

**PRESS RELEASE:**

March 31, 2009

**For immediate release:**

Through April 26, 2009

**For more information:**

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

**HARRY ALLY & MAGGIE EVANS AT CAC --  
An Exhibition of Recent Drawings & Paintings**

*Douglasville, Georgia* – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents charcoal drawings by Maggie Evans and drawings and paintings and collages by Harry Ally in its April exhibition at the Cultural Arts Center in downtown Douglasville. The exhibition opens April 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be on view through April 26<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by the West Georgia Chapter of the Women’s Council of Realtors, the reception will be held on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6 until 8 p.m. Evans’ sister, Annelise Nelson, a professional cellist who plays with the Charleston Symphony, will perform during this special event. The gallery talk and tour, led by the exhibiting artists, is scheduled for Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 3 until 5 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

A faculty member at Valdosta State University with his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Drawing and Painting from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Painting from Texas Christian University, Harry Ally first exhibited at the Cultural Arts Center in Douglasville in 2007 when his work was selected by juror Bill Eiland, Director of the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens. Ally, who has exhibited nationally in many individual, group and other juried exhibitions, has won numerous awards for painting in both national and regional exhibitions. Currently represented by the Lowe Gallery in Atlanta, Stricoff Gallery in New York City, Craighead-Green Gallery in Dallas, and Soren Christensen Gallery in New Orleans, Ally has taught drawing and painting at Valdosta State since 1985. In addition to teaching there, Professor Ally has also had faculty positions at MacMurray College, Texas Christian University, Edison State Community College, Tarrant County Junior College, the University of North Texas, and the Fort Worth Art Museum School. He lives, teaches, and paints in both Valdosta, Georgia and Troy, Ohio.

“The surfaces of the paintings are like excavations,” states the artist. “Surfaces layered with a variety of materials – dry pigments, acrylics, tar, fabrics, oils, bonding agents, along with different clays from the Georgia soil. From these materials figurative images are unearthed.” In the current exhibition in Douglasville he displays five large canvases, several smaller mixed media paintings, self-portraits, and a series of nude figure drawings. At once disturbing and seductive, each art work represents what he describes as “an existential search for an abstract presence, an intuitive search into the unknown, a search for truth revealed through distortion and through exaggeration.”

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Ally & Evans – Charcoal & Paint**

Born in Denton, Texas, Maggie Evans graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration in 2003 and received her Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2007. Her charcoal drawing included in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual National Juried Exhibition in Douglasville was awarded a purchase prize, and her charcoal drawing, *People at the Bar (2006)*, is in the permanent collection of the Cultural Arts Council. She was awarded the Graduate Fellows Award from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2005 and has received awards in a number of other group exhibitions. Evans has had five solo exhibitions and has been included in several invitational exhibits as well as over twenty-five group shows. A musician as well as a visual artist, Evan represents her current body of work with 20 atmospheric charcoal drawings, based on her experiences playing bass in a blues band in bars throughout Georgia and South Carolina, in the April exhibit in Douglasville. She performs regularly throughout the Southeast as the bassist and vocalist of *Silver Lining*, *David Lugo and Latin Jazz Motion*, and the *Hitman Blues Band*.

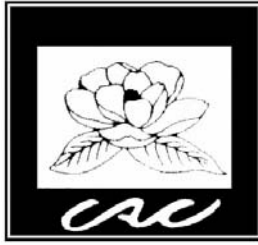
Working from memory in charcoal on paper, Evans uses an improvisatory approach to explore the gritty character of bars from her perspective as a musician. “Onstage, I observe figures, objects, and situations that create the atmosphere,” she comments. “In my studio, I render these impressions from memory, exploring the character of the bar from my perspective as a musician.” She describes her art-making process as echoing musical improvisation: “The charcoal is applied in dark, slightly out-of-focus tones that vibrate like the low notes of a bass. Linear marks drawn spontaneously over these tones recall a singer’s melody gliding over the pulse of the band. Tables, chairs, and bar stools are drawn repeatedly, creating rhythmic variations throughout the composition.... The building process of these drawings echoes a musical improvisation. Initial strokes define the background the same way a chord progression creates the structure of a song. Like an improvised solo, the drawing begins with the overall intent in mind, but evolves spontaneously as additional figures emerge and interact.”

“Beyond a certain amount of time each has spent in Texas, these two outstanding artists working in Georgia have far more in common than is apparent at first glance. The current exhibit offers our community a fascinating insight into the contemporary art-making process,” states Laura C. Lieberman, CAC Executive Director. “Despite their differences of medium and technique, each brings a searching examination of emotional reality through figurative renderings to their work. Whether with weighty excavations or darkly lyric markings, each shares a sense of the artist as an explorer of both time and space. We are delighted to present such profound art works to our community.”

The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations from the State General Assembly. The GCA is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art. The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 west (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site, [www.artsdouglas.org](http://www.artsdouglas.org).

**THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY**

8652 Campbellton Street  
Douglasville, Georgia 30134  
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**CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS**

**TITLE:** HARRY ALLY & MAGGIE EVANS

**PLACE:** The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville / Douglas County  
8652 Campbellton Street  
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

**DATES:** April 2 – 26, 2009

**RECEPTION:** Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 – 8 p.m.

**GALLERY TALK:** Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 5 p.m.

**GALLERY HOURS:** Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**COST:** Free and open to the public

**CONTACT:** Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787

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