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**Racine Art Museum's Wustum Location
 Hosts 43rd Year of *Watercolor Wisconsin***

Racine, WI November 23, 2009

On December 13, 2009, RAM's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts continues a splendid Racine tradition with the opening of *Watercolor Wisconsin 2009*. As one of the museum's most popular annual shows, this exhibition brings together the works of artists from throughout the state. Featuring 106 pieces by 87 Wisconsin artists, this year's show will be on view at RAM's Wustum Museum through April 24, 2010.

Organized by the museum since 1966, *Watercolor Wisconsin* exhibitions have established RAM's Wustum Museum as a center for watercolor activity in the Midwest. Encouraged to experiment and explore all the possibilities of painting on paper, the artists in the show have created works as diverse as their own imaginations.

Of 295 pieces submitted by 164 artists, approximately one third of the pieces were chosen for this year's show. Three new works from this year's competition will be purchased for the Racine Art Museum's permanent collection, adding to RAM's holdings of extraordinary Wisconsin artists. The Curator of Collections makes these purchases for the collection. Cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded to the artists whose pieces are selected as the best in the show.

Exhibiting Artists by Wisconsin Community:

Beloit: Helen Byron, Robert Houck; **Black Earth:** Linda Koenig; **Bristol:** Bonnielynn Brankey; **Brookfield:** Janet Lillie, Julia McMurray, Jean Pascek, Janet Roberts; **Burlington:** Marilyn Ahler; **Caledonia:** Nancy Neider; **Cedarburg:** Jean Crane, Patrick Doughman, Bruce Hustad; **Dousman:** John Wickenberg; **Fox Lake:** Judith Beyer; **Franklin:** Jeff Pietrzak; **Genoa City:** Vicky Lilla; **Glendale:** Ian Baker Johnson, Francisco Mora, Fred Stein; **Greenville:** Deborah Vandembloomer; **Hartford:** Harold E. Hansen; **Kenosha:** Carolyn Gagliardi, Diane Levesque, Dan Simoneau, Rebecca Venn;

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Lac du Flambeau: Christine Alfery; **Lake Mills:** Amy Arntson; **Madison:** Kathy Armstrong, Randal Feig, Cary Hunkel, John Jacoby, Madge Macfarlane, Lee Weiss; **Marinette:** Ernie Pleger; **Mequon:** Jan Effinger, Alice A. Struck; **Milwaukee:** Joyce Eesley, Deborah Fiedler, Earl Kittleson, Susan Leopold, Gene Mihleisen, Judith Gahn Murphy, JoAnna Poehlmann, Glenda Puhek, George Ronsholdt, Jan Serr, Anthony Weber; **Oak Creek:** Alfred Minzlaff; **Oconomowoc:** Marilu McCartney, Pat Siok; **Pewaukee:** Sandra Wagner; **Racine:** Robert Andersen, Doris Beaudry, Jerrold Belland, Richard Berns, Russell Bohn, Mary Burant, Sharon Christensen, Dian Gabriel, Nicole S. Higgs, David V. Holmes, Edwin Kalke, John Krewal, John Nowicki, LeRoy Petersen, Lance Raichert, Alice Rossman, Suzanne Schackelman, Marie Skowronski, Susan M. Sorenson, Jean Thielen, Maria Varga-Hansen, Maggie Venn; **South Milwaukee:** Diane Richards; **Sheboygan:** Gayle Meves; **Sturtevant:** Charles Velzka; **Thiensville:** Shelby Schait; **Waterford:** Linda Gerard Dzik, Jeanne Raccoli-Baas; **Waukesha:** Shirley Kroening, Charles Wickler; **Waupaca:** Theresa Drinka; **Wauwatosa:** Carolyn Kenney-Carter, Millie Minessale; **Whitefish Bay:** Anne Miotke; **Whitewater:** Linda Tump

A panel of experts from outside the state juries each competition, selecting the works to be included, as well as the awards. Steven Jones and William Lieberman chose the 109 pieces by 88 Wisconsin artists that are represented in *Watercolor Wisconsin 2009*. Jones has served as the Art Gallery and Collection Curator for the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois since 1984. He received his MFA degree at Southern Illinois University and furthered his painting studies at the private atelier of Patrick Betaudier in Paris, France. An artist himself, Jones has paintings in numerous private and public collections. Lieberman has been Director of Zolla/Lieberman Gallery in Chicago since 1989, where he previously worked as curator and preparatory. He received his BA in Studio Art in 1979 from Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan. Lieberman is also a studio potter, and has exhibited his wheel-thrown ceramics at art centers in the Chicago area.

The opening reception for this exhibition will be held at the Racine Art Museum's Wustum campus on Sunday, December 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. During the opening reception, Bruce W. Pepich, Executive Director and Curator of Collections, will host the awards presentation for this exhibition beginning at 2:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

RAM's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts is located at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, just a few miles from Racine Art Museum's downtown location at 5th and Main Streets. Wustum Museum also boasts a long history of offering quality art programs to children and adults of all ages. Works from RAM's collection and exhibitions serve as inspiration for Wustum's excellent art programs. Art classes for adult and children begin January 11, 2010. Look for class listings online at www.ramart.org or contact Wustum Museum at 262.636.9177 for more information.



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This exhibition is made possible by: Presenting Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, RAM Society Members, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., The Hearst Foundation, Inc., and Windgate Charitable Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Racine United Arts Fund and Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsor - Target®

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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 to the public 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 \$5 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.