

Hurricane Katrina Special Event

Note: The event for "Art for Relief" raised \$16,211.25.

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For: Reinike Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ORLEANS PAINTINGS ANCHOR "ART FOR RELIEF" SHOW AND SALE

Some Works Depict Scenes that May be Lost Forever

Atlanta, Ga. September 22, 2005 – The sights and flavors of New Orleans will highlight an art exhibit, Saturday, October 1, from 4 to 9 p.m., at Reinike Gallery to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina. The party will feature a Creole menu courtesy of Ruth's Chris Steak House and *plein air* paintings of New Orleans by Phil Sandusky, whose artworks portray a city that, because of Katrina's destruction, may have changed forever.

For the event, buyers will receive a 25 percent discount and an additional 25 percent will go to charities that are helping Katrina's victims. Reinike Gallery's stable of artists all have agreed to reduce the prices of their works by half for this one time event.

Sandusky lives and teaches art in New Orleans; the owners of Reinike Gallery and the owners of Ruth's Chris Steak House are from that historic city. All have close ties to Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Sandusky's *plein air* paintings of New Orleans depict its seductive beauty and urban grit. He is a contemporary Impressionist, working directly from life, giving immediacy to his architectural studies of Uptown, Audubon Park, the Central Business District, Lakeview and City Park, as well as the more well-known Garden District and French Quarter. The temporarily-displaced artist has been living in Atlanta and painting on the streets of the city since the storm.

"Aside from occasionally being questioned by vigilant security guards, I've found Atlanta to be a rich source of painting subjects, from Piedmont Park to St. Philips Cathedral," Sandusky said. These paintings will also be on view.

Other artists participating in the benefit include: Henry Callahan, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (which was also hit by Katrina); Gretchen R. Eppling, New Orleans, LA; Joyce Garner, Prospect, KY; Peter J. O'Halloran, Lawrenceville, GA; Charles H. Reinike III, Atlanta, GA; and Vanita Smithey, Houston, TX.

“We want to encourage Atlanta’s art lovers to come to this event. Ruth’s Chris Steak House is providing fabulous food and our artists are providing beautiful paintings,” explained Charles Reinike. “We want to help the charities that have helped the people of Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast affected by Katrina. Our family and friends are safe, but there are so many people who have lost everything and who will need extraordinary help in the coming months. We knew our artists and many of our collectors would want to help, so we put together this show. We hope that offering buyers a 50 percent discount will encourage them to buy artworks. In return, they must donate 25 percent of that discount to the charity of their choice from a list we have compiled. The result is that they have done a wonderful thing for a lot of hurting people and they have a beautiful work of art at a net 25 percent discount. And, to top it off, they get a charitable tax deduction, too.”

Co-sponsor Ruth’s Chris Steak House will provide New Orleans favorites, such as jambalaya and red beans and rice, for the show. The restaurant originated as a popular New Orleans destination where the movers and shakers of the city could always find great food and lively company. There are three Ruth’s Chris Steak House locations in metro Atlanta.

The menu is faithful to its New Orleans foundation, with sizzling steaks served on 500 degree plates, along with Creole treats such as shrimp remoulade, fried oysters, and bread pudding with whisky sauce.

“Nearly everyone has been affected in some way by the impact of Hurricane Katrina. It's been a stressful few weeks but we wanted to show support for our friends and families,” said Fred Lejeune, Sales Director for Ruth’s Chris, So, in true New Orleans fashion... we decided to throw a party! Teaming with the Reinikes to create Art for Relief just seemed like a natural fit.”

Reinike Gallery, established in New Orleans in 1930, moved to Atlanta in 1987, bringing with it an artistic heritage that centers on original contemporary paintings by artists whose unique visions invite art lovers to explore a wonderful and exciting world of Art. Artistic styles range from high realism to expressive abstraction.

“Art for Relief” is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 from 4 to 9 p.m. at Reinike Gallery, 789 Miami Circle, in Buckhead. Credit cards cannot be accepted for discounts. More information is available at 404.364.0490.

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