THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY CLUB
 Presents the Watercolor Paintings of
 John H. Behling
 “The Redemption Series – To Love and Be Loved”

From May 5 through June 19, 2015, Columbus artist John H. Behling will present a collection of watercolor paintings in an exhibition titled “The Redemption Series – To Love and Be Loved.” This collection of all new, original works portrays a series of abandoned structures in various stages of decay. An opening reception in Dr. Behling’s honor will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at The Ohio State University Faculty Club. Please call 614-292-2262 or email the club at facultyclubosu@yahoo.com for more information or to RSVP.

John Behling first began painting and studying art while in the U.S. Army stationed in Mexico in the 1950s. While on assignment in Mexico City, he studied at Mexico City College. After leaving the army, Behling returned to Columbus to continue his education. He pursued an academic career in the fields of Sociology and Social Work, earning undergraduate and Master’s Degrees and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. He worked at Illinois State University and Ohio State, where he became a full professor in 1980. Throughout his career, his passion for social justice was evidenced by his active involvement in the Civil Rights and Anti-Vietnam War movements. After retiring from Ohio State’s College of Social Work, as a Professor Emeritus, he continued his work teaching at The Ohio State University’s regional campuses and recruiting graduate students for the College of Social Work, while simultaneously returning to the pursuit of making art.

In 2010, Behling become fascinated by a deserted, crumbling structure in an alley in Linworth, Ohio. Behling describes the experience of painting the old building in Linworth: “When I finished painting, I felt a rush of wonderful satisfaction. The act of painting this dying structure was an act of saving it, giving it a life beyond destruction. The idea of redemptions came to me almost immediately and a ‘redemption’ series began to pour out of me after the Linworth piece. It was for me a rejection of death. I had stumbled onto an idea that turned into an avalanche of enthusiasm for the subject matter.” A first series of “redemption” paintings was featured at the Sharon Weiss Gallery in 2014 and this second series continues the study of old houses, dilapidated barns, abandoned cars and trains, vacated industrial sites, storefronts and gas stations. Behling is masterful in his application of color and use of pointillism to create realistic and compelling images of these beautiful relics.

John Behling is a member of the Ohio Watercolor Society and the Worthington Area Art League. He has taught watercolor painting at the Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Lakeside, Dick Blick Art Supply, Franklin Park Conservatory and the Ohio Union Creative Arts Program. In 2008 he formed the John Behling Watercolor Society and teaches painting from his home studio in Clintonville. He has served as a docent at the Columbus Museum of Art and the Knoxville Museum of Art. In Columbus, John Behling is represented by the Sharon Weiss Gallery in the Short North Arts District.

Established in 1923, The Ohio State University Faculty Club is located at 181 South Oval Drive on the Columbus campus of the university. The art exhibition program features the work of selected Ohio State University faculty, staff, students and alumni. Exhibitions are held throughout the year. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Faculty Club at 614-292-2262. For images of John Behling’s artwork featured in the current exhibit, please contact lisa@ohio-statefacultyclub.com.