



# Artist Reception

**Saturday,  
November 4<sup>th</sup>  
Noon - 3 pm**

**Come enjoy a reception and art exhibits featuring the intriguing & colorful paintings by John Richardson. There will be refreshments & live music. Artwork will be available for purchase with proceeds going to the Friends of the Cumberland Trail.**

**Art Circle Public Library – 3 E. St., Crossville, TN 38555 – 484-6790 – [www.artcirclelibrary.info](http://www.artcirclelibrary.info)**

## **John Richardson 1906 – 1998**

John Richardson's works have shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC, the Art Institute of Chicago, and in Nashville, Memphis, Richmond, and Cape Cod. Richardson (1906-1998) was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and his career as a painter and professor spanned more than 40 years. Art and music played an integral role in Richardson's life; as a self-taught tenor banjo player, he joined major jazz bands in Nashville during the 1920s. This income subsidized his tuition at Vanderbilt as well as private lessons with Nashville artists. After graduating from Vanderbilt, Richardson enrolled in the Pennsylvania Academy of Art in Philadelphia to pursue work toward a career as an artist. After completing his studies in a very vibrant art and music environment, he returned home to Nashville and found work teaching at the Watkins Institute and eventually became head of the art department. It was during this time that he met the other great love of his life, Margaret Burkhardt, who was to become his wife. Margaret was an art education major at Peabody College, and a skillful artist in her own right. Their relationship grew during many sketching trips throughout the hills of Middle Tennessee. John was beginning to realize that he needed more training to fully develop as an artist and with Margaret's encouragement, they decided for him to pursue a Master's of Fine Arts at the University of Chicago. World War II interrupted his studies and John served 2 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Pacific, developing a fascinating collection of sketches and small watercolors documenting his experiences. He came back and finished his Masters of Fine Arts, and, as was characteristic of the serendipity of many points in John's life, a new campus of the University of Illinois was just opening in Chicago to accommodate the GI's returning from the war. John was hired on as an assistant professor in the new Department of Art and Architecture, and it was here that he spent the majority of his professional career. He accumulated numerous awards and participated in many shows and exhibits in addition to advancing to Professor of Art, and being a loved and respected teacher. Despite a busy and successful career, he always found ample time for his wife and children: a daughter, Jeanie, born in 1951, and a son, John, born in 1953. After retiring from the University, they returned to Nashville, where he and Margaret became active in the local art scene. He continued to teach and exhibit, and was well respected in the Nashville art community. John was productive up to 3 months before his death in 1998. His paintings have a very distinctive personal style, strongly representing elements of mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century artistic trends and movements.