



## Leading Art and Environmental Group Announces Second Annual Nature Art Exhibit and Wildlife Conservation Benefit

*Artists for Conservation readies for– “The Art of Conservation 2009” art exhibit in Oradell, New Jersey*

**Vancouver, B.C., CANADA -- (September 2, 2009)**— Following the great success of the inaugural show, the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is proud to announce its second 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* celebrates artistic excellence in the depiction of nature, raises awareness of conservation issues and directly supports organizations dedicated to addressing them.

The AFC is the world's leading artist collective supporting the environment. The AFC fulfills its mission through several programs, including books, exhibits and collaborative art/science expeditions that engage and inform the public, and create legacies of support for the environment. With a membership spanning nearly thirty countries, the AFC represents a who's who of artists who are dedicated to supporting and portraying nature through their art. Its membership includes renowned artists such as Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach, Pollyanna Pickering, John Seerey-Lester and David Shepherd.

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 audiences. Since its first annual exhibit in 2008, *The Art of Conservation* has become one of the most highly anticipated events in the wildlife art / nature art genres.

The 2009 exhibition will be officially launched on September 27, 2009 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 conservation organization. In recognition of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and their cooperation in helping to launch our first annual show, they have been designated the beneficiary again for 2009 and accordingly will receive a share of the revenues resulting from the sale of artwork in the show.

"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.

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 weekend. Following the 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.

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For further information:

- Artists for Conservation (AFC) [www.natureartists.com](http://www.natureartists.com)
- Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum [www.blauveltmuseum.com](http://www.blauveltmuseum.com)

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