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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Creativity Knows No Age

*Collaborative art endeavor at Three Pillars Senior Living Communities fosters inspiration*



*Ray Good, Dint Sweitzer, and Martin Murk show off their collaborative decorative eggs.*



*Ray Good with some of his decorated Ukrainian eggs, Dint Sweitzer with the photographs she used to plan the team's egg colors, and a glimpse of the egg after the first layer of wax was applied over the graphite lines.*

### Dousman, WI. January 29, 2018 –

What do you get when an accomplished multi-media artist, an acclaimed National Duck Stamp painter, and an expert Ukrainian egg creator collaborate on a one-of-kind art endeavor? With 265 years of artistic experience and tons of pizzazz between the three, you get a creative eruption resulting in two incredible, masterpiece Ukrainian eggs!

Now 88 years young, Ray Good first learned the art of Ukrainian egg decorating at the age of 12 from his father, who had moved to the US from Ukraine when he was 15. Each year, he creates several to give as gifts, and enjoys trying new designs and sizes of eggs as he sharpens his skills.

In the spring of 2017, he met renowned artist Martin Murk, 89, when he and his wife moved to the Village on the Square at Three Pillars and became neighbors. As artist of several wildlife stamps for the government, Martin's work has earned coast-to-coast acclaim. He won the National Duck Stamp in 1977-78, as well as a Wisconsin State Duck Stamp and four State Fish Stamps. When they met, Martin and Ray hit it off, sparking a treasured friendship with artistic interest in common.

Later, in the fall of 2017, another artist came into the picture. Dint Sweitzer, 88, moved into Three Pillars and quickly became busy meeting neighbors. Her passion is painting beautiful multimedia portraits, adding rich, vibrant, three dimensional elements to her pieces, like a fabric scarf, silk flower in the hair, and

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real jewelry. She met Ray and Martin, and a novel idea struck.

The three decided to collaborate on a couple of group-effort decorative eggs. After discussion about interests and talents, their duties were coined: Martin, “The Artist,” Dint, “The Color Consultant,” and Ray, “The Color Applicator.” Martin sketched the designs featuring beautiful, imaginative bird figures, Dint planned the colors, and Ray applied the wax and dyes to the eggs.

When it was time to remove the wax layers and reveal the final product, the three gathered with a small audience eager to watch. “It was really a peak moment for me, one of great anticipation,” recalls Ray with a sparkle in his eye. With his co-artists on either side, he peeled back the wax layers one by one, with each proudly unveiling a new color. He laughs as he says, “You may as well have assumed we were awaiting the birth of a great-grandchild, with the rate of excitement and anticipation we felt! They turned out just beautifully.”



*Martin sketched on paper until he created the ideal “imaginative” bird for the egg design.*

“This really tells a remarkable story. It’s one of older adults going after passions, continuing to be imaginative, and coming up with innovations.”

-Ray Good

Looking back, Martin comments, “Neither Dint nor I had ever worked on a decorative egg before, and no one in our threesome has ever been a co-artist on a collaborative endeavor.”

Dint adds, “It was a fun challenge for all of us, really, having never done anything like it before.” For her, staying in fine lines and simplifying her color palette. For Martin, confining his art to clean lines on a small, curved canvas. And for Ray, collaborating and applying others’ ideas to a design. They all nod as Dint continues, “It was fun, it was different, and it was a learning experience.”

While the two eggs are now complete, the creative work isn’t slowing down in this trio. They each have various art endeavors that will keep them busy throughout the year, and they’ve mutually agreed that they’d like to collaborate on eggs again. We anticipate their next creations sometime this year.

The story of this artistic collaboration is about more than creativity, more than teamwork, and more than friendship. “This really tells a remarkable story,” beams Ray. “It’s one of older adults going after passions, continuing to be imaginative, and continuing to come up with innovations. It’s the concept that we have the great ideas, we work on them, we execute, and we continue to working on our craft. Who knows, maybe we’ll inspire others, whether older adults or young, to do something unique like this.”

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