



SOUTH HAVEN
CENTER FOR
THE
ARTS

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National Juried Exhibition opening June 20 to focus on Care

SOUTH HAVEN — The Arts & Aging Partnership of Southwest Michigan is excited to announce a national juried exhibition opening June 20 at the South Haven Center for the Arts (SHCA).

Care reflects on the impact of caregiving for both those who provide care and those who receive care. Twenty-six artists from 12 states were selected by a collaborative team from the Campus for Creative Aging and the SHCA for their work that explores the joys, hardships, and everyday realities of caregiving and receiving at all of life's phases.

"There is a breadth and depth to the way these artists have approached the theme," SHCA Executive Director Kerry Hagy said.

Wyoming, Mich., artists Samantha Vanrandan's painting "Held Elsewhere" explores the care given as a step-parent to teenager. Oil painting "53 and 75" by Albany, Ga., artist Patrick Foster reflects on the change in his identity as he has become the sole caregiver to his mother, who has dementia.

Sharon Vance created a portrait of her mother, also her caregiver, made from Legos titled "Always There."

"My mother cared for me when I was too young to care for myself, watched anxiously as I struggled through those trying teen years, and cared for my children as I worked as a young adult," Vance said. "Now that she's at an age where she should be relaxing and enjoying life, she's become my caregiver as I navigate the challenges as a middle-aged adult with slow progressing ALS."

Tender moments of caregiving are also explored in Window to our World, a community art project which began in 2024 and has resulted in 30 art pieces made by area care partners (caregivers and receivers) which will be exhibited at the SHCA concurrently with Care.

An opening reception for both exhibitions will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 20 at the SHCA, 600 Phoenix St., South Haven. Complementary refreshments will be provided.

"Together, we can inspire change and build a community where every caregiver is seen, supported, and celebrated," Jess Kolbe, Campus for Creative Aging coordinator said. "Join us while we harness the arts to mobilize community action, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all of our caregivers."

A Community Conversation is scheduled for 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 at the SHCA. This is an opportunity to engage with a panel of caregivers, care recipients and artists around the exhibition and its topic of caregiving.

A concert with Andrea Cheeseman, called "Loss, Stillness and Waiting for Acceptance" will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 28 in the SHCA gallery.

Both Care and Window to Our World will be on display from June 20 to Aug. 1, 2026.

For more information about Care, visit southhavenarts.org. To learn more about the Arts & Aging Partnership, visit <https://areaagencyonaging.org/arts-aging-partnership/>.

These exhibitions and events have been made possible in part by funding from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, The South Haven Area Community Foundation, and Edward Jones Office of Paul Hix.

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Region IV Area Agency on Aging has been serving Southwest Michigan with aging and disability services for over 50 years. RIV AAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation. Established in 1974 for the business of developing age supportive commerce and services, it plays a major role in planning, funding, and delivery of a host of services. Empowerment and independence of community members are driving themes behind its efforts. Designated by the State of Michigan to receive federal Older Americans Act funds for planning and development, the agency manages an array of government contracts for service delivery in Southwest Michigan. Its primary service area includes Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. For more information, visit www.areaagencyonaging.org.