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Racine Art Museum Congratulates the 12th Annual Marshmallow Peeps Art Exhibition Award Winners

Racine, WI March 25, 2021

On Thursday, March 25, an untraditional exhibition showcasing fluffy, sugarcoated marshmallow PEEPS® begins its twelfth year within the award-winning contemporary architecture of the Racine Art Museum (RAM). Open through April 10, the *RAM 12th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition* features 138 creative and entertaining entries that demonstrate the talent of over 200 artists from across the country.

Inspired by pop culture, animals, sports, and famous artists, many of the PEEPS art entries are by local artists, families, and organizations. However, several pieces arrive every year from out-of-state. Over the past twelve years, PEEPS® pieces have been sent into RAM from as far away as Tucson, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Pisgah Forest, North Carolina; and New York City.

Submissions to the *RAM 11th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition* in 2020 were on display throughout multiple galleries in the museum to promote safe social distancing. This year, the show returns to its traditional exhibition space—with a limited capacity and social distancing guidelines alongside the museum's existing safety protocols.

On Wednesday, March 24, Bruce W. Pepich, RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections, and Lisa Englander, founder of the RAM PEEPS exhibition, presented a Virtual Award Ceremony via the video conference app Zoom. Awards are based on

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clever and skilled use or representation of PEEPS® in adult, children's, and group categories.

RAM congratulates the following award winners:

Adult Division

First Peep — Korinthia Klein, Peep-A-Rama
Second Peep — Patricia Colby Gulbranson, Be One with the Peeps
Third Peep — Susan Buhler, Funhouse
Honorable Mentions – Re Re, In the Style of Romare Bearden
and Aiden Dunn, Peep Fleur

Young Peoples Awards (Under 13)

First Peep — Grayson Buettner, A Great Day at Sea
Second Peep — Autumn Madsen, The Peep Child
Third Peep — Michael Locklair, The Garden
Honorable Mention – Jensen Bakke, Creeper Peeper

Family/Group/Organization

First Peep, Margaret V. Wargo Award — Elizaeth and Loretta Peterson, Greetings from Racine
Second Peep — Laura and Steve Grayson, Topeepary Garden
Third Peep — Careers Industries, Kew Peeps
Honorable Mentions – Carol and Brian Boehm, Peep Erickson Noticer of North America
and Jeremy Topczewski, Joe Zimmer, and Lisa Hansen, Attack on Peepsville

In addition, visitors to RAM throughout the run of the show will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite creation, naming one popular artwork worthy of the coveted PEEPls Choice Award. This vote has been taken very seriously since the inception of the annual exhibition. With guests allowed only one choice, they circle the works of PEEPS® art, taking notes about the exhibition, and then often lobbying for their eventual favorite. The award will be announced after the close of the exhibition.

Out-of-state enthusiasts and other would-be visitors are invited to view the exhibition from the comfort of home during a Live Virtual Tour of the *RAM 12th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition*. This intimate glimpse of the show will broadcast at 10:30 am CST on Wednesday, April 7 on the RAM Facebook page. A Facebook account is not required to watch the video, but viewers with an account will be able to ask questions during the tour and receive responses from museum staff. The tour will also be available to watch on demand on Facebook, YouTube, and the RAM

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website after the live broadcast has concluded.

This competition is sponsored by the Racine Art Museum Store and Guest Relations.

The *RAM 12th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition* is made possible in part by PEEPS Patrons: John and Ginny Crimmings, Hot Shop Glass, Johnson Outdoors Inc., Rick Buehrens – Kewpee Sandwich Shop, Loretta Olson – Express Employment Professionals, Bob and Holly Ottum, David Koenig, Piggly Wiggly – Erie Street, Janna and Dr. Edward Waldeck, Jim and Cherry Wardrip, Nancy Wheeler.

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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.

After temporarily closing its doors in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, RAM and RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts are currently open to the public. Both museums are operating with limited hours, open Wednesday through Saturday from Noon to 4:00 pm. Information regarding safety protocols and what to expect when visiting the museums are available on the RAM website, ramart.org.