

# MUHAMMAD ALI CENTER

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## **ALI CENTER OFFERS ARTIST A YEAR OF INSPIRATION!**

LOUISVILLE, KY (October 22, 2008) ... The Muhammad Ali Center is pleased to announce Patrick Gallagher as its first artist in residence under a new program launched earlier this month called *Dreammakers*.

The year-long residency, themed *The Year of Inspiration*, includes the development of a major exhibit and an initiative to advance the Ali Center's core values. Gallagher's exhibit, *The Ten Most Inspirational Women in Louisville*, represents women of diverse backgrounds who have inspired him.

"Before I discovered art in 2006, I felt like I was on the path of least resistance – as if life were passing me by as I was just waiting to die," said Gallagher. "The decision to pursue my artistry has literally changed the course of my life, connected me to my calling, and transformed my overall well-being. I now know who I am. This residency shows if you follow your passion you can change not only your life but the world. Having the support of the Muhammad Ali Center is powerful and for that I am eternally humbled and grateful." Gallagher's story aligns closely with the Center's mission to encourage everyone to be as great as they can be – through reaching their potential, finding their purpose, and following their dreams.

According to President and CEO Greg Roberts, the Ali Center will be a strategic partner by providing creative space for the artist to develop a primary exhibit and a community initiative. Roberts, recalling the first time he and Gallagher met, said "People were drawn to Pat from the moment he entered the Center with his sketch pad, Sharpies, and camera. The way he sees, accepts and connects with people for who they are makes his residency at the Center a natural fit. Because he has found the greatness within himself, he is able to capture on canvas the greatness in others."

Patrons visiting the Ali Center over the next six months will be able to interact with the artist and see the exhibit as it develops (as part of their paid admission). *The Ten Most Inspirational Women in Louisville* exhibit will unveil Derby Week 2009 at the Ali Center. A portion of the exhibit's proceeds will benefit the work of the Ali Center.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Photos available upon request.

### **About the Artist**

Patrick Gallagher did not know he was an artist until 2006 when a man saw him "doodling" in a hotel bar in Times Square. The son of working-class Irish immigrants, Gallagher achieved a good education and corporate success, but admits he felt lost and disconnected from life. Through art, Gallagher has transformed his life and world view, created personal significance, found his voice, improved his health, and now connects to others on a daily basis. His works have sold nationally and internationally. Gallagher's artistry is deeply influenced by the essence and mystery of women who have inspired him. Part of his "The Women of The Main Line" series will soon be featured in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

### **About the Muhammad Ali Center**

The realization of a long-time dream of Muhammad and Lonnie Ali, the Muhammad Ali Center was created as a place to share, teach, and inspire people to be their best and pursue their dreams. The Ali Center serves as a cultural attraction and international education center that is guided by six core values of Muhammad Ali's life: respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving and spirituality. Featuring an award-winning visitor experience, educational and public programming, and global initiatives, the Ali Center reaches beyond its physical walls to fulfill its mission: *To preserve and share the legacy and ideals of Muhammad Ali, to promote respect, hope and understanding, and to inspire adults and children everywhere to be as great as they can be.*