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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 2, 2009

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art presents:

**What: 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibition**

**When: October 17 through January 3**

**OPENING RECEPTION: October 17 – 7 to 9 pm**

**Where: Galleries, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640**

**Cost: General Admission: \$8 adults, \$5 children. FREE to Museum members**

**Information:** Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org)

MIDLAND, MI – The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art presents a broad range of artists in the state when it hosts the 49th Annual **Greater Michigan Art Exhibition**, October 17, 2009 through January 3, 2010, at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, Michigan. Admission costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and is free for museum members. Visit [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org) or call the Ticket Office at 800-523-7649 for tickets and more information. A free **opening reception and awards presentation ceremony** will be held Saturday, October 17, from 7 to 9 pm and is open to the public; light refreshments will be served.

A tradition for nearly 50 years, the Greater Michigan Art Exhibition is one of the few remaining statewide visual arts competitions in Michigan. Organized by Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art at Midland Center for the Arts, it provides a forum for the most recent developments by Michigan artists. The gallery spaces at Midland Center for the Arts provide a dramatic stage for the display of contemporary work and are especially suited for the exhibition of large-scale works. Both established and emerging artists participate to bring to the Center examples of the broad range of visual possibilities in contemporary and experimental thinking.

David Braybow of **Livonia** is the \$1,000 Grand Prize Winner for his oil piece titled, "Untitled." Marco Lorenzetti of **Bloomfield Hills**, and Paul VanHeest of **Holland** each won an Alden B. Dow Museum Solo Exhibition Award. Mark Piotrowski of **Bay City** was awarded the Northwood University Artist Award. Larry Butcher of **Midland** was awarded the Saginaw Valley State University Artist Award. In addition, Timothy Norris of **Muskegon**, Mary Rousseaux of **Royal Oak** and Paul VanHeest of **Holland** were each awarded the Award of Merit for their works.

**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**\$1,000 Grand Prize Winner:** David Braybow, Livonia – “Untitled” Oil

**\$500 Midland Artists Guild Award for Artistic Achievement:** Geralyn Vankerschaever, Detroit – “Memories of Water and Stone” Ceramics

**\$300 Delta College Artist Award:** Diane Zeeuw, E. Grand Rapids – “Chemotherapy” Oil

**Alden B. Dow Museum Solo Exhibition Awards:** Marco Lorenzetti, Bloomfield Hills – “Adoration” Photography; and Paul VanHeest, Holland – “Globophobic Porcupine” Drawing

**\$250 Excellence in Technique Award:** Carl Demeulenaere, Detroit – “La Gloria e L’Orrore Diptych” Drawing

**\$250 Katharyn Rave Award for Crafts:** Chuck Sharbaugh, Holly – “Bay 82” Wood

**\$250 Saginaw Valley State University Artist Award:** Larry Butcher, Midland – “MU...after Munan’s NOTHING” Pencil drawing

**\$250 Northwood University Artist Award:** Mark Piotrowski, Bay City, “Evading Atropos” Enamel on panel

**\$250 Awards of Merit:** Timothy Norris, Muskegon – “Blake’s Brain” Mixed Media-2D; Mary Rousseaux, Royal Oak – “Untitled Series 7 #4” Mixed Media-2D; Paul VanHeest, Holland ` “Globophobic Porcupine” Drawing

#### **JUROR: Chris Kahler**

Each year the Center brings to Midland reputable arts professionals from around the country to serve as jurors for the exhibition. This year’s juror is **Chris Kahler**, Associate Professor of Painting and Drawing at Eastern Illinois University and Chair of the Painting Department and the graduate program’s coordinator of graduate study. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he received his BFA at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1991. In college he spent a semester abroad at Parson’s School of Art and Design and the American University in Paris, France. He then went on for an MA at Eastern Illinois University and an MFA from Northwestern University in 1995. Mr. Kahler has shown at the Bruno David Gallery; Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, St Louis Missouri; The International Museum of Surgical Science, I-Space Gallery, Gescheidle Gallery, Chicago Illinois; the John Almquist Gallery, Winetka, Illinois; Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, Illinois; The Block Museum at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; the Tarble Art Center at Eastern Illinois University; and the Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences in Peoria, Illinois.

#### **STATEMENT from the Director: Bruce Winslow**

“In its forty-ninth year, the Greater Michigan Art Exhibition continues to represent the varied voices that emerge from across the state of Michigan. An important gathering of expressions in wide-ranging mediums and materials, the artworks contain intimate messages about their creators who conceive objects from personality...ideas from living... distinct points of arrival about their lives, relationships, observations and experiences. Artists have stopped time and crystallized their world view through the creation of objects. The nature of art.....sometimes

serves to clarify, to tell a specific story, sometimes to make tangible a dream, a memory, a concept, or sometimes to evade, deceive or redirect the viewers assumed understanding of an artist's façade. Here we come face to face with the artist's voice, the visual vocabulary of contemporary cultural sensibility.

"Through the exhibition we enable an interchange between artists and the public. What are our artists saying about this time? What is important to them? Each is an individual, with each a different heart. One artist is aggressive, the next is regressive, one classical, one a romanticist. One has great technical facility, the next has little or none, one is organic, the next is mathematic. All are individuals, varying in their originality to invent anew, compared to those who respond through the assimilation of the unavoidable influence of those who came before them.

"What choices they make across time, through their exposures, constitutes the legitimacy of their making. Art is just that: Making. As makers, these humans distinguish their oneness. The level of originality is a measure. The craft of execution is a measure. The honesty, maturity or naivety of intent is a measure. The propensity of each object to survive over multiple viewings (its true demonstration of accomplishing greatness, thus longevity) is locked in that mysterious concoction of its dynamism and intrigue. Therein lies the artist's complicated task to intelligently interfuse invention and execution, to capture extended human interest.

"One of the few remaining statewide competitions in Michigan, the Greater Michigan Art Exhibition enjoys the participation of established and emerging artists to bring to the Midland Center for the Arts examples in contemporary experimental thinking. This year 167 artists submitted applications for the exhibition and 61 artists were accepted in the preliminary jury from slides. 57 artists chose to deliver work for final jury. Any artist accepted in the preliminary jury is guaranteed inclusion in the exhibition with at least one work.

"We thank our juror, Chris Kahler for the attention and commitment he paid to the process selecting the works to be included in the exhibition and designating the award winners for this year's exhibition.

"We extend our many thanks to all of the generous contributors who have made possible the cash awards for the artists and other expenses of the project. We also thank the numerous institutions deserving of special recognition for their generous support."

B.B. Winslow, Director

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art

Midland Center for the Arts

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (ABDM) celebrates discovery, creativity and individual expression through art, science and the interplay between them. Exhibitions in the Museum, classes at the Museum School, multiple outreach programs, a permanent collection and various special events are all components in the ABDM programming.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org).

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