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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

DISNEY ANIMATOR JAMES COLEMAN SHOWCASES HIS WORK AT MONTHAVEN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER

**HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (Nov. 6, 2025)** – One of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s most influential animators will showcase his fine art in a major exhibition at Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center. *Bringing Disney to Life: The Artistry of James Coleman* (**Nov. 15, 2025 through Jan. 11, 2026**) features 53 original artworks by famed Disney animator James Coleman. The exhibition will include paintings depicting characters from such films as *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Some of Coleman’s impressionist landscapes and other fine art works will round out the exhibit.

“This exhibition celebrates an artist whose work has touched generations through his luminous color, warmth and imagination,” says Cheryl Strichik, the MACC’s executive director. “Having the opportunity to share Coleman’s art here at Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center is both an honor and a testament to our museum’s continued growth and mission to bring extraordinary art experiences to our community.”

Over the course of his storied career with Disney, Coleman contributed to nearly a dozen feature films, including *The Rescuers* (1977), *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986), *The Little Mermaid* (1989) and *Beauty and the Beast* (1991). Coleman’s specialty was in animating the backgrounds. His colorful, impressionistic style endowed these films with their dreamy, storybook quality.

Coleman's style also lent itself to fine art. So, after 22 years in the animation business, he decided to devote himself full time to painting his own works. He creates art in a variety of mediums, including oil, watercolor, gouache and pastel. The artist notes that when painting, he goes by instinct, allowing his intuition to guide him and his color choices. It's no surprise that his art appeals to a wide audience. That's why his paintings can be found in collections around the world, including in some of the most prominent and respected galleries in North America, Asia and the Hawaiian Islands.

An opening reception for *Bringing Disney to Life* takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 at the MACC. Coleman will be on hand to greet visitors and discuss his art. He will also present an Artist Talk from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025. Space for this free event is limited and registration is required. Go to [monthavenarts.org/events](http://monthavenarts.org/events) to reserve your place.

Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is a jewel-box art museum and education facility housed in one of Tennessee's most spectacular antebellum mansions. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the MACC has staged exhibitions featuring everything from the ceramic art of Pablo Picasso to the evening gowns of Princess Diana. The artwork of local artists and military veterans are also on frequent display. As an art school, the MACC offers classes to more than 1,200 children and adults each year. The MACC also provides free arts outreach and healing arts to underserved children, families and military veterans. For more information, visit [www.monthavenarts.org](http://www.monthavenarts.org) or call (615) 822-0789.

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