Welcome to

The Watson Ewell Currin Community Art Gallery

This gallery represents, and is named for, four generations of artists, all from the same family. It is named for a family of artists that started in Chicago, and is continued in Hudson, Ohio. It has been endowed in hopes that it will provide a display area for Hudson artists of all ages, from the very young to those veterans in the field.

Please read this brochure and enjoy the history behind the names above the door. It is hoped you will come back often to view the artwork displayed here.

The endowment of this gallery has been made possible through the James M. Ewell Charitable Foundation.
Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson was born April 28, 1885. He attended college to become a chemical engineer, but stayed only one year, and then transferred to The Art Institute of Chicago, where he was more in his element. He was the Director of the Milwaukee Art Institute until 1924, when he moved to Highland Park, IL. and became a teacher and lecturer at The Art Institute of Chicago. During his time there one of his students was Walt Disney. During his growing up years, Orson Welles (a second cousin) was mentored by him. In one year alone he gave 370 talks to 120,000 people. He lectured in over 69 countries, and was knighted by the King of Belgium. He painted all of his life and died at the age of 87.

Marjorie Watson Ewell, the daughter of Dudley Watson, was born August 18, 1916. All of her life she was artistic. Not a surprise when you are born into a family with such an illustrious father. She was the only child (of four daughters) who became an artist. She studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, with some summers in Provincetown, MA, a real haven for artists, and received her degree from the Chicago Art Institute in 1938. She married James Ewell, son of James and Hazel Ewell. She raised four children, and during her years as a Mother, she continued to be part of the art community of Cincinnati, Ohio. She became a well-known painter and sculptor and continued with her love of artistic expression until her early death at the age of only 58.

James Marvin Cady Ewell was born May 28, 1889. He knew when in high school that art was a career he wished to pursue, and started attending night classes at The Art Institute of Chicago as a high school junior. After graduation he became a full time student at the Institute. It was while a student there, and on a sketching trip that Dr. Watson was conducting to Europe, that he met Hazel Crow (later to become his wife) Even though he was an amazing artist he had to go into advertising in order to support his family. One of his legacies can still be seen today on every piece of Wilson equipment, and that is the calligraphy Wilson. His last 25 years were spent as a farmer of champion shorthorn cattle.

Hazel Crow Ewell was born November 18, 1887. She was born into a very privileged family, and to the best of our knowledge became the first artist in the family. She graduated from high school with honors and went on to the Art Institute of Chicago. While there she met James Ewell and they were married. Raising two children (Dianne who is still an accomplished artist living in San Francisco, and James, who was a corporate executive) did not detain her from following her artistic talents. She became a well known and exhibited artist and sculptor both in the Chicago area, and Palm Beach, Florida. She continued to create through painting and sculpting until her death at the age of 85.

Deborah Ewell Currin, born September 20, 1945, is the third generation of this artistic family. She considers herself more of a folk artist, and expresses her interest through wood and ceramic. She has been highlighted in Better Homes and Garden, and Good Housekeeping magazine for her custom designed Christmas ornaments, and has done free lance designs for American Greeting Corp. A long time resident of Hudson, Ohio, she continues to work artistically through custom painted tiles, and unique furniture and home décor.

Kristin Leigh Currin, born March 1, 1973, is the daughter of Deborah and Bill Currin, and has continued the family’s tradition with her many paintings and hand work. She is a graduate of Hudson High School, and now lives in Oregon. Although art is an avocation for her, she exhibits all the talent that has been passed down through her family.

Bethany Lyn Currin, born December 28, 1978, is the second daughter of Deborah and Bill Currin. She has always been a child of art. Her manifestation of the family talent has been seen in her handy work with wool, and her wonderful photography. Her pictures show unusual scenes from all over the world and transport us all there. Now a resident of San Francisco, she also grew up in Hudson. It will be wonderful to see how these two sisters, the fourth generation of artists, choose to express their genetic legacy.