



"Olson's Farm", Jon Hassler, oil on canvas, 18" x 24"

News Release
Red Wing Framing Gallery
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For Immediate Release

Red Wing Framing Gallery kicks off the 2007 arts calendar with a 'Winter Trifecta':

An exclusive exhibit of Jon Hassler, Virginia Peterson and Richard Abraham paintings

Red Wing, MN—Jon Hassler is a talented American novelist and educator who is well-known for his fictional works about small-town life in Minnesota. In addition to writing, Mr. Hassler is also an accomplished artist and has always loved to draw and paint. Red Wing Framing Gallery is proud to exhibit 22 of his original oil on canvas paintings, each of which was painted in the 1980's.

“Jon uses shadow and composition to show the seasons through beautiful Minnesota farmscapes,” said Valerie Becker, owner of Red Wing Framing Gallery. “We have worked with Jon in the past and are delighted to exhibit his show in Red Wing. Whether on canvas or through the written word, Jon is a gifted communicator.” These 22 paintings were only recently located in storage and represent a particularly prolific and creative period in the continuing Hassler career. Jon Hassler is a Regents Professor Emeritus and Writer-in-Residence at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Jon Hassler at Red Wing Framing Gallery, Add 1-

Mr. Hassler has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Minnesota State Arts Board. His novel *Staggerford* was chosen Novel of the Year in 1978 by the Friends of American Writers. *Grand Opening* was chosen Best Fiction of 1987 by the Society of Midland Authors. In 1993, Mr. Hassler was granted an honorary Doctor of Letters degree by Assumption College (Massachusetts), in 1994 by the University of North Dakota, and in 1996 by the University of Notre Dame.

Virginia Peterson is not shy about color. She represents a fascinating contrast to the Hassler pieces. Peterson's art is a series of abstract landscapes with an emphasis on color and spatial relationships. Peterson has been teaching and practicing art since 1961, and is co-founder of *Three Rooms Up*, one of the first women's art cooperatives in Minnesota. Peterson will have nine acrylic on canvas paintings on display, many of which are created to compliment each other and all of which celebrate color.

Richard Abraham likes 'long light'. He is a full-time career artist and lives in the Lowertown artist community of St. Paul, Minnesota. Abraham is an ardent practitioner of plein-air painting techniques and is especially passionate about the landscapes of the Hiawatha River Valley. He likes to look at the 'overlooked' part of this rural community and has a special appreciation for the graceful curves of the geology. He will have ten oil on panel pieces available at this exhibit.

The 'Winter Trifecta' will be exhibited and available for purchase from Jan. 4 through Feb. 28, 2007. Red Wing Framing Gallery is located in the historic Boxrud Building on Main Street in downtown Red Wing, and specializes in original fine art, custom framing and fine-art printing. Hours and directions are available at www.RedWingFraming.com