



**NEWS** FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Contact: Mary F. Crean

860-695-6360 / [mcrean@hplct.org](mailto:mcrean@hplct.org)

### Love of Jazz Inspires Artist's Paintings

**HARTFORD, CT (January 19, 2012)** — Hartford Public Library announced today that the **ArtWalk** will host a new exhibition, ***Improvised Reflections*** by artist Andres Chaparro. The free exhibition opens Friday, February 3 with a reception from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and runs through March 18, 2012.

***Improvised Reflections*** represents a collection of paintings that celebrate and define the evolution and experience of jazz music. This series of work was created with absolute, expressive freedom. Chaparro's use of various techniques and mediums, as well as his innate ability to let go of traditional conventions allow for a creation of work that is fluid and free.

"I am not pursuing perfectionism through my paintings; rather I strive to create art that is honest and true. My work is heavily influenced by jazz music. It inspires me, and like jazz, my art is improvised. I never start out actually knowing where the painting is going and how it will end," said Chaparro.

Chaparro's paintings may first appear to use random color and distorted matters; upon closer study, his works reveal depth and evoke emotion. For example, the color yellow is often used to create halos or a saintly-like glow around depictions of subject matters no longer living.

Jazz musician and composer Warren Byrd praises Chaparro's jazz-inspired paintings. "Andres' work is very inspiring; it consistently moves me from a place deep within," said Byrd.

Chaparro's work exudes energy that passes through each and every one of his paintings. ***Improvised Reflections*** captures the imagination and provides a glimpse at history and beauty that embodies America's classical music we have come to know as Jazz.

## **About the Artist**

Andres Chaparro was born in Hartford, Connecticut. Chaparro is a self-taught artist; although he studied art history in college, he has never taken an instructional art class.

At the age of 13, Chaparro made an instant spiritual connection to jazz. This was a defining moment in Chaparro's life as an artist. In high school his frequent visits to the Wadsworth Atheneum opened up the world of visual art to him.

In the 1980's Chaparro embarked on his journey as a neo-expressionist artist while completing his studies in New York City. He explored jazz as an enthusiast and visited SoHo art galleries and other major museums. During this time, he explored different mediums and various subject matters with his painting, but he was always drawn back to jazz. After two years Andres put down his brushes, and although he continued to sketch, he would not paint again for another twenty years.

In 2010 Chaparro began painting out of his home studio. He can be found painting on various surfaces and using a variety of techniques. He even engages his children in the process, setting them up with their own materials and encouraging them to create off the cuff as he does.

## **About the Gallery**

**ArtWalk** at Hartford Public Library offers one of the largest and most stunning exhibition spaces in greater Hartford and the opportunity for visitors to view art in a magnificent setting in their own community. The state-of-the art gallery rises above Main Street along a glass wall that floods the space with ambient light during the day and appears to glow as a jewel box at night. Exhibitions offer an array of art experiences that reflect a variety of media, styles, and cultures in the art world, providing diverse viewing experiences, and allowing for many tastes. Art work is displayed on "floating" wall sections that allow the visitor to discover each piece while never seeing the whole exhibition from one vantage point. Because of the unusual cable system in place, one of the most unique aspects of the **ArtWalk** is that any wall and lighting configuration or arrangement can change with the nature of every new exhibition. The gallery was made possible through the generosity of donors, especially the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. To learn more about the **ArtWalk**, please visit <http://artwalk.hplct.org/>.

## **About Hartford Public Library:**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and

video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org)

###