



**For Immediate Release**

**For More Information:**

Amanda Chestnut  
communications@rochesterarts.org  
585-244-1730

## **Ben Taylor Bring *The Birth of the Universe* to Flower City Arts Center**

**Local artist overcomes Parkinson's to create exquisite  
worlds**

**(ROCHESTER, NY – March 27, 2018)** The Printmaking & Book Arts department at Flower City Arts Center is excited to feature the work of local artist Ben Taylor in *The Birth of the Universe*.

**Exhibition Dates:** April 6 – 30, 2018

**Opening Reception:** Friday, April 6, 6-9pm

Where: Printmaking Gallery, Flower City Arts Center, 713 Monroe Avenue,  
Rochester, NY 14607

**Who:** Open to the public

**Cost:** Free

The Birth of the Universe is an exhibit of large pen and ink, black and white drawings. Taylor began the project in 1997. While Taylor has an education and history in the arts, he currently maintains a private studio practice and rarely exhibits. The bold and evocative works represent a carefully crafted and painstaking illustration process, which brings to life new and fanciful worlds in each image. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Flower City Arts Center.

### **About Ben Taylor**

Ben's journey as a "thingmaker" (he doesn't like the word artist) began with Saturday classes at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire. In college he found his way to the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine, where he studied ceramics with Hall Riegger and sculpture with Gene Kloszewski. After graduating from Keene College he worked for a few months as an assistant to the school's Director, Fran Merritt.

Ben studied conceptual art with Carl Florsheim at Temple University, where he received an MFA in sculpture. After graduation, he and his wife Evelyn joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Afghanistan.

Upon his return to the US he took a position as an instructor at Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, where he became interested in Zen meditation. He moved to Rochester in 1972 to join the Zen Center, and spent 25 years balancing career, family and volunteer work in refugee resettlement.

### **About the Flower City Arts Center**

The Flower City Arts Center is a community-based not-for-profit that educates, encourages and inspires all people to create and enjoy the visual arts. As a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, the organization is committed to making high-quality arts education available to all.

Flower City Arts Center has been operating since 1970. The Center is a photography and digital arts facility, a ceramics workshop, and a printmaking and book arts center. Support of the Center benefits youth outreach programs and programs for the community. All of the money raised stays in Rochester and directly benefits members of the Rochester community. The Center uses its resources to provide youth programs in schools, offers over 200 classes to the general public, and rents space to artists and others interested in the visual arts. Residencies, facilities for advanced area arts students, and resource facilities for anyone interested in printmaking and book arts, photography and digital arts, and ceramics are also available. Three galleries in the building serve as exhibit space for local, regional and national artists.

Flower City Arts Center is supported by funding from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

For more information, contact the Flower City Arts Center Administrative Office at 585-244-1730, or visit our website at [www.rochesterarts.org](http://www.rochesterarts.org).