



news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator
330-677-4549 or dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Joseph O’Sickey: The Art of Life” to Premiere on Western Reserve PBS

NORTHEAST OHIO — Friday, April 12, 2013 — Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1) will premiere **Joseph O’Sickey: The Art of Life** on Friday, May 3, at 9 p.m. The documentary will repeat on Saturday, May 4, at 4:30 p.m. It showcases the remarkable life and career of the Kent-based artist, who will receive the 2013 Ohio Governor’s Award for the Arts on May 15.

“Joe is 94, still living on his own, with a memory sharper than most,” said freelance journalist Sarah Taylor, who produced the documentary for Western Reserve Public Media. “He shares incredible details about moments in his life.” She visits with O’Sickey in his home to see him at work and to talk about his life as an artist. He discusses the evolution of his painting style, his devotion to the practice of sketching and his more than 60-year love affair with his late wife, Algesa. Living simply but appreciating the richness of his surroundings, O’Sickey shares how to revel in the art of life.

Taylor also interviews Ken Gessford, a former student of O’Sickey’s from Kent State University, and Ron and Diane (Dinny) Bell, friends and collectors who call their home an “O’Sickey museum.”

Cleveland Plain Dealer art critic Steven Litt once described O’Sickey as “the dean of painting in Northeast Ohio.” Born in 1918, the artist has spent seven of his more than nine decades painting and teaching in Ohio, first at The Ohio State University. He joined the KSU School of Art faculty in the 1960s and retired from there in 1989.

In the course of producing this special, Taylor discovered that, “Joe does not view art as work, although clearly he’s a very productive artist. He views his art as a way to experience life.”

-more-



O'Sickey has won numerous awards in painting and has had more than 50 solo exhibitions throughout his life. His works can be found at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, the Canton Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art and in many other private and public art collections.

The premiere of Western Reserve Public Media's documentary coincides with the May 2 opening of "Joseph O'Sickey: Unifying Art, Life and Love," a Canton Museum of Art exhibition celebrating the lengthy career of this respected Ohio artist. The show involves collaborations with other museums and galleries in Northeast Ohio and will include a full-color publication of his life and work. The exhibition will be open May 2-July 21, 2013.

For more information about **Joseph O'Sickey: The Art of Life**, including additional air dates on Western Reserve Public Media's Fusion channel (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), visit WesternReservePBS.org or call 1-800-554-4549. Funding for the documentary was provided by Stark Community Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (5.13 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.