

The Mezzanine Gallery to Exhibit “Not Just a Pretty Face” by Paul Mitchell

On view from March 6-27, 2020

Free opening reception on Friday, March 6
at 5 p.m.

Wilmington, Del. (February 28, 2020) – *Not Just a Pretty Face*, an exhibition of pastel portraits by Paul Simon, will be on view in the Mezzanine Gallery from March 6-27, 2020. The artist will host a free opening reception on Friday, March 6 from 5-7 p.m. TANKSLEY, Delaware singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, will perform during the opening reception.

After retiring from a career as a biopharmaceuticals discovery researcher, Simon has devoted himself to creating artwork and volunteering. Always drawn to portraiture, Simon was inspired to create portraits of people he met through his volunteer work for JFS (Jewish Family Services) Village and the Refugee Integration Support Effort (RISE).

Simon typically works from smartphone snapshots and enjoys the challenge of creating a photographic likeness that reveals something about the person’s character. He creates the large close-up views of faces by layering soft pastels on dark paper. The faces fill or often extend past the borders of the page. “I depict them frankly, without seeking to embellish or smooth the images, indeed, welcoming the eloquence of their “seasoned” visage,” Simon said.

Images from left to right: *Bearded Man*, 2019, soft pastel, 25 x 38 inches

The [Mezzanine Gallery](#) is open to the public weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located in the Carvel State Office Building, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington.

###

Contact: Leeann Walleth, Program Officer, Communications and Marketing
302-577-8280, leeann.walleth@delaware.gov

The [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a branch of the Delaware Department of State, is dedicated to cultivating and supporting the arts to enhance the quality of life for all Delawareans. Together with its advisory body, the Delaware State Arts Council, the Division administers grants and programs that support arts programming, educate the public, increase awareness of the arts, and integrate the arts into all facets of Delaware life. For more information about the Delaware Division of the Arts, visit arts.delaware.gov or call 302-577-8278.