



**The Marysville Art League & Union County Historical Society
Present**

Rooted Here

Creative Legacies of Union County



**Traditional
& Folk Art**



**Glass &
Pottery**



**On the
Page**



**Visual
Arts**

Exhibit curated for the
America 250 Ohio Creativity Trail
showcasing the works of nationally recognized artists whose
influence extends well beyond the state. Spanning styles,
mediums, and generations, the collection reflects a creative
exploration—where craftsmanship, imagination, and personal
expression converge.



Marysville Art League

At the Historic Houston House

The Marysville Art League is a long-standing community arts organization in Marysville, Ohio, founded in 1979 by local art enthusiasts. It operates from the historic Houston House and is dedicated to promoting and appreciating visual and performing arts in Union County. The art league offers classes, workshops, gallery exhibits, community events, and

opportunities for local artists to showcase and sell their work, while also helping preserve the legacy of the Houston House as a cultural resource.

For more information: MarysvilleArtLeague.org.

The Houston House

A Legacy of Creativity

Built in 1872, the Italianate-style Houston House is one of Marysville's enduring historic landmarks. The home was constructed by Christopher Houston, an Irish immigrant and prominent businessman whose influence extended from commerce to civic life. His wife, Hannah Sabine Houston, was a remarkable community leader who founded the Women's Parliament in 1890—an organization still active today—and served as Marysville's first Matron of the Eastern Star.



The house remained in the Houston family for generations, most recently as the home of Grace Houston Biamonte, a gifted artist and educator. Trained at the Columbus Art School, The Ohio State University, and Columbia University, Grace's artwork continues to be part of Marysville's cultural landscape.

Since 1982, the Houston House has been home to the Marysville Art League. Carefully restored, it now serves as a vibrant community art center, offering galleries, studios, classes, and intimate event spaces. Preserved architectural details and ongoing restoration efforts ensure the house remains a place where Marysville's history and creative spirit come together.





Ella Dolbear Lee (1866-1958)

Illustrating Childhood Imagination from Marysville to the World

Born in Marysville, Ohio, Ella Dolbear Lee became one of the most beloved illustrators of classic children's literature in the early 20th century. Her whimsical, tender images brought timeless stories to life, including *Mother Goose Rhymes*, *Little Boy Blue*, *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *Puss in Boots*.

Lee illustrated some of the era's most influential collections, including *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, *Anderson's Fairy Tales*, and *Fifty Famous Fairy Tales*, enchanting generations of young readers. Her artwork also appeared in popular magazines such as *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Women's Home Companion*, and she even lent her talents to commercial illustration, including work for Coca-Cola.

One of her most personal works appears in Ella Dolbear Lee's *Mother Goose Book* (1920), where the child depicted in "Little Boy Blue" was modeled after her own son. Lee's legacy endures as a reminder that Ohio creativity has long shaped the stories of childhood.

Exhibit: *Original illustration of Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater on loan from the Union County Historical Society and a collection of her literary work.*





Grace Houston Biamonte (1885-1979)

Artist, Educator, and Keeper of a Creative Home

Grace Houston Biamonte was the last member of the Houston family to live in the historic Houston House, where she remained until 1978. Today, many of her original paintings still hang within those walls, silent witnesses to a life steeped in creativity and community.

Biamonte studied at The Ohio State University and went on to become a professor of art in Pennsylvania. Though she spent her professional career outside Ohio, her artistic and social ties to Marysville remained strong. Many founding members of the local art league were close friends, fellow Garden Club members, and frequent guests in her home.

While records of how the art league acquired so many of her works are unclear, what is certain is the lasting beauty and significance of her paintings. Biamonte's art continues to shape the character of the Houston House and serves as a testament to the quiet but enduring influence of Ohio women artists.

Exhibit: *Original illustrations and photographs.*





Ann Entis (1927-2007)

Sculpting Expression in Clay

Ann Entis worked primarily in clay, embracing the medium's intimacy and expressive potential. Through touch, pressure, and patience, she shaped sculptures that feel both grounded and alive - forms that reflect a deep sensitivity to human experience. Much of her work focused on children, capturing moments of curiosity and quiet emotion with warmth and grace.

Entis received her formal art training at New York's Art Students League and the Sculpture Center of Greenwich Village, with additional study in Mexico. She later established her sculpture studio in Marysville, Ohio, where her work gained national recognition. Her sculptures were widely commissioned for schools, churches, libraries, and other public institutions, allowing her art to become part of everyday life and shared spaces.

Rooted in Ohio's rich tradition of three-dimensional art, Entis' work emphasizes craftsmanship and the tactile relationship between artist and material. Her sculptures are held in collections across every U.S. state and in many countries abroad, including notable works in the White House and the Ohio Governor's Mansion.

As part of The Ohio Creativity Trail, Ann Entis offers a voice grounded in material honesty, physicality, and the timeless appeal of shaping the earth by hand.

Exhibit: *A curated selection of the artist's one-of-a kind sculptures.*





Eugene “Mr. Eugene” Snively (1928-2013)

From Hollywood Glamour to Giving Back Through Art

Born in Broadway, Ohio, Eugene Snively, affectionately known as “Mr. Eugene,” followed a spontaneous dream westward at age 21, landing in Hollywood during the golden age of film. There, he worked in fashion and film, designing clothing and sketching for stars including Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Angela Lansbury, and Ginger Rogers.

One memorable moment came on the set of *Some Like It Hot*, when Monroe herself praised one of his sketches: “You make me look nice.” Snively later recalled replying, “That’s not hard, Miss Monroe.”

In 1969, Snively left Hollywood for Colorado Springs, where he built a quieter but deeply impactful life as an artist, teacher, and community leader. Inspired by the elegance of fashion history and the women he encountered throughout his life, he created a long-running series titled *One of the Girls*, stylized portraits celebrating beauty, confidence, and individuality.

Snively was also known for sketching passersby, giving drawings to children, teaching art classes, and later, using drawing to connect with Alzheimer’s patients. Even in death, he chose to donate his body to science, reflecting a lifelong commitment to generosity. His watercolor sketches and drawings remain treasured reminders of an artist who believed art should enrich everyday life.

Exhibit: *Original illustrations and letters.*





James Mellick

Master Ohio Craftsman of Allegorical Wood Sculpture

James Mellick's distinguished artistic career bridges studio practice, higher education, and international acclaim. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in 1973 from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, studying painting, sculpture, and printmaking. Early in his teaching career, Mellick discovered wood carving and assemblage, mediums that would become his primary artistic voice for more than four decades.

Mellick founded art programs, designed sculpture facilities, and led departments at institutions including Houghton College, Calvin College, and Cedarville University. In recognition of his impact, he received Cedarville's Faculty Award for Scholarship, an uncommon honor for the fine arts.

His allegorical wood sculptures are held in museum, academic, and private collections around the world. A nominee for Ohio's Governor's Award and officially recognized as a Master Ohio Craftsman, Mellick has participated in more than 180 exhibitions. In 2016, his powerful work *Wounded Warrior Dogs* captured the international Grand Prize by Popular Vote at ArtPrize 8. Based in Milford Center, Mellick continues to create, exhibit, lecture, and share his work-bringing deeply human stories to life through wood.

Exhibit: *Original sculpture of The Parrot.*





Union County offers a rich and welcoming arts and culture landscape that invites visitors to explore, linger, and connect. From galleries, studios, and public art to live performances, historic sites, and creative events, the county blends artistic expression with a strong sense of place. Art is woven into everyday experiences—found in downtown streetscapes, community spaces, festivals, and local businesses—while scenic countryside, charming towns, and heritage landmarks provide the perfect backdrop for discovery. Whether you're touring exhibitions, meeting local artists, enjoying music and theater, or pairing creativity with dining, shopping, and outdoor recreation, Union County offers an experience that is both inspiring and distinctly authentic.

To learn more, visit UnionCountyOH.com.



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