



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

*Artists for Conservation Announces 1<sup>st</sup> annual event – "The Art of Conservation" juried art exhibit.*

**Vancouver, B.C., CANADA -- (January 29, 2008)** – In September, 2008, 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 exhibit 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 AFC is the world's leading artist collective, dedicated to the environment. Its membership represents 500 of the world's top artists from 27 countries, who focus primarily on nature and wildlife. It represents a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes the top names in the field, such as Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach, Pip McGarry, Pollyanna Pickering, John Seerey-Lester and David Shepherd.

The upcoming exhibition, one of the most highly anticipated events in the wildlife art / nature art communities, will be launched 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.

"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," notes Jeffrey Whiting, President and Founder of the AFC.

An independent jury will select approximately 120 works by AFC Signature Members, a large number of which will be for sale. The exhibition will raise funds and awareness for wildlife and habitat conservation. Accompanying the exhibition will be a high-quality, hardcover book reproducing in color all the works selected for the show. As well, 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. Following the opening exhibition at the HBAM, a selection of the show's artworks will be included in a touring exhibit for approximately one year. (Dates and venues to be announced)

**About the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC):** The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is a non-profit, international organization dedicated to the celebration and preservation of the natural world. Based in Vancouver, Canada, the Foundation represents the world's leading collective of artists focused on nature and wildlife, with a membership spanning five continents and twenty-seven countries. The organization's mission is to support wildlife and habitat conservation, biodiversity, sustainability and environmental education through art that celebrates our natural heritage. The AFC fulfills its mission through programs and exhibitions that raise funds for conservation. The AFC also operates a unique fellowship program supporting artistic field study and rendering of unique, threatened habitats, and rare or endangered species in remote parts of the world." For more information about the AFC's innovative initiatives, visit [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com).

**About the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum (HBAM):** The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum (HBAM) was established in 1957 by the Blauvelt Demarest Foundation, a legacy of the late Hiram Blauvelt, philanthropist, conservationist and collector. Through the contributions of his private wildlife 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, the museum is one of only five museums in the United States dedicated solely to wildlife art. The Blauvelt's permanent collection, while focusing on the works of contemporary artists, includes the deceased masters of the genre, as well as an Audubon folio.

- Artists for Conservation (AFC)
- Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum

[www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com)

[www.blauveltmuseum.com](http://www.blauveltmuseum.com)

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