

# Drawing studio spurs creativity

By Forrest Sellers  
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MADISONVILLE — A local studio is spurring creativity in Madisonville.

For more than a year the Manifest Drawing Center Studio has operated from the second floor of a building at 4905 Whetsel Ave. Just recently a sign was erected identifying the studio, which will have its first public open house 7-9 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

"Our motto is learning to draw is learning to see," said Jason Franz, founder and executive director of Manifest.

The central office is in East Walnut Hills, where Franz is a resident, while all of the educational programs are based at the Madisonville location.

The studio provides a space for developing skills in depicting "classical nude life drawings" or what is simply referred to as life drawings.

It's akin to a study hall, said Franz, in that instead of a formal discussion the artists learn from being surrounded by talent of varying skill levels.

"The beautiful thing about it is people who are de-

veloping their skills learn indirectly because they are working side by side with professionals," he said.

The studio provides a moderator, the subject matter and art equipment as well as a space to be creative, said Franz, who is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning.

Open sessions are 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays most weeks of the year while open weekend sessions are offered quarterly.

The cost for a 10-week block is \$80, \$40 for high

school and college students. One-night sessions are \$10, \$5 high school and college students.

Registration is required. For information or to register, visit the website [www.manifestgallery.org](http://www.manifestgallery.org).

The open house will provide an opportunity to view the studio as well as meet



Jason Franz, founder and executive director of Manifest, sits in the Manifest Drawing Center Studio in Madisonville. FORREST SELLERS/THE COMMUNITY PRESS

with some of the artists who participate in the program.

Franz said people who visit the studio find it "beau-

tiful, breathtaking and inspiring."

It's a space that facilitates creativity, he said.

# Mt. Lookout names citizen of the year

By Lisa Wakeland  
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Rice

she learned about the honor.

"She's always very supportive of the work we do, she sponsors our events and our newsletters,"

Community Council President John Brannock said at a recent meeting.

"Even though this is just

for 2011, Kim consistently helps us and is a large supporter of the community."

Keepsake Photography has been in Mt. Lookout square for 24 years, and Rice has been actively involved with both the Community Council and the business association.

She'd been instrumental in the annual holiday celebration in the square, and lining the streets with luminaria and supplying the fire pit, S'mores and hot cocoa for the gathering.

Rice said it's the sense of community that keeps her going year after year.

"I enjoy the camaraderie with the other business owners in the square," she said. "A lot have come and gone but there are so many wonderful people down here."

She was also actively involved as the business liaison during the recent square revitalization project, and said she would like to strengthen the business association again.

"It'd be nice if it was built up again to host more events throughout the year," she said.

"Mt. Lookout is a wonderful neighborhood and it's been a great 24 years here. I enjoy the community and the people that live here."

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36°F	41°	34°	44°	34°	46°	30°	41°	30°	30°	24°	42°	19°	48°
Cloudy			Light rain	Cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Rain	Rain	

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