



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

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The Art of Conservation Exhibition and Benefit Extended

Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum to host exhibition until June, 2009 to continue support for conservation

Vancouver, B.C., CANADA — (December 19, 2009) —

The AFC is pleased to announce that, due to popular demand, the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum will be extending the current 'Art of Conservation' exhibit until June, 2009. Unsold artwork will remain for sale during this period. A percentage of all sales during the show is earmarked to support the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) –the event's featured beneficiary for this show. The exhibition 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 exhibition is being produced by the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) – the world's leading artist collective dedicated to the environment. The show is being hosted by the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum– one of the world's premiere museums for nature and wildlife art – situated half an hour from New York City in Oradell, NJ. A share of the revenues resulting from the sale of artwork in the show will benefit the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) – one of the world's largest and most respected conservation organizations, based at the Bronx Zoo.

The exhibition features 112 original artworks selected by an independent jury and includes 96 paintings and 16 sculptures. Most artworks are for sale, ranging in price from \$500 to \$59,000 US. A total of 89 artists are represented in the show, from 8 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Sweden, UK and USA. Many of the exhibiting artists will be present to meet collectors and media during a special invitation-only opening reception at the Blauvelt Museum on Sunday, September 28th between 2pm and 5pm.

At the conclusion of the exhibition, selected artwork will be included in a touring show, scheduled to open at The Wildlife Experience in Parker, Colorado, in July 15, 2009 and continuing until at least Oct. 4, 2009.

For more information about 'The Art of Conservation' exhibit, please visit the AFC website at www.natureartists.com. Several video clips have been posted on the site, including three featured Flag Expedition slide presentations as well as a talk by renowned artist and conservationist Robert Bateman.

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 and is the world's leading artist collective focused on nature and wildlife, and dedicated to the environment. Based in Vancouver, Canada, the Foundation has a membership spanning five continents and twenty-seven countries.

The AFC'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.

About 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 dedicated 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.

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For further information:

- Artists for Conservation (AFC) www.natureartists.com
- Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum www.blauveltartmuseum.org
- Wildlife Conservation Society www.wcs.org
- The Wildlife Experience www.thewildlifeexperience.org

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