



One of Raleigh's best-kept secrets, The Centerpiece is a comprehensive source for fine art, including art sales, custom framing, installation, and workshops.

The Art Authority

The Centerpiece gallery hosts the Oil Painters of America's annual exhibition in Raleigh this fall.

Text by **Dana W. Todd**

JOHN MICHAEL SIMPSON



WITH STRONG TIES in both the local and international art communities, The Centerpiece owner Wendy Kesterson and gallery manager Kathleen Deep have developed a reputation as authorities on high-quality fine art. From celebrated North Carolina artists to internationally acclaimed artists, The Centerpiece showcases both contemporary and traditional paintings, glass art, and sculptures in its 4,000-square-foot gallery. Kesterson and Deep have curated an art collection from their solid relationships with artists who are the best at their craft.

With such extensive connections in the art world, it's no surprise that the prestigious Oil Painters of America (OPA) chose The Centerpiece as its location-of-choice to host the 2024 Eastern Regional Exhibition, which takes place from October 11 to November 8, with an opening reception October 11 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The show assembles one hundred of the association's finest representational oil paintings, with a juried process to award cash and

merchandise prizes to the paintings that show the highest quality in draftsmanship, color, and composition.

"The Centerpiece is incredibly pleased to be hosting this exhibition. Viewers can expect stellar mark-making techniques along with gorgeous color and use of light from more than one hundred artists, with subjects including pets and people, lush florals and landscapes, interiors, still life, figures, and more," says Deep.

Kesterson encourages her local customer base to take advantage of this unique opportunity to see and support the best oil painters in the country. She says, "There are really five main reasons we enjoy and buy art. First, there is always an emotional connection with a piece of art. It may spark a memory or create a bond with a new artist. Second, art that we choose is usually pleasing to our eyes and often is the finishing touch that completes a room. Third, sometimes we choose artwork as a gift because we know someone who will appreciate that particular piece. Fourth, collectors find financial value in pieces they purchase. And, lastly, true art aficionados simply buy art for their love of art and the feelings it stirs."

Whatever their motivation for purchasing art, The Centerpiece wants to help people source and purchase artwork that speaks to them and their specific design style. The staff's intimate industry knowledge connects buyers and sellers of local and international art. Homeowners, collectors, and designers also can take advantage of the staff's expertise in handmade framing, custom mirrors, in-home art consultations and installations, workshops for aspiring painters, and regular exhibitions.

Kesterson adds, "Our love of art touches every part of our lives. We hope the synergy with The Centerpiece staff spills over into the lives of our cherished homeowner-collectors." 📍

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