

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Evolve Bank & Trust Cooper Young Festival Taps Local Gallery Owner for Poster Art

The Evolve Bank & Trust Cooper Young Festival is pleased to announce that internationally known, local Memphian and abstract artist, Jay Etkin has been named the 2018 Poster Artist.

Jay Etkin owned and operated one of the first galleries in Cooper Young between 1989 and 1999 which showcased local and regional talent, conceptual art exhibitions as well as performance works. Jay holds a B.A. and M.F.A in Fine Arts and Education from Brooklyn College in New York. Among his many accomplishments are that he apprenticed under American Realist Painter, Philip Pearlstein in the early 1970s, he was a student at the New York Zen Study Center, and was a fashion designer for B & A Prints of New York City. Jay operated the Art Studio in Park Slope, Brooklyn from 1971 through 1983 at which time he relocated to Memphis after exhibiting at the Art Academy now known as the Memphis College of Art.

Jay is a legendary humanitarian working with the South Brooklyn Council of the Arts developing workshops for at-risk youth living in inner-city housing projects in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. In more recent years, Jay gives his talent to numerous non-profit organizations such as managing the Beale Street Studios, co-creating the South Main Trolley Art Tours, advising at the Jacob's Ladder Housing Initiative and as a director of the ArtCity Kids Inc. a 501 c3 targeting at-risk teens with dance, theater and visual arts programs. Jay is foremostly known for his artistically abstract paintings and his collection consulting for banks, hotels, hospitals and law firms here and around the country. The artist is known for his extensive African Tribal Art and Latin American Folk-Art collections. Currently, Jay is deeply immersed with the City of Memphis in the creation of the Memphis Museum of Tribal and Visionary Art.

The Evolve Bank & Trust Cooper Young Festival will be celebrated on Saturday, September 15 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 16. Artist vendor booths go on sale for the 2018 Festival on Friday, June 15 at 12 am. Booths are sold on a first come, first served basis to artists in the Mid-South and across the country to artists that have hand-made art of all mediums. On our website, www.cooperyoungfestival.com, you can view maps of the festival site and pick out your favorite space for this year's 31st event.

Join us for a three-day celebration. On Thursday, September 13, we invite you to attend the Art Invitational hosted by EpiCenter Memphis located at 902 South Cooper which will highlight the talented artists that live and work in Cooper Young. On Friday, September 14, join 2,000 of your closest friends for the CY Festival Friday 4-miler. Registration can be made on-line at www.cooperyoung4miler.racesonline.com.

On Saturday, the Evolve Bank & Trust Cooper Young Festival kicks off a whole day of free, family-friendly, music, arts and street festival fun. The Festival is Memphis' largest, single day event held annually in a celebration of life, music, arts and heritage. It's the best party of the summer – you don't want to miss.

Sponsors for the 2018 Cooper Young Festival are Evolve Bank & Trust, Commercial Appeal, A. S. Barboro, Methodist Healthcare, Sprouts Farmers Market, Memphis Grizzlies, Albert Cook Plumbing, Jim Keras Subaru, Summer Winds Resorts, Semmes Murphey Clinic, Lasik Vision Institute, Choate's HVAC and Plumbing, Lowe's, Focal Point, ProShow Systems, Local ABC 24, CW 30, Rock 103, 101.9 Kiss FM, News Radio 600 WREC, Delta Ice Services and Toof American Digital Printing.

The Cooper Young Historic District is Memphis' largest historically hip neighborhood dating back to 1899. It's where art, culture, cuisine and commerce intersect in a fabric that weaves its way throughout this neighborhood to create a lifestyle district all its own.

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