



Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum Becomes Patron to AFC Flag Program

Leading wildlife and nature art museum to underwrite 7th AFC Flag Expedition.

Vancouver, B.C., CANADA -- (January 31, 2008) – The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC), is pleased to announce that the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum has signed on as the first museum patron of the AFC's groundbreaking Flag Expeditions Program. The Museum will underwrite the 7th Flag Expedition fellowship.

The objective of the AFC's Flag Expeditions Program is to make possible the artistic field study and rendering of rare and endangered species or habitats deserving of greater public attention, particularly in remote parts of the world. In this program, AFC artist members can apply to obtain financial support and the privilege of carrying the AFC flag on their journeys to these distant and ecologically important areas of the planet.

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 for each artist and each expedition, as well as prominent exposure in a growing number of venues including on the AFC Web site. Every year, two Fellowships are offered, each worth \$5,000 US.

Jeffrey Whiting, President and Founder of the AFC commented, "We are grateful for the support of the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum, which shares many of the same goals as the AFC – to support and nurture exceptional artistic talent focusing on nature, while supporting conservation of the subjects that inspire this creativity, namely wildlife and its habitat."

"The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum is pleased with the opportunity to partner with the AFC and its member artists, in their campaign to protect endangered species and their habitats," added Marijane Singer, Executive Director of the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum. "We encourage similar participation by all the other Wildlife and Natural History museums."

To date, the AFC has granted six fellowships supporting unique artistic research in remote parts of the world from the rainforests of Panama, to the Himalayan headwaters of the Ganges River, through Bhutan, Zimbabwe, Cameroon and the Boreal Forest of northern Quebec. Subjects of past expeditions have included the critically endangered Harpy Eagle, the African Painted Dog, and the Cross River Gorilla.

The recipient of the 7th Flag Expedition Fellowship will be announced in February, 2008.

About the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC): The Artists for Conservation Foundation (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 reads like a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes the top names in the field, such as Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach, Pollyanna Pickering, John Seerey-Lester and David Shepherd. For more information about the AFC's innovative initiatives, visit 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
- AFC Flag Expeditions Program: www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions

- Hiram Blauvelt Art Musuem

www.blauveltmuseum.com

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