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For Immediate Release

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CLE artist panel chooses Terrazzo Floor Art Project winners

Cleveland, December 29, 2009 – Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) is proud to announce seven artists who were selected for the permanent installation of artwork in the airport's Terrazzo Floor art project which will be located in three of the four airport concourses.

"This was a very competitive process and all the work submitted for judging was excellent," said Airport Director Ricky Smith. "I want to thank all of the artists in the area and region who submitted ideas for their interest. I know our panel of judges had a difficult time but in the end, the work selected represents the Cleveland area as well as the Northeast Ohio region."

The airport issued a call for artists in July for artist proposals for the Terrazzo Art project. Airport officials will be replacing flooring throughout the terminal and wanted to incorporate artwork into the floor that represented the Cleveland-area and Northeast Ohio region. The airport received more than 25 artist submissions for the project and seven finalists were selected. The call for artist was open to all artists in the area including students from local school districts.

The seven finalists and their work include (see attached artists' bios):

Concourse A – at the entrance of Concourse A and Gate A5

Betsey Friedman – "Cleveland Blocks"

Mark Rook – "Green Utopia"

Concourse B – Gate B6

Students from Whitney Young High School, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Maria Cuadra, Eاون March and Chae Simpson – "A Green City on a Blue Lake"

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Concourse C – Gates C1, C10, C14 and C26

Claire Sullivan – “Hooked on Cleveland”

Sean Michael – “Starry Night In Cleveland”

Tom Koskey – “Early Morning Steelyard Blues”

Eva Kwong – “Cleveland – The Wind Turbine City”

According to Smith, “We put together a team of local artists and City of Cleveland representatives as part of the review and selection committee. These ladies and gentlemen knew what was required of each submission and through the process; they selected a group of outstanding artists whose work express the vision of the project.”

The Art Review panel included:

- Alenka Banco, director/owner, Josaphat Arts Hall & Convivium33 Gallery
- Gregory Peckham, executive director, Cleveland Public Art
- Charles Pinkney, professional artist
- Tony Sias, director, All City Arts Program, Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Ron A. Reed, FAIA, principal, Westlake Reed Leskosky
- Traci Clark, deputy chief, Planning and Engineering, Department of Port Control
- Erin Dorsey, public relations manager, City of Cleveland
- Jude Sullivan, properties manager, Business Development and Management, Department of Port Control

For more information on the winners and their artwork, visit the airport’s Web site at www.clevelandairport.com.

Terrazzo Art Floor artist bios

Hooked on Cleveland (C1)

Artist: Claire Sullivan

Claire Sullivan Gerdes is an artist and designer living in Cleveland, Ohio. She grew up in University Heights, a near east suburb of Cleveland. In 1992 she received her BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art, majoring in painting. She attended Lacoste School of Art in the South of France as part of her undergraduate studies. In 1999 she continued her design education concentrating on Textile and Surface Design, receiving an AAS degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. She has also lived in New York City, San Francisco, and north of Chicago.

Currently, she is an independent designer and sole proprietor of Claire Sullivan Design. Her artistic focus is on public fine art, painting, and printed textile design for commercial manufacturing. Much of her work is targeted for Contract and Hospitality upholstery markets.

Claire is thrilled to participate in this celebration of her hometown. Her terrazzo design exemplifies Cleveland's many attributes; including its world renowned institutions, outstanding natural resources, and its friendly, easy-going style.

Starry Night in Cleveland (C10)

Artist: Sean Michael

"In 1957, I was born to an extraordinary family. I have done a lot of living since. I am not dead yet."

Sean believes the City of Cleveland requires more than a cursory glance in order to appreciate its real beauty, depth and complexity. He adds that it is a city whose past includes historic significance, influence, and grandeur. As a native son, he has invested hopes and dreams in Cleveland.

The Starry Night in Cleveland image is intended to depict the past, present and future in a single frame.

Early Morning Steelyard Blues (C14)

Artist: Tom Koskey

Tom has had a lifelong interest in art, but never felt confident in his talents to seriously pursue it. With no formal training, he began a few years ago painting with acrylics, also producing a few charcoal and pastel portraits of his co-workers. They were more than pleased with his effort and encouraged him to continue with his new hobby.

Although Cleveland strives to be a "Green City on a Blue Lake", he think it's important to remember our industrial heritage. This scene of a city awakening to

smoking stacks and rising steam was a familiar site to thousands of Cleveland commuters passing the steelyards on their way downtown.

In his early career he worked as a Hulett-type-ore-unloader operator on Whiskey Island. For 24 years he operated the behemoth unloaders, scooping iron ore from the bellies of giant ships. Self-unloaders finally shut down the Hulett's in 1993 thrusting him into other endeavors. For the last four years he has worked as a Transportation Security Administration Officer at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. "To have one of my works selected for the very floor I walk on daily, is an overwhelming concept. I am both proud and humbled."

Cleveland – The Wind Turbine City (C26)

Artist: Eva Kwong

Eva Kwong was born in Hong Kong and has lived in Northeast Ohio since the mid-eighties. She is an adjunct faculty at Kent State University. She received her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in 1975 and her MFA from Tyler School of Art in 1977. She has lectured and exhibited extensively throughout the country and abroad.

Her artwork has received awards from the Ohio Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Arts Midwest. Her artwork is in private and public collections like the Mint Museum of Art and Design, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Finnish Craft Museum, Racine Museum of Art, Shigaraki Ceramic Art Museum, and the Butler Museum of American Art, etc.

Cleveland, Past, Present & Future (B6)

Artists: Whitney Young High School Students, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD)

**Maria Cuadra
Eaon March
Chae Simpson**

Maria Cuadra was born on May 3, 1992 and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Her parents, Edwin and Deborah Cuadra, are both Cleveland Police Officers. She is currently a Senior at Whitney M. Young High School for the Gifted and Talented. She plans on majoring in Early Childhood Education at either Miami University or Spelman College. Her goal is to become a teacher and start a non-profit organization focused on giving children in Third World countries an opportunity to receive an education.

Eaon March was born October 22, 1992 to Sharon Gordon and Kevin March. Eaon was born in South Beach Miami, Florida and his parents were born in Jamaica. He recently move back to Cleveland from New York, New York. Eaon is currently a Junior at Whitney M. Young High School for the Gifted and Talented. Some of his hobbies are playing sports and drawing.

Chae Simpson was born April 11, 1992 to Tina Simpson and Marcus Tate. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She is presently a Senior at Whitney M. Young High School for the Gifted and Talented. She plans to attend either Kent State University or Baldwin Wallace College to major in Chemistry and minor in Criminal Justice. She hopes to fulfill her dream of becoming a Crime Laboratory Analyst and a Crime Scene Examiner. Her future goal is to become a Medical Examiner.

Cleveland Blocks (A1)

Artist: Betsey Nims Friedman

Betsey Nims Friedman is an artist-turned lawyer-turned artist. She has lived and worked in the Greater Cleveland area for most of her life, presently living and working in Shaker Heights. As an art major, with a specific interest in graphic design and textile art, Betsey graduated from DePauw University, studied here and abroad and worked in a number of art departments of commercial and public relations companies. While raising her family, she changed paths and attended law school. A magna cum laude graduate and law review editor of the Cleveland State University College of Law, she practiced law for twenty-six years, the majority of her career at the Ohio Attorney General's Office where she served as Senior Assistant Attorney General. The selection of Cleveland Blocks! for the CLE Terrazzo Art Project has recognized her return to her creative passion for graphic design, with a particular specialty of incorporating recycled fabrics and geometric shapes in her work.

Green Utopia (A5)

Artist: Mark Rook

Mark Rook has 20+ years of experience in the graphic design field, serving as a Graphic Designer, Art Director and Creative Director for Cleveland-area publishing, health care and consumer products companies. In addition to his design talents he is an accomplished artist and illustrator.

His graphic design work has been recognized by such organizations as ASBPE (American Society of Business Press Editors), the Press Club of Cleveland and BPAA (Business/Professional Advertising Assn.). Mark's passion for juvenile illustration and artwork is expressed through his paintings that are part of permanent collections at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital and Kaiser Permanente. He has had one-man shows at The Butler Institute of Art, Youngstown and Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio.

Mark holds a BFA in Graphic Design from The University of Akron. He lives in Olmsted Falls with his wife Barbara and their two children, Matt and Libby.