

**KAJ
Gallery
Contemporary Art**

462 9th Street North, Naples, Florida, 34102

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KAJ Art Gallery to bring unique contemporary art to Naples

(November 14, 2018 – Naples, FL) The Naples art world is gaining a new gallery as KAJ Art Gallery burst onto the scene. The grand opening will take place on Saturday, December 1 with a private reception and has been open to the public since early November.

The gallery is a joint venture by longtime friends Jason Taylor and Kosmas Ballis. Taylor is an accomplished plastic surgeon and is currently based in Los Angeles. He specializes in reconstructive cleft palate surgery for children.

Ballis attended the Kansas City Art Institute and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Florida State University. He recently won the Gold Prize for ceramics at the 2016 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, which allowed him to spend nine months working with various museums throughout Asia.

Taylor and Ballis' focus is to bring some of the finest contemporary artwork to the Naples, Florida community. The opening exhibit will feature unique contemporary art pieces with paintings and sculptures by world renowned artist Paul Tamanian. From his first exhibition in Florida in 1992, he has gone on to exhibit and sell works in prestigious galleries across the United States. Tamanian has been invited to show his works in the company of America's foremost artists and craftsmen, including William Morris, Jun Kaneko and Richard Jolly. His works have been commissioned and acquired by noted private and corporate collectors.

In addition to Tamanian's work, the gallery will also present the 'Kosmask' exhibit which are large, lightweight wall sculptures. The opening show will also feature the work of internationally acclaimed sculptor, Michael Lucero, who designed six of the masks. Other top artists will be featured in the gallery as well.

"It all began in early 2018 with a 'mask' project called Kosmask," said Ballis. "This was our first venture into the fine arts market as a team."

"With the success of Kosmask in a major Atlanta show in July 2018, we made the decision to open KAJ Art Gallery in Naples," added Taylor. "We're excited about all the exhibits we have planned for this year."

KAJ Gallery is located at 462 9th Street North between 4th and 5th Avenues North. For more information, call 239-234-7918 or visit www.kajartgallery.com.