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### **ARTS COUNCIL FEATURES STEPHEN RUST DURING EXHIBIT**

**CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO--** Friday, September 7, from 5 to 9 p.m., the Southeast Missouri Arts Council will be hosting a reception for Stephen Rust, a Cape Girardeau native who currently resides in Columbia, MO. The show will be on display until October 27, and features a solo exhibit by the artist in Gallery 100 and the Lorimier Gallery at the Arts Council.

Rust's work focuses primarily on outdoor spaces and landscapes. Many of his oil paintings begin as 'plein air', which means that they are painted in the outdoors, on location, regardless of the weather conditions. Rust then creates larger versions in his studio space, expanding and elaborating on the original field study. He prefers not to paint from photographs, favoring the way that color and form appear when painted from what the human eye actually sees. Another style that Rust enjoys is still life painting. He says this type of painting allows him to 'delve deeper into form, and explore edges, composition, shadow and light'.

Rust has exhibited his luminous oil paintings at many galleries throughout Missouri, and has participated in workshops with such notables as Rusty Garner, Jim Wilcox, Kim English and Rick Howell. His influences include Vincent Van Gogh, Thomas Moran, Frederic Remington, and many others.

During the First Friday reception, beverages and other refreshments will be available for guests, courtesy of Major Brands.

Come join other arts patrons and supporters in welcoming Stephen Rust next Friday. The Visual Arts Cooperative will also debut new works in their gallery space at the Arts Council. The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri is located at 32 North Main Street in Cape Girardeau, MO. Galleries are open Tuesday- Saturday, from 10am to 4pm.