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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**PRESS CONTACT**

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The RAM 9th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition is Here

Racine, WI March 22, 2018

On Thursday, March 22, within the pristine white walls of an award-winning contemporary art museum, Racine Art Museum presents an untraditional exhibition showcasing fluffy, sugar-coated marshmallow PEEPS®. Open through April 8, the **RAM 9th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition** features 126 entries that demonstrate the talent of over 174 artists from across the country.

This spring, visitors to the show will discover artworks made with a variety of media. While the iconic seasonal candies are still the most common material, many of this year's works are two-dimensional paintings and works on paper, as well as innovative 3D sculptures. Inspired by inventive puns, pop culture, sports, and famous artists, the show includes pieces like *Funky Peepcock* fashioned in sparkling glass beads and feathers, *Pop Art Peeps* crafted in glazed stoneware, and *Sweet Meets Wild*, an inlaid box made of different hardwoods. Thirty-two quilt block entries also adorn the walls, including one entitled *Radiant Peep* from Rancho Mirage, California. Many of the PEEPS art entries are by local artists, families, and organizations, with several arriving from as far away as Pisgah Forest, North Carolina and Tucson, Arizona.

During the Artist Reception and Awards Ceremony on the evening of Wednesday, March 21, Bruce W. Pepich, RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections, hosted the awards presentation to honor the most accomplished artists in this competition.

Congratulations go out to:

Adult Category

First Peep – Xanthi Merlo, *Sweet Meets Wild*

Second Peep – Nick Schroeder, *Pop Art Peeps*

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Third Peep – Bill Reid, *aRAMatherapeep Pair of Dice*

Honorable Mentions

Debby Peck, *Cleopeepra*

Jeffrey Zimmer, *Blue and Yellow Stairs*

Under 13 Category

First Peep – Autumn Madsen, *Peeps Wars*

Second Peep – Brea Stanley, *Unipeep*

Family/Group/Organization Category

First Peep – Sylvie Leach and Amy Witteman, *The Peepxistence of Memory*

Second Peep – Monica and Ian Leonard, *Peep in a Jeep*

Honorable Mentions

Holly and Mike Skubal, *Le Petit Peep*

Laura and Steve Grayson, *Peeps Swap à la Joseph Cornell*

Mayor of Racine's Awards

Adult Category – Kristina Tsioutsopoulos, *Sparkling Personality Pea(P)cock*

Under 13 Category – Quinn Weisser, *Peepsconsin*

Downtown Racine Corporation Award

Karen Chartrand, *In a World of Peep Imagination*

Racine Quilters Awards

First Peep, in Memory of Margaret V. Wargo – Kiera Langworthy, *Peeperella*

Second Peep – Lisa L. KC, *Sailing to Peeps Island*

Third Peep – Wanda Barbour, *Hollywood Peeps*

Honorable Mentions

Laurie Mayer, *Peep Show*

Judy Martin, *Peeps Heaven*

Visitors to the museum are encouraged to vote for their favorite PEEPS work of art to decide who will take home the coveted PEEPls Choice Award. Voting continues through the end of the exhibition on Sunday, April 8.

ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

Arizona: Suzannah Schreckhise, Fayetteville; **California:** Robert Tucker, Rancho Mirage; **Illinois:** **Beach Park:** Patty Garrett; **Chicago:** Wallace Bowling, Christie's Chicago - Paula Kowalczyk, Steve Zick, Cathy Busch, Briar Koehl, Shalenie Sanker, Ash

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Liu, and Julia Zanussi, Ashly McCord; **Evanston:** Marilyn Lucas; **Gurnee:** Pat Tennerman; **Naperville:** Rebecca Nyman; **Winthrop Harbor:** Diane Clark, Liz Spannraft; **Michigan:** Sue Dannenberg, Waterford; **North Carolina:** Carol Preston, Pisgah Forest; **Wisconsin:** **Burlington:** Kara, Mia, and Maggie Lakatos; **Caledonia:** Veronica J. Gagliano, Nicki Zimmer; **Colgate:** Alexandros Tsioutsopoulos, Dionisios Tsioutsopoulos, Kristina Tsioutsopoulos, Konstantina Tsioutsopoulos; **Edgerton:** Kelly Hausknecht; **Franklin:** Karen Fairbanks; **Franksville:** Sandy Gibbs, Josiah, Lilly, and Sally Lambertson, Autumn Madsen; Carolyn Siler, Jeanne and Anik Zuleta; **Germantown:** Ian and Monica Leonard; **Greendale:** Michele Dambeck; **Greenfield:** Teri Kroll, Laurie Mayer, Glenn, Maria, and Leena Meyers; **Hartland:** Debby Peck; **Kenosha:** Wanda Barbour, Lucille Iacullo, Alma Lindl, Pam Schmidt, Joan Soens, Chelsea Van Aken, Mary Ann Welker, Patricia Young; **Milwaukee:** Cookie Anderson, Benjamin Franklin School, Jolie Collins, Deb Dakich, Kate Fons, Grace Hopkins, Bridget King, Jaylen Kirk, Korinthia Klein, Kiera Langworthy, Emanuel Lopez, Sarah A. Phillips, Nick Schroeder, Coco Tsioutsopoulos, Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos, Kiefer Waterman, Aden Weisser, Quinn Weisser; **Mount Pleasant:** Ann Richards, Connie Brandt, Sue Buhler-Maki, Karen Chartrand, Ann Gedemer, Adele Helmlé, Diane Kamm, Catherine Rolfson; **Muskego:** Adria Day, Chris Proeber, Emily Proeber, Lynn Proeber, Parker Septon; **Pewaukee:** Holly and Mike Skubal; **Pleasant Prairie:** Rosy Shea; **Port Washington:** Joya Locklair, Tessa Locklair; **Racine:** Kate Alphs, Jayda Burger, Kathy Collins, Crossroads, Pam DeGroot, Tom, Jenni, Abbie, and Morgan Determan; Julia Donaldson; Emma Donaldson, Sophia Dougherty, Natalie, Gabriella, Aubrey and Grandma Linda Deschler, Chris Fabio, Gavin Fox, Gracie Friesema, Laura and Steve Grayson, Diane and Delaney Hansen, Linus and April Hansen, JoAnn Haselhuhn, Ann Henkes, Janice Henshaw, Colton Hipke, Lillian Holland, Lisa L. KC, Destiny Klinkhammer, Cheryl Langel, Laura Lehman, Sam Locklair, Judy Martin, Xanthi Merlo, Judi Moore, Sharon Nyman, Holly Ottum, Amanda Cosgrove Paffrath, Wolfgang Peepzart, Amanda Peterson, Racine Friendship Clubhouse, Jil Radtke, Patricia Reed, Bill Reid, Alyssa Roberson, Patty Roberson, Donna and Jeff Robinson, Linda Ronczka, Seventh Graders at St. John's Racine Lutheran School, Kathy Simon, Cole Stehling, Sydney Stehling, Sarah Strande, Carol Sze, Evan, Nathaniel, and Pam Vallejos, Shari Wallin, Ashlyn Wasik, Pat Widmaier, Marc Wollman, Jeffrey Zimmer; **Saint Francis:** Brian and Mae Timmerman; **South Milwaukee:** Kennadie Vallee; **Sturtevant:** Vanessa Chuchara; **Union Grove:** Brea Stanley; **Watertown:** Lori Kolosowsky, Nina Slowik; **Wauwatosa:** Laura Leach, Sylvie Leach, Brodie Spolar, Lee Spolar, Jeff Ternes, Amy Witteman; **West Allis:** Finn McShane, Mark McShane.

The *RAM 9th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition* is made possible in part by RAM Platinum Sponsors – Friends of Fiber Art International and Windgate Charitable Foundation; PEEPS Patrons – Dorothy Constantine, Lisa Englander and Bruce W. Pepich, Joey's West,

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Kewpee Sandwich Shop, Lakeview Pharmacy, Penny McGuire and Richard M. Smith, Holly and Bob Ottum, Sew 'n Save of Racine, Cherry and Jim Wardrip, Nancy Wheeler; PEEPS Prize Providers – Colectivo Coffee, Dover Flag and Map, Downtown Racine Corporation, Hot Shop Glass, Jimmy John's, Kara Lakatos, Northern Lights Gallery, Office of the Mayor, City of Racine, Pick 'n Save South, Piggly Wiggly on Erie Street, The Racine Zoological Society, Sharon Ramquist, Red Onion Café, Sheepish, James Sheppard, Karen Urben, Lena Vigna, Sarah Weber, Jessica Zalewski; and is organized by RAM Museum Store and Guest Relations.

Racine Art Museum is also grateful to Corey Mason, Mayor, City of Racine for taking time out of his hectic schedule to choose his award winners.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$7 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.