



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dayton Society of Artists  
48 High Street  
Dayton, OH 45403-2318

**Media Contact:**

Colleen Kelsey, Gallery Director  
937- 228-4523 [director@daytondsa.org](mailto:director@daytondsa.org)  
[www.daytondsa.org](http://www.daytondsa.org)



The Dayton Society of Artists and The Dayton Art Institute are partnering to present *David Smith*, an exhibition from June 2 through July 1 that will feature over 500 works spanning Smith's lengthy artistic career. Opening reception, which is free and open to the public, is Friday, June 2, from 6 to 9 PM at Dayton Society of Artists, 48 High Street in Dayton.

Mostly known for his architectural renderings, David Smith has drawn and painted most of the Dayton area. His prolific portfolio consists mostly of works on paper in the media of watercolor, ink, monoprint and acrylic. In addition, he considered himself a student of gesture. Exploring emotions and movement, Smith depicted various subjects throughout his career.

The *David Smith* exhibition celebrates his life and legacy by inviting the Dayton community to participate and purchase an original work by the artist, who died in 2016 at age 95. Works are affordable, with quick gesture drawings beginning at ten dollars up to framed

watercolor drawings priced at three hundred dollars. It was Smith's desire that his work be shared and the proceeds go to support The Dayton Art Institute. This is a rare opportunity, as Smith's artwork continues to be sought after.

David Smith was born in 1921, the son of Jack and Bessie Smith. He graduated from Oakwood High School in 1939 and went on to study at Miami University. He left Miami to serve three years in the U.S Army during WW II. Stationed in the Pacific, he never stopped making art. "When I was in the military during the Second World War, I always carried a pencil in my pocket and a sketchbook in my barracks bag," said Smith. During this time, he drew a series of 29 pencil drawings that reflected the daily life of a soldier. This series was published shortly before his death in the book *Sgt. Smith's Sketchbook: 1943-1945 a World Away*. After the war, he finished his studies at Miami University and then received his MFA from the University of Iowa in 1950.

Smith taught art at Fairmont West High School for 18 years and then 10 years part-time at the Dayton Art Institute and the University of Dayton. He was very active in the local art community throughout his life. He was the past president of the Western Ohio Watercolor Society and Dayton Society of Painters and Sculptors (now Dayton Society of Artists), and a member of the Miami Valley Arts Council. He exhibited his work both locally and nationally.

The 48 High Street Gallery will be open on Saturday, June 3, from 9 AM to 5 PM during the St. Anne's Hill neighborhood event **Trash to Treasure**. Additional Gallery hours during the *David Smith* exhibition will be Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 5 PM through July 1.

### **David Smith**

Dayton Society of Artists, 48 High Street, Dayton, OH 45403-2318

Opening Reception: Friday, June 2, 6-9 PM

St. Anne's Hill Neighborhood Trash to Treasure Event: Saturday, June 3, 9 AM- 5 PM

Exhibition runs: June 2 – July 1

### **Gallery Hours:**

Fridays & Saturdays: 12- 5 PM \*Or by appointment