at UC Berkeley for two years and then the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. After graduating, he pursued a career as a park ranger and District Supervisor for the East Bay Regional Park District while he continued his artistic pursuits.

His artwork includes sketches, charcoals, sculptures, iron works, and canvas oil paintings and has been displayed in California and the Pacific Northwest. Testa was also a founding member of the Pacific Rim

Sculptors Group, an organization of more than 200 artists who formed to promote public and private sculpture exhibits, education, and outreach programs.

Testa's paintings are influenced by a variety of artistic styles, and he frequently produced paintings that were caricatures of his own facial expressions. Testa's exuberant personality often extended outside of his artwork, through his dress and culinary skills.

Toward the end of his life, Testa wanted to find a home for his large collection of artwork. In 2003, Guido Bandioli, the former maintenance manager of Springfield and friend of Testa, suggested that he might consider donating some of his art to Springfield. The City of Springfield received in total 27 steel sculptures and 10 oil paintings from the artist. Since the donation, the works have been displayed in several venues including Springfield City Hall and the Springfield Public Library, with three sculptures recently installed at the Booth-Kelly Business Complex. Testa died in 2006 and is remembered by friends for his deep sureness of profoundly energetic direction.

About Springfield Arts Commission

The Springfield Arts Commission promotes artistic and cultural richness and diversity in the City of Springfield, Oregon and assists in the preservation of the cultural heritage of the community as expressed through artistic endeavors. The Commission seeks to support opportunities for artistic creation, exhibits, performances and events, and to facilitate awareness, communication, education and collaboration to increase the accessibility of the arts and art-related resources in the community. The nine-member volunteer Commission manages City Hall Gallery, administers the Heritage Arts Grant program, maintains Art Alley, a collection of outdoor murals, and supports youth arts programs in collaboration with the Springfield Public Library. The Commission is funded by transient room taxes. More information is available at springfieldartscommission.org.