

St. Louis County Library ***News Release: March 28, 2008***
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Authors Capture State's Beauty in "Painting Missouri"

The St. Louis County Library Foundation is pleased to host a presentation on the collaborative book by artist Billyo O'Donnell and writer Karen Glines, "Painting Missouri: The Counties en Plein Air." The event will be held on Monday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

The program is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Left Bank Books will provide copies of "Painting Missouri" for purchase at the program. Billyo O'Donnell's original paintings will be on display during the program.

Nationally renowned artist Billyo O'Donnell traveled to each of Missouri's 114 counties and the city of St. Louis and created an original artwork "en plein air" style—a French expression which means "in the open air." Collected in "Painting Missouri," O'Donnell recreates scenes both familiar and intimate: farmhouses and barns, Lover's Leap in Hannibal, the view of St. Louis from the roof of the Cathedral Basilica, and many more.

Accompanying the paintings are essays by Karen Glines, who provides historical information about the counties. Drawing on extensive research, Glines shares what she learned about the early histories and present concerns of the state's diverse regions, including local anecdotes, Civil War stories, and insights into the roles of Native Americans in regional history.

Bilyo O'Donnell is founder of the Artists along the Katy Trail program and was selected as one of America's Fifty Exceptional "Plein Air" Painters by the Haggin Museum in Stockton, California. His works are included in prestigious collections in the United States, Japan, and Europe. He lives in Eureka, Missouri.

A graduate of St. Louis University and Webster University, Karen Glines is a freelance journalist based in Des Peres, MO. She has written for regional newspapers and served as a Culture and Arts writer for America Online's "Digital City St. Louis."

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit www.slcl.org.

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