

SMITH + ASSOCIATES IMPLEMENTS ART IN ARCHITECTURE WITH EMPLOYEE PORTRAITS

Local Artist Christian Kolupski Paints Portraits, Unifies Employees

ROCHESTER, N.Y., March 30, 2010 – Smith + Associates, one of the fastest-growing firms in Rochester, applies its company motto, “Art in Architecture” by commissioning nationally known local artist, Christian Kolupski, to paint portraits of each of its employees to grace its office walls. Sixteen oil portraits are now prominently displayed in the foyer of its offices, a converted city dog pound on Central Avenue in Rochester, with 10 more on the way and more to come with each new hire.

Ken Smith, principal architect of Smith + Associates, put his money where his heart is and found a unique way to exhibit his core design value while supporting his employees with these unique portraits. “The firm’s architects, designers and support staff provide innovative problem-solving on time and often under budget.

“Each member of my staff has a unique skill set and elevating them to the same level of respect and support is important to me,” said Smith. “These portraits demonstrate my commitment to our team, and they portray the common vision we pursue – art in architecture.”

The painting process requires a sitting with Kolupski, who records what he sees as well as captures the personality of each individual.

“I like to keep my subjects talking,” said Kolupski. “I’m always interested in their observations about the experience.”

The conversation reveals nuances of each model’s personality that are translated to the canvas, and Kolupski often comes away with insight on each employee without knowing much about their seniority or position.

Smith also commissions paintings of his architectural projects and presents them to his clients upon project completion.

“It’s my pleasure to capture the essence of art in architecture in an oil painting and present them to my clients as an added thank you,” added Smith. “They add an extra dimension to our work.”

ABOUT CHRISTIAN KOLUPSKI

Christian Kolupski began as an illustrator in Rochester, NY, and then moved to NY City where he studied under Ed Salazar and Joseph Brown. As his fascination with portraiture grew, Christian attended classes at The Art Student's League of New York with Dean Keller, Everett Raymond Kinstler, and Nelson Shanks. He later continued his studies with Nelson Shanks at his Philadelphia atelier Studio Incamminati. Christian exhibits throughout western New York, Colorado and Utah, and has works in public and private collections around the world. He is the director of Boxart Street Atelier, a privately owned school of drawing and painting in Charlotte, NY. He currently resides in Rochester, NY with his wife Michele and their daughter Violet. For more information visit <http://www.kolupski.com>.

ABOUT SMITH+ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

Located in downtown Rochester, Smith+Associates Architects design public spaces in environments where people come to work and shop, or for healing, education, and recreation. Our corporate and individual portfolios showcase examples of the processes by which we execute our work. The architecture we develop is timeless and contributes meaningfully to the communities in which it exists. For more information visit <http://www.smithassociatesarch.com>.

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