

Ron Donoughe

Ron Donoughe is a celebrated artist renowned for his small-scale, textured oil paintings executed in a traditional *plein air* style abounding with realistic detail. He creates oil paintings on small wooden panels and larger works on canvas that are expanded from sketches of quintessential Pittsburgh cityscapes and rural landscapes. A native of Loretto now living in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, Donoughe has been painting for more than 25 years. His interest in traditional outdoor painting led him to found The Plein-Air Painters of Western Pennsylvania. Donoughe is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with additional studies at the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, California, and at workshops with the Plein-Air Painters of America. He has had solo exhibitions at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto, and the Canton Museum of Art. His works can be found in corporate and private collections throughout the United States, and also appeared in the Paramount Pictures film, *Wonder Boys*.



"I use the language of painting to express how I see and feel about the world. Some of this work is about Pittsburgh - where I live. But most of this group of work focuses on the changing landscape. Because I spend a lot of time traveling to places like Ligonier and Loretto, I have become increasingly aware that the landscape is in a constant state of flux. Construction and demolition have become commonplace. (Have you noticed the large mountains being torn away for yet another highway?)

These paintings serve as a visual time capsule that also document my recent experiences."

Kevin Kutz

Over the years, Kevin Kutz has earned acclaim for his impressionistic paintings depicting the landmarks, farms and bridges along the historic Lincoln Highway. His paintings serve as painted biographies of the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Kutz, who began painting at the age of eight, strives to record on canvas a historic legacy of the region. His primary media are oils and watercolors, and the Neo-Impressionistic style in which he paints emphasizes his use of color and texture. His paintings are renowned for featuring a tranquil, airy quality influenced by his studies with impressionistic painter Robert Brackman. Originally from Pittsburgh, Kutz studied at the Kiski School in Saltsburg and Carnegie Mellon University, and held a residency at the Vermont Studio Colony. His work has been widely exhibited in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and is included in several public and private collections. An award-winning artist, Kutz won First Place in the 2001 Laurel Arts Juried Competition and Best of Show at the 2001 Bedford County Arts Festival. In 2006, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performed Todd Goodman's "*Sketches of Home*," which was inspired by Kutz's artwork. The artist is currently represented by Gallery in the Square in Pittsburgh.

"Sometimes when asked to write an artist statement I feel as though I have validated my pigmentized meanderings that I try not to think too much about to begin with. In this case, for this show, I appreciate having been asked to exhibit paintings of the area between Pittsburgh and Ligonier and eastward. A book was printed with images of my paintings of places along Route 30 as I had been doing them for over 25 years. Now that many of the places have gone by the wayside, I feel glad I did the paintings while they were here though at the time I wasn't sure.

Having studied under Robert Brackman, who had been a student of George Bellows and Robert Henri, I feel a connection to the lineage of the Ashcan School I've admired. Though Brackman painted neither like Henri or Bellows, he did endorse their artistic spirit and said whatever you paint, paint it as beautifully as you can. Along with that, I go with the thought that an artist may take the ordinary and make it extra ordinary; the mundane revealing itself as something at which to marvel."



Acknowledgment

From the serenity of the countryside to the hustle and bustle of urban streets, Western Pennsylvania offers a smorgasbord for our senses to enjoy. The peace and tranquility of rolling hills and thick forests, and a patchwork of farms and fields are juxtaposed to the energy, electricity and excitement of the city. Pittsburgh artist, Ron Donoughe, and Bedford artist, Kevin Kutz, tantalize our senses and leave us wanting just a little bit more in the Ligonier Valley Museum exhibition, *A Changing Landscape: From the City to the Countryside*.

This exhibition has been described as a journey along our roads and highways, avenues and alleys. The scenery and sites along the way have been transposed from the mind's eye to the canvas by these two talented artists. The landscapes that are presented here are a tribute to the beauty of this region. The industrial scenes that are on display underscore the heritage of hard work that characterizes Western Pennsylvania. This is one trip you will not want to miss.

Both Ron Donoughe and Kevin Kutz are Pennsylvanians at heart and their artwork shows an appreciation and respect for their home. By immersing ourselves in their work, we get a better picture of the riches that surround us that we oftentimes overlook. Steel girders from local mills form a sturdy bridge that stands against the elements and assures safe passage for each and every traveler. A stream meandering through the forest depicts the purity of nature and highlights what is one of our most precious natural resources. Their paintings ask us to slow down, look around and enjoy the ride. You are invited to join Donoughe and Kutz on this journey across Western Pennsylvania and celebrate the treasures that abound here.

My sincere appreciation is extended to all who worked to make this exhibition a success. I am grateful to the DFS Charitable Foundation for their support of this exhibition. I acknowledge Sommer Toffle, SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator, for her dedication and hard work in making this exhibition a reality. I also recognize the Director's Circle, Museum Associates, Education Sponsors, Exhibition Sponsors, and other donors who give generously to help make our work at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art possible. Finally, I thank our patrons and an active and involved Ligonier community for their ongoing support of the Museum's exhibitions and events.

G. Gary Moyer
Executive Director



Ron Donoughe, *Ligonier Hillside*, 2008

Editors: Travis Mearns and Sommer Toffle
Printer: Laurel Valley Graphics
Catalogue Design: Bonnie Hoffman and Sommer Toffle

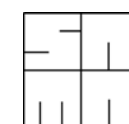
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This catalogue is published by the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art
Post Office Box 9
Loretto, PA 15940
(814) 472-3920

This exhibition is sponsored in part by the DFS Charitable Foundation

Cover Photos:
Top: Ron Donoughe, *Blawnox Mill*, 2009
Bottom: Kevin Kutz, *Dutch Corner*, 2009

Ligonier Valley Museum Hours:
Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 1 to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 to 5 p.m. beginning May 24
Closed Mondays
Admission is free



A Changing Landscape From the City to the Countryside



Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art Ligonier Valley

May 1, 2009 - August 1, 2009

Curator's Statement

As a new resident of the Ligonier area, I was immediately struck by the beauty of this region. Within a ten minute drive, one can find him- or herself in either the vast countryside or gazing at the intriguing industrial design of steel mills and power plants. So when I assumed the position of Museum Coordinator, I began developing the idea of an exhibition that would establish a visual narrative of this region's natural beauty, distinctive topography and ever-changing industry; an exhibition created to commemorate Pittsburgh's industry, its suburbs and neighborhoods, and the tranquility of the surrounding Ligonier countryside. My desire was for the viewer to embark on a visual journey of what it is like to live in this part of the Keystone State.



Kevin Kutz, *Low Water*, 2008

To bring this exhibition to fruition, I brought two highly acclaimed artists - Ron Donoughe and Kevin Kutz - together for the first time. Through their impressionist works, *A Changing Landscape: From the City to the Countryside* was born. This exhibition features an outstanding array of landscapes and industrial paintings. Donoughe and Kutz have masterfully brought to canvas the commute from Pittsburgh, the lovely steel giant, along Route 30 to Ligonier's rolling countryside and into Bedford's majestic farmland.

Donoughe has the gift of turning the mundane into something spectacular, whether that is an overcast spring morning with deep dramatic grays or a vibrant multi-colored alleyway. His work emits a tranquil beauty that only a keen eye and exceptional talent can create. His application of lighting and color appears effortless in his compositions and his use of color theory is brilliant as he blurs the line between impressionism and realism. The dedication to his craft of *plein air* painting is inspirational.

Kutz's color palette and refined talent captures the spirit of his muse in every painting he creates. His work has a dreamlike characteristic with nostalgic appeal, full of life and energy that only a highly acute impressionist can conceive. His paintings are full of rich textures and thoughtful experimentation that cultivate an emotional response from his audience. This multi-talented artist is the mad hatter of contemporary landscape painters and he can play a mean banjolin to boot.

While viewing the exhibition one is given the unique opportunity to delve into the creative minds of these talented award-winning artists. The paintings are a virtual journey, capturing the subtleties of light and color dancing upon houses, fields, power plants, roadways, bridges and alleyways. Donoughe and Kutz are record keepers of our past and our present, asking us as the viewer to slow down and take a look at the beauty we might be missing and the history of who we are as a community and as travelers.

This exhibition is a tribute to Donoughe's and Kutz's work and was created for the people of Western Pennsylvania and our visiting guests. I appreciate having the opportunity to work with these two extraordinary artists and to see my vision unfold at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. I thank Ron Donoughe and Kevin Kutz for bringing *A Changing Landscape: From the City to the Countryside* to life, and I am grateful to the DFS Charitable Foundation for their support and kindness. Without their sponsorship this exhibition would not have been possible. My thanks and gratitude also go to SAMA's Executive Director, G. Gary Moyer, and our Board of Trustees. I also thank my fellow colleagues at SAMA for their assistance and encouragement and to Bonnie Hoffman for her assistance with the production of this catalogue.



Ron Donoughe, *Linn Run at 5°*, 2009

Sommer Toffle
Exhibition Curator and Museum Coordinator

CATALOGUE

Ron Donoughe

Aqua Truck, 2006
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Arsenal Park, 2006
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Behind 38th Street, 2007
Oil on canvas, 30" x 48"

Blawnox Mill, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Chestnut Ridge, 2007
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

City Geometry, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Clone Houses on Turnpike, 2009
Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Coke Ovens, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Corner House, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Donegal Thaw, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 14"

Double Blast Gray, 2005-09
Oil on canvas, 37" x 70"

Dump Truck #1, 2008
Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Dump Truck #2, 2008
Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Feeding Time, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 14"

Flag, 2006
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Frozen Alley, 2009
Oil on linen, 20" x 30"

Gray Hillside, 2009
Oil on panel, 5" x 7"

Green Moss, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Herron Hill, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Horse Farm, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Horseshoe Bend Road, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

House Shadow, 2009
Oil on linen, 16" x 20"

Iron Furnace, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Lawrenceville Steel, 2007
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Lawrenceville Through the Trees, 2008
Oil on panel, 5" x 7"

Ligonier Hillside, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Ligonier Light, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Ligonier Shadows, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Ligonier Winter, 2005
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Linn Run at 5°, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 14"

Linn Run Study, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Linn Run Water, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Millvale Pattern, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Millvale Shadows, 2006
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Morning Snow, 2009
Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

No Outlet, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"
Collection of the artist



Ron Donoughe, *House Shadow*, 2009

Over and Under, 2006
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Overhead Cranes/Truck, 2008
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Pine Creek Light, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Poles, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Polish Hill Morning, 2008
Oil on panel, 5" x 7"

Polish Hill Under Snow, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"
Collection of the artist

Red, Green & Blue, 2009
Oil on panel, 5" x 7"

Roof Tops, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Route 22 Construction, 2004
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Route 22 Sunset, 2008
Oil on canvas, 30" x 40"
Collection of Polly McQueen

Row Houses, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Smoke Tower, 2008
Oil on panel, 5" x 7"

Snow Fall, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Stanislaw Winter Vista, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"
Private collection



Kevin Kutz, *Heading for the Hills*, 2009



Kevin Kutz, *Heading Home*, 2009

Steel Day, 2006
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Through the Trees, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Towards Rolling Rock, 2007
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Tree Line, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Trunks, 2006
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Turnpike Construction, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Untitled, 2007
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Village Barn, 2008
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

West End, 2006
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Winter Blanket, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 14"

Winter Day, 2005
Oil on panel, 11" x 14"

Winter Shadow, 2009
Oil on panel, 5" x 7"

Winter Stump, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

Winter Window Flag, 2008
Oil on linen, 42" x 60"

Yard Deer, 2009
Oil on panel, 9" x 12"

* All works Courtesy of the artist
unless otherwise noted

Kevin Kutz

7 Eleven, 2009
Oil on canvas, 22" x 51"

7 Mile Stretch - Hollsopple Turn Off, 2009
Oil on canvas mounted on panel,
18" x 48"

Adam Falls, 2006-09
Oil on canvas, 68" x 55"

Big Sheetz, 2009
Oil on relief panel, 46" x 68"

Diversity, 2009
Oil on canvas, 36" x 36"

Dutch Corner, 2009
Oil on panel, 19" x 30"

East from Allegheny, 2008-09
Oil on panel, 61" x 48"

Gap at Everett, 2008
Oil on canvas, 32" x 32"

Greenland Lodge, 2009
Oil on cut out panel, 25" x 36"

Haver's House, 2008-09
Oil on canvas, 36" x 36"

Hawk Watch I, 2009
Oil on panel, 15" x 15"

Hawk Watch II, 2009
Oil on panel, 15" x 15"

Hawk Watch III, 2009
Oil on panel, 15" x 15"

Heading for the Hills, 2009
Oil on canvas, 30" x 30"

Heading Home, 2009
Oil on canvas, 30" x 30"

Idlewild, 2009
Monotype, 36" x 36"

Log Church Interior with Pulpit, 2007
Watercolor on paper, 33" x 28"

Low Water, 2008
Oil on canvas, 24" x 20"
Collection of the artist

Mon Morn [center], 2008-09
Oil on canvas, 32" x 29"

Mon Morn [left], 2008-09
Oil on canvas, 30" x 30"

Mon Morn [right], 2008-09
Oil on canvas, 28" x 29"

Mon Morn I, 2008
Etching, 18" x 18"

Mon Morn II, 2008
Etching, 18" x 18"

Mon Morn III, 2008
Etching, 18" x 18"

Motel, 2009
Oil on canvas, 32" x 32"

New Black Top, 2009
Oil on panel, 14" x 50"

PGH. 2000, 2000
Oil on cut out panel, 48" x 216"

Rocks and Moss, 2009
Oil on panel, 22" x 26"

Serro's Diner, 2009
Oil on cut out panel, 18" x 32"

Shawnee Lake, 2009
Oil on canvas, 30" x 67"

"Slow Flow" [Loyalhanna Limited], 2009
Oil on canvas, 25" x 45"

Spring Trickle, 2009
Oil on panel, 14" x 22"

Thirty on 30, 2009
Oil on canvas, 41" x 112"

* All works Courtesy of the artist
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