

Delaware Department of State

Media Release



May 5, 2010 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Beth-Ann Ryan or Annie Norman, Division of Libraries

Beth-Ann.Ryan@state.de.us / Annie.Norman@state.de.us / 302-739-4748

ANNOUNCING *THE ART OF JOURNALS* VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

The Delaware Division of the Arts, Delaware Division of Libraries, and the Government Information Center are pleased to announce a new virtual exhibition resulting from a partnership between the three agencies. The virtual exhibition, titled *The Art of Journals*, is a case study that explores Delaware painter Victor Letonoff and the link between his journaling and his artwork. This project is designed to encourage Delawareans to explore the richness of artistic expression and foster creativity and learning in their own lives.

The *Art of Journals* virtual exhibition is available at <http://state.lib.de.us/letonoff>. The release of the virtual exhibition is timed to coincide with Victor Letonoff's art exhibition, *Capturing the Light*, which will be on view in the Division of the Arts' Mezzanine Gallery in the Carvel State Building in Wilmington from May 7-28, 2010. The exhibition opens on Friday, May 7 with a reception to meet the artist from 5-8 p.m. Visitors to the reception on Friday, May 7 will have the opportunity to explore the virtual exhibition on a computer in the Gallery.

Lewes-based artist Victor Letonoff uses "sketch books," a form of journaling, to work out issues like light and color with his paintings, chronicle his artistic progress, and record daily ideas and inspirations. These sketch books offer a wonderful insight into the workings of the artist's mind. For the viewer, the sketch books are also a delight to the eye with their charming sketches, photographs, postcards, and other ephemera.

Visitors to the virtual exhibition have the opportunity to explore five themes: *The Journals & The Art; Artist & The Exhibition; Gallery of Journals; Unleash Your Inner Genius; and Learning Journeys*.

- *The Journals & The Art* demonstrates how Letonoff uses journaling in the creative process by displaying pages from his sketch books next to images of the related paintings.
- In *Artist & The Exhibition*, visitors can learn more about Letonoff and his biography and view several self portraits from his sketch books. Images from Letonoff's exhibition in the state's Mezzanine Gallery will be added to this section after the show has been installed.
- The *Gallery of Journals* presents three of Letonoff's sketch books in their entirety with high resolution and the ability to zoom and read transcriptions of the pages. Audio files of Letonoff discussing the journal pages and his art accompany this section.

- The last two sections, *Learning Journeys* and *Unleash Your Inner Genius* link to Delaware library resources. *Learning Journeys* is a library program in which participants discover, explore and discuss their informal lifelong learning paths. The program enables participants to unleash their inner genius through the power of tracking and building inspiration over a lifetime (i.e. journaling).
- *Unleash Your Inner Genius* will help participants start on their own personal learning journey. Discover books and websites that showcase tips, tools, and techniques for personal growth, career enrichment, and creative expression.

CREDITS

Beth-Ann Ryan, Division of Libraries, created the virtual exhibition with material provided by Roxanne Stanulis, Division of the Arts.

Will Stotler from Delaware's Government Information Center (GIC) photographed the journals, created the *Gallery of Journals*, and interviewed Victor Letonoff. In addition, GIC Director Greg Hughes envisioned the virtual exhibition interfacing with the state's growing social media presence. GIC produced a video interview with artist Victor Letonoff which is available on YouTube. Images of paintings from the exhibition are posted on the [Division of the Arts Flickr page](#).

The inter-agency collaboration started with Annie Norman, State Librarian, who met Letonoff last spring after learning of his interest in journals at an Arts Council meeting. Norman and Chrys Dudbridge, Director, Lewes Public Library, arranged for Letonoff to present about his journaling practice during a Learning Journeys program at the Lewes Public Library, his local public library. Participants in the program recommended that his notebooks be accessible to all Delawareans.

###