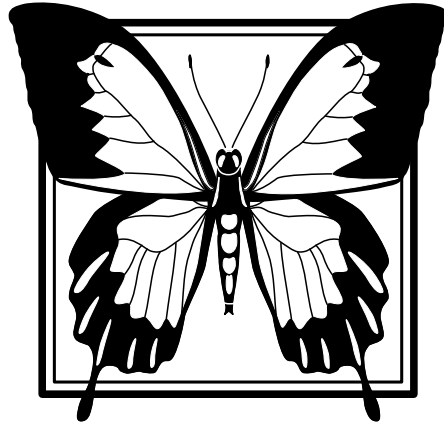


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THE HIRAM BLAUVELT  
ART MUSEUM

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# *The Art of Conservation*

2008

## An International Exhibit of Nature in Art

*The Art of Conservation Exhibition celebrates artistic excellence in the depiction of nature, raises awareness of important conservation issues and directly supports organizations dedicated to addressing them.*



**Artists for  
Conservation™**  
Supporting Nature through Art

*"The Artists for Conservation Foundation has an important role in working with, and supporting conservation organizations who work in the field. We are in the extraordinary position of being able to bring an unparalleled pool of artistic talent focused on nature, to help these organizations communicate important issues to the public, and to help them raise funds."*

*–Jeffrey Whiting, President & Founder  
Artists for Conservation Foundation*

## **About the Artists for Conservation Foundation**

The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is a non-profit group of the world's leading nature artists, whose mission is to support wildlife and habitat conservation, biodiversity, sustainability and environmental education through art that celebrates our natural heritage.

Founded in 1997 as the "Worldwide Nature Artists Group" by Jeffrey Whiting - a prominent Canadian artist, author, biologist and professional software engineer - the Group was renamed in 2007. The Foundation's strength lies in its membership and represents a who's-who of nature artists worldwide, including well-known names such as John Banovich, Robert Bateman, Guy Coheleach, Glen Loates, Pollyanna Pickering, Andrea Rich and David Shepherd. New members are admitted by invitation only, through a juried process, and only as placements become available. The Foundation dedicates its resources to nurturing its world-class community of nature artists and leveraging this pool of talent to support its mission through a variety of programs and initiatives, including:

- Facilitating art sales to raise funds for conservation
- Supporting artistic field research expeditions to study endangered species and threatened habitats.
- Maintaining the world's largest virtual gallery of nature art.
- Maintaining the most comprehensive information hub in the nature art community through the AFC website.
- Recognizing individuals for their work in support of the conservation cause.
- Producing an annual art exhibition in support of conservation, and an accompanying book and international touring exhibit.
- Planning and spearheading large-scale international environmentally themed art projects.

The AFC's "Flag Expeditions" program was created to make possible the field study and artistic rendering of endangered species or habitats deserving of greater public attention. There is a strong emphasis on the study of unique, threatened habitats, and rare or endangered species in remote parts of the world. The Program is open only to AFC Signature Members, who can apply to obtain financial support and the privilege of carrying the AFC flag on their journey. Upon return from the expedition, participating artists are required to submit to the Foundation, a written journal and sketchbook of their journey, photos with the AFC flag in situ, a signed flag and video footage when possible. The AFC provides funding, as well as prominent exposure in a growing number of venues including on the AFC website, for each artist and each expedition. Each year at least two Fellowships are offered- each worth up to \$5,000 US.

Through the Foundation's "Art for Conservation" program, artists collectively pledge millions of dollars to over 90 conservation organizations around the globe. The AFC website provides a special venue on its website to promote the sale of artwork in this program. The Foundation also supports the conservation cause with a monthly award, recognizing individual artists for their dedication to conservation and the annual prestigious "Simon Combes Conservation Award".

Today, the Foundation is one of the most progressive and prestigious organization in the world of nature art and represents hundreds of millions of dollars in artwork, though it does not take any brokerage fees or sales commissions on sales made by its members. The AFC website is the most visited, by far, of any in the nature art arena, receiving several hundred thousand visits each month. For the first ten years of its operation, benefiting in part from a donated state-of-the-art technological infrastructure, the Foundation was sustained entirely on membership dues and volunteer labor, although it now seeks patrons, donors, sponsors and partners to enable the continued expansion of its activities. For more information, please visit [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com).

For more information about Artists for Conservation and its programs, please visit [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com).

# ***Announcing a World-Class International Touring Exhibit Featuring the World's Leading Artists Collective Dedicated to Conservation***

On its 10th anniversary year, the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) will launch its first annual juried exhibition – "*The Art of Conservation - An International Exhibit of Nature in Art*" – featuring the nature art of its members. *The Art of Conservation* was created to celebrate artistic excellence in the depiction of nature, raise awareness of conservation issues and directly support organizations dedicated to addressing them.

The purpose of the exhibition is three-fold: i) To support conservation through fundraising and education; ii) To showcase the extraordinary pool of artistic talent in the AFC; and iii) To expose the nature art genre to new prospective collectors in audiences outside the conventional nature/wildlife art collecting circles.

The exhibition will be launched in September 2008 at the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum (HBAM) – one of the world's leading museums for nature and wildlife art – situated half an hour from New York City. The HBAM will host this four-month, inaugural exhibition along with some exciting associated events, including a special weekend reception.

An important part of the exhibition will be to serve as a public relations and fundraising vehicle for a leading, internationally-oriented conservation organization. The exhibition will educate the public and highlight the projects and initiatives of our annual conservation beneficiary partner. In addition, the beneficiary will receive a share of the revenues resulting from the sale of artwork in the show. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), based in New York City, has been selected as our beneficiary for 2008 and will be actively promoting the exhibition to their membership.

The HBAM will be assembling an independent jury for the purpose of selecting approximately 120 works by AFC Signature Members, a large number of which will be for sale. The exhibition will also include some of the art resulting from AFC Flag Expeditions and a small informational display highlighting our conservation beneficiary partner, WCS.

## **Show Book**

Accompanying the exhibition will be a high-quality, hardcover book reproducing in color all the works selected for the exhibition. A portion of the book will highlight projects and initiatives of our first conservation beneficiary partner, WCS as well as AFC Flag Expeditions.

## **Opening Reception Weekend**

The HBAM will be providing facilities and funding for a celebratory weekend scheduled for September 26-28, 2008. The weekend will include a VIP dinner for artists, collectors and special guests, an artists/collectors cocktail reception (wine and buffet) and an awards ceremony (including presentation of the Simon Combes Conservation Award and the Hiram Blauvelt Purchase Award).

In addition, WCS has graciously offered to host a special pre-weekend field trip and luncheon at the world-famous Bronx Zoo, where it is headquartered, for participating artists and special guests on Friday, September 26, 2008.

## **Touring Exhibit**

Immediately following the opening exhibition at the HBAM, a selection of the show's artworks will be included in a touring exhibit (locations TBA) for approximately one year. While venues have not yet been finalized, the AFC is working to establish a tour involving top-notch venues that reaches a broad audience and wide geographical range.

## **Awards:**

Several awards honoring individuals for artistic merit and contribution to the advancement of the conservation agenda will be presented as part of the opening reception weekend. These include:

- The ***AFC's Simon Combes Conservation Award*** honoring an artist member who, through his/her artistic talent has made an extraordinary contribution to the conservation cause.
- The ***Hiram Blauvelt Purchase Award***, to at least one available artwork in the show. The winning work(s) will become part of the HBAM art collection.
- At least three ***AFC Awards of Excellence*** are given based on the artwork selected for the exhibition and chosen by the independent jury.

## Exhibition Enquiries:

For more information about this unique upcoming exhibition, please visit the AFC Web site or contact AFC President & Exhibitions Director, Jeffrey Whiting.

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**Artists for  
Conservation™**  
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## In Partnership With:

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### THE HIRAM BLAUVELT ART MUSEUM

The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum was established in 1957 by the Blauvelt Demarest Foundation, a legacy of the late Hiram Blauvelt, philanthropist, conservationist and collector. Through the contribution of his private wildlife art and big game collections, he hoped to promote the cultural value of wildlife art and the need for the conservation of its subjects.

Located in an 1893 cedar shingle and turret style carriage house in Oradell, NJ, the museum is one of only five museums in the United States dedicate solely to wildlife art. The Blauvelt's collection, while focusing on the works of contemporary artists, also includes works from deceased masters, and an Audubon folio.

The entrance to the museum is through a curving stone and slate terrace, framed by large oak trees and other indigenous foliage, which serves as a natural sculpture garden. A natural history section is housed in a special area on the second floor of the museum. An Artist-in-Residence program offers demonstrations in wildlife painting, lectures and artist round table discussions.

The Blauvelt museum is 45 minutes by car from downtown Manhattan, LaGuardia and Newark Liberty International Airports, and 90 minutes from John F. Kennedy International Airport.



The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild lands through careful science, international conservation, education, and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together, these activities change individual attitudes toward nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in sustainable interaction on both a local and a global scale. WCS is committed to this work because it believes it essential to the integrity of life on earth. Since 1895, WCS has worked from their Bronx Zoo headquarters to save wildlife and wild lands throughout the world.

They uniquely combine the resources of wildlife parks in New York with field projects around the globe to inspire care for nature, provide leadership in environmental education, and help sustain our planet's biological diversity. Today WCS is at work in 60 nations across Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America and the world's oceans, protecting wild landscapes that are home to a vast variety of species from butterflies to tigers.

Their pioneering environmental education programs reach millions locally, nationally and internationally. They also produce the magazine Wildlife Conservation six times per year, which is distributed widely.