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Memphis artist to talk at Yeiser

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At her home in Tennessee, artist Susan Maakestad can work on her art in the comfort of her own gallery. She can make breakfast when she wants and produce as many pieces as she wants.

But Paducah gives Maakestad something she can't get at home: an escape.

"I am comfortable at home, but there are a lot of distractions," Maakestad said. "But here there is no TV. I have my art, that's what I focus on."

Maakestad is Paducah Arts Alliance's newest artist in residence at A.I.R. Studio. Her work, which uses bright colors and sharp edges, focuses mainly on portraying roadways and traffic camera pictures she has collected.

"Where I used to live, I was painting landscapes," Maakestad said. "Then I moved to Memphis and my art had to evolve. So I looked at the lines of the city, paid attention to the little things people don't normally see, like grass in the medians. It's really progressed as I have seen new things."

Artists in residence with the alliance stay at A.I.R. Studio and work with the community during their stay. Maakestad is in town until Aug. 14, and has art hanging at the studio and at the Yeiser Art Center. She will be giving an artist talk at the Yeiser on Saturday.

"I like to talk about how I got to the work I do, not necessarily about the individual pieces," Maakestad said.

"I think people sometimes look at art, and their first question is about how the artist even got into that mode."

Maakestad's presentation will be at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Yeiser Art Center in Paducah.

Her art will be hanging at both the Yeiser and A.I.R. Studio until Aug. 14.

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