

For Immediate Release

THE ART OF CONNECTING

Fifteen years of the Itinerant Artist Project, with Jim Mott

Date: Three presentations: November 2nd, 9th, 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Spirituality, Arts and Justice Center at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614
Shaw Room, 2nd floor, (elevator and ramp available)

Contacts: Jim Mott, 585-244-5577; jhmott@juno.com; web: www.jimmott.com
The Rev. Dr. Pat Youngdahl, 585-325-4000

The Itinerant Artist Project began in 2000 when landscape painter Jim Mott headed out on a 2½ month road trip, living with strangers and “trading art for hospitality across the USA.” Sixteen years and seventeen tours later, he reflects on the ongoing journey, creative approaches to civic engagement, art as spiritual activism, the art of building thoughtful connections in a world of shallow media, and the rewards of experiencing his work as “no more and no less than an integral part of other people’s everyday lives.”

Spending a month per year on the road since 2000, Mott has traveled over 30,000 miles, stayed in 150 homes in 37 states and completed over 600 paintings of the varied American landscape, from Boston to Los Angeles, Ferguson to Phoenix. Capturing the attention of the public and the press, the Itinerant Artist Project has been the subject of local, national and international media stories, including features in *American Artist*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and on the *NBC Today Show*; and interviews on *CBC radio Q* and the *Out of Bounds Radio Show*.

This series of three presentations will document the ongoing adventures of a 21st century itinerant artist, from the first cross-country road trip to the latest tours and other recent variations – illustrated with location photos and painting images from a cumulative year and a half on the road, and with occasional philosophical, spiritual, and maybe even literary digressions. An underlying premise is that the road trip, the creative process, and the faith journey can all be seen as metaphors for each other and can illuminate each other. There will be discussions.

Come and share in a unique creative odyssey.

The Spirituality, Arts and Justice Center:

<http://www.downtownpresbyterian.org/spirituality-arts.html>