

PRESS RELEASE

5th Annual Pittsfield Art Show Returns July 18-19 With Record Number of Exhibitors from Seven States

New Invitational Art Exhibit Runs from June 17 – July 19

Pittsfield, Mass., June 22, 2009 --- The 5th Annual Pittsfield Art Show and first-ever invitational month-long art exhibit are shaping up to be the most successful and festive events yet. The weekend juried art show will be held July 18-19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the tents at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in downtown Pittsfield, preceded by the indoor invitational exhibit from June 17 to July 19.

The Pittsfield Art Show received a record number of applicants to this year's event. Each year the number of applicants and successful exhibitors has grown, but this year's numbers far exceeded the committee's most optimistic expectations.

Professional jurors evaluated the works of more than 145 applicants and selected the 80 artists who will be exhibiting this year. The jurors were Donald Clark, co-owner of the Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield; Stuart Chase, Director, Berkshire Museum; and Don Muller, owner, Don Muller Gallery, Northampton, MA.

The Pittsfield Art Show Invitational Exhibit, which is new this year, presents the works of 13 artists selected by the jurors as the best of those accepted and worthy of a special month-long exhibit. Each of the artists has been invited to display up to five of their works in this first-of-its-kind exhibit for the Pittsfield Art Show. The artists include Nancy Magnusson and Barbara Patton (ceramics); Matt Evald Johnson (forged iron); June D. Ferrin, James Fissel, Jaye Fox, Sean McCusker, Douglass Truth, and Thor Wickstrom (painting); Noelle Horsfield (collage); Carl Berg, Robert Castagna (photography); William Moser (wood sculpture).

An opening reception was held on June 18, from 5-8 p.m. at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, in conjunction with Pittsfield's Third Thursday's celebrations.

During the 5th annual weekend show on July 18 and 19, an assortment of art and fine crafts will be on display. As in the past, visitors will be able to view and purchase works representing a broad spectrum of creativity, including painting, photography, jewelry, fabric art, woodworking, ceramics, and sculpture.

Painting, in all mediums and styles, is the category that includes the largest number of exhibitors (32). In addition to those artists (in all mediums) appearing in the Invitational Exhibit, included are Liza Abelson, Beverly Bourassa, Marguerite Bride, Pat Dowling Bull, Michael J. Castronova, Jennifer Currie, Cindy Duryea, David Geer, Gerald M. Goldberg, Suzanne Goudreau, Scott Harrington, Joel Haynes, Alison Kolesar, Gerald Lubeck, Nancy Lubeck, Carolyn Newberger, Christine O'Brien, Molly Pomerance, Susan Robinson, Enid Romanek, Dorothy Napp Schindel, Steve Suzuki, Scott Taylor, Patricia Trahanas, and K. Velis Turan.

The next largest category is Fine Art Photography with 14 exhibitors. They include Fordan Bonardi, Sarah Cunningham, Angela Dimock, Jeffrey Gardner, Judy Olson, Patricia Hall Pellegrino, Paul E. Perachi, Jeffrey Reynolds, David Sekac, Allan Seppa, and Bob Wiley.

There are eight exhibitors in the jewelry category, including Matthew DiSpagna, Shauna Gilardi, Ray and Ruth Laliberte, Julie Salatino, Lucy A. Sandler, Jill Balawender, Colleen A. Williams, Heather Goodwin and Kerry Alice Collins

Seven artists who work with fabric include Kathy Burg, Jan Charbonneau, Lynette Cornwell, Ellen Howard, Kayton Kraft, Janet McKinstry.

Also, six artists who work in wood will be exhibiting are Bob Weaver and Deb Salzarulo, Robert Lord, Patricia Melville, William Powers, and Nicholas Thielker.

Other exhibitors in less populated categories include Kari and Ivan Cukier (mixed media sculpture); Ulrike Grannis (bookbinding); Ed Kobus (copper and steel); and Shoshona Snow (ceramics and porcelain), Ellie Roden (pressed flowers).

Seven states are represented in this year's show, which include California, Florida, Maryland, New York and three New England states (Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont). As expected, Massachusetts has the highest number of exhibitors. With 39 –fewer than half of the exhibitors-- coming from within Berkshire County, the show continues to extend its reach and has become a major regional event.

For the first time, the Pittsfield Art Show has extended a special invitation to the Hilltown 6, a guild of fine artisans located in the hill towns of the Berkshires. Widely know for their exquisite pottery and ceramics, these members are nationally recognized Berkshire potters and include Christy Knox, Michael McCarthy, Constance Talbot, Hiroshi Nakayama, Mark Shapiro, and Sam Taylor.

The mission of the Pittsfield Art Show is to present a high-quality, outdoor summer show of high art and fine crafts in downtown Pittsfield. In addition to providing a venue for regional and national artists, the Pittsfield Art Show serves as a vehicle for local, emerging artists to get experience in marketing and selling their work in a supported, safe setting. The show also brings thousands of people to the downtown. More details about the show and exhibiting artists can be found at the show's website, www.pittsfieldartshow.org.

The Pittsfield Art Show is a joint project of the City of Pittsfield's Artscape Committee and Office of Cultural Development, Downtown, Inc., and the Berkshire Art Association. Co-chairs are Carolyn Koch and Mary Rentz. Major underwriting is being provided by The Berkshire Eagle with additional generous support from Legacy Banks, Berkshire Bank and local businesses.

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