



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mural Arts Program Offers Food For The Creative Soul Studios on the Park Unveils Latest Art Banner

Paso Robles, California – The second piece in an exciting new series of temporary art banners will be unveiled on Friday, January 17 in downtown Paso Robles featuring original work by artist Joe Thomas.

A dedication ceremony at STUDIOS ON THE PARK (1130 Pine Street) will take place at 12:00PM, followed by a public viewing of the latest installation at Artisan restaurant.

The series is made possible through STUDIOS ON THE PARK's Mural Arts program. The program aims to provide artistic works that celebrate Paso Robles and the Central Coast of California through the unique visions of local artists. These works seek to engage locals as well as visitors in a visually poetic conversation, which enriches and deepens one's experience with the Paso Robles community. Featured artworks are presented in large-scale format on the east-facing wall of the new Artisan location running along Pine Street near the corner of 12th Street. Works change periodically to showcase the talents and creative visions of local teen and adult artists.

The latest entry, "Picking Quince In The Land of the Giants" by Joe Thomas, stretches 40 feet and features giant sunflowers growing from clouds and a "ballooned," silhouetted figure reaching for a quince. The brightly colored artwork ties in the magical qualities of Thomas' childhood memories associated with picking fruit on the farm. While conceiving the banner, Thomas reflected on his childhood memories: "when I was a child my grandmother told me, 'if you love someone, you will cook for them ... and if you grow your own ingredients, it becomes magical.'" The resulting imagery doesn't disappoint, offering viewers of all ages wonderment through the senses.

Programs Director Sasha Irving says, "The banner serves as an exciting example of the convergence of Paso's artistic and culinary worlds. It's themes of food, farming, and personal expression through art, bring an uplifting splash of creativity to downtown. We are proud to offer 'Picking Quince In The Land of the Giants' as part of our Mural Arts Program."

Artisan restaurant owners Mike and Chris Kobayashi second her sentiments saying "we continue to be ecstatic about the rotation of amazing art pieces on our exterior wall / canvas. The current piece by Joe Thomas truly ties in with the natural and creative vision of what we represent as a restaurant. Thanks to STUDIOS ON THE PARK for making the arts truly come alive downtown."

Contributors and supporters of STUDIOS ON THE PARK's Mural Arts program include Artisan and local property developer Nick Tompkins, as well as The Blueprinter and Stephen Gonzales. To join them in making a contribution towards future Mural Arts pieces, visit www.StudiosOnThePark.org/Give or call 805.238.9800.

ABOUT STUDIOS ON THE PARK

STUDIOS ON THE PARK was founded in December of 2007 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a creative, educational, and transformational experience to enhance understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. STUDIOS ON THE PARK realizes its commitment by making the creative process available to the public through engaging and inspiring the community and its visitors with a unique open studio environment and arts education programs. STUDIOS features artists working in a variety of media, unique involvement opportunities for children and adults, and quality exhibitions by regional, national and international artists.

ABOUT ARTISAN

Since its debut in 2006, ARTISAN has been embraced by locals, travelers and journalists around the nation. ARTISAN has successfully become a family business and integral part of the growing Paso Robles community which has developed into a richly diverse wine country destination. ARTISAN and the Kobayashi family remain committed to sourcing locally and serving organic, sustainable fare whenever possible. There is a long-standing relationship with local farmers as well as an ongoing project where they grow their own produce on a local organic farm in nearby Templeton (founded in 2011). These practices showcase Paso Robles and the Central Coast and have elevated the region to a respected culinary destination. In addition to produce from the ARTISAN farm, the restaurant features products from Windrose Farm, Rocky Canyon Farm and Charter Oak. The kitchen's respect for local farmers and food artisans is enhanced by Kobayashi's use of time-honored techniques that show reverence for the products. Artisan's menus appeal to a broad audience of loyal locals and visitor's far and wide with diverse tastes in dining.

ABOUT JOE THOMAS

Joe Thomas is an artist and organic farmer who supplies produce to Artisan. He works and paints on his organic farm and vineyard, which is located in the east hills overlooking the city of Paso Robles. He is a resident artist at Studios on the Park where he can regularly be seen creating new works.

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