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## New watercolor exhibit accompanies *Merry & Bright* at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Columbus, OH— Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' seasonal exhibition, *Merry & Bright*, opens Saturday, November 21, with traditional poinsettia displays, family activities, evening lighting, and—new this year—a gallery of winter-themed transparent watercolors.

The gallery exhibit is presented in partnership with the Central Ohio Watercolor Society and celebrates the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Through jury selection, 38 works from 21 artists are on display in the Conservatory's Cardinal Health Gallery. Most works are available for purchase.

The gallery exhibit is open until January 3, 2016.

### **MERRY & BRIGHT**

*November 21, 2015–January 3, 2016*

The Conservatory's annual seasonal celebration includes festive displays of hundreds of poinsettias, evergreen trees, and seasonal foliage, a Paul Busse model garden railway and a charming gingerbread competition. The Conservatory is open until 9pm on select evenings with lighting displays throughout the indoor plant collections and outdoor courtyards. Family activities and entertainment, live music and special events are scheduled throughout the holiday season. Visit [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org) for additional details.

### **CENTRAL OHIO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY**

The Central Ohio Watercolor Society was founded in 1964 and is the preeminent transparent watercolor society in the region. Founding members include notable central Ohio painters Richard Bauer, Don Dodrill, Mary Lou Jackson, Byron Kohn, Leland McClelland, Richard Phipps and Edward Tracy. Modern technology has produced many new "water media" products. However, the Central Ohio Watercolor Society remains dedicated to its original purpose to promote and preserve the unique character of transparent watercolor. The Society has over 100 members. Most of the members are award-winning artists with regional and national reputations.

### **FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers botanical collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns a signature collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly. *Light Raiment II*, a permanent installation by internationally recognized light artist James Turrell, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.