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PRESS RELEASE

To: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media

From: Michael Griffin, Airport Director

Date: September 5, 2018

The Fort Smith Regional Airport, Fort Smith, Arkansas will feature *Dep(art)ing Passengers*, an exhibition of paintings by Charles K. Steiner. The paintings, installed at the central entrance of the passenger terminal, depict passengers waiting to board airplanes. Mr. Steiner is a member of the adjunct faculty of the Art Department, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

The paintings derive from Steiner's frequent and often last-minute airplane trips to oversee the care of a family member on the East Coast. To maintain his studio practice on such an unpredictable schedule, he filled his sketchbooks with drawings of his fellow passengers while waiting for departures in airports across the country. *Dep(art)ing Passengers* are paintings based on those drawings. Steiner adopted a loose style to capture the movement of people in airports—snacking, stretching, adjusting luggage, or just waiting for the gate agent to announce their flight.

"Showing *Dep(art)ing Passengers* at the Fort Smith Regional Airport is an exciting opportunity. In a sense the paintings will serve as a mirror to airport visitors and vice versa. It will be exciting to see if airport visitors recognize elements of themselves in the paintings," commented Steiner.

Michael Griffin, Director of the Fort Smith Regional Airport added, "We are delighted to launch an exhibition of paintings that not only ties into our mission as an airport, but also features the work of an artist from our own vibrant cultural community."

This will be Steiner's ninth solo exhibition, the last one was mounted at The Blue Lion, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith in 2013. His work is included in major corporate collections such as 3-M (Minneapolis, MN), the New York Health and Hospital Corporation (New York, NY), and the Emprise Bank Collection (Wichita, KS). He has been represented in numerous group exhibitions across the country and early in his career enjoyed two visual artist residencies at playwright Edward Albee's Foundation, Montauk, New York. Steiner has

a BFA from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) and an MFA from the George Washington University (Washington, DC).

The exhibition will be on display until January 7, 2019.

The Fort Smith Regional Airport your local airport offering daily passenger service by American and Delta Airlines and full general aviation services. Parking is conveniently located just a few feet north of the passenger terminal. Parking is free for the first 30 minutes.

For More Information:

Michael Griffin, Airport Director 479-452-7000 ext 50

Charles K. Steiner, Artist for the Exhibition: <https://www.charleskingsteiner.com/>



Charles K. Steiner, *Airport Gesture Painting X*, 2018. Acrylic and assemblage on canvas. 42" x 66"