

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2009

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art presents:

What: The Art of Water

When: January 23 – April 25, 2010

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

Cost: \$9 adults; \$6 children; \$3 for Museum members

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



Mary Ellen Graham



Martin Waugh



MaryBeth Thielhelm

Agua, eau, Wasser, tubig, vand, or woda. No matter the language, "WATER" is the theme of Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art's "The Art of Water" exhibition, on display January 23 through April 25. "This group of exhibitions and artists truly reveals a panorama of creative vision as these artists express the universality of water and liquid for poetic interpretation," says Museum Director Bruce Winslow. "Through the mediums of photography, painting, hand-blown and cast glass, we are touched by personal vision and contemporary sensibility, the threads adjoining these diverse, beautiful and intriguing works." Tickets are \$9 adults; \$6 children; \$3 for Museum members. Ticket price includes admission to all Museum exhibits, including *WaterWorks: Soak Up the Science* (opening January 28), and the interactive Hall of Ideas. All can be viewed during normal Museum hours: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, Thursday 10 am to 8 pm (starting January 28), Sundays 1 pm to 5 pm, CLOSED Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays. **Guided tours** will take place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 12:30, beginning February 4. Cost is \$4 plus Museum admission. For information, call the MCFTA Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or visit www.mcfta.org. Sponsored by the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Fund. ABDM programs are generously sponsored by The Alden B. and Vada B. Dow Family Foundation.

Opening event: "Dive into WaterWorks!" Special Family Opening: Saturday, January 30, from 1 to 4 pm. Included in exhibition admission. Wear your swimsuit, Hawaiian shirts, or swim goggles to be eligible to win prizes. Includes kid-friendly activities, family fun, and light treats.

THE ART OF WATER:

- The Art of Water: An Invitational Exhibition

- Aqueous: MaryBeth Thielhelm Paintings
- Images of the Sea: Sandra Gottlieb Photographs
- Liquid Sculpture, Water Plays: Martin Waugh Photographs
- Ocean Fields: Clifford Smith Paintings

The Art of Water: An Invitational Exhibition

Included are: Karen Jordan (Washington D.C.) whose photographs offer intriguing abstractions from the surface and reflections of water; Memphis Barbree (Vermont) who depicts Niagara Falls illuminated with colored light at night; Casey Rae (St. Louis) who creates vast silent photographs of the Great Lakes horizon; and Clark Little (Hawaii) whose photographs are taken within the closeout on shorebreak waves. Revel in the contemporary glass of Mary Ellen Graham (Detroit) who depicts abstract splashes in flowing glass; and feel the presence of the bubbles eternally captured within sea-foam green, cast glass sculptures of John B. Wood (Detroit).

Aqueous: MaryBeth Thielhelm Paintings

Working with the theme of water for over seven years, Thielhelm creates grand paintings depicting the surface of water and treated with atmospheric effects. The works address the elemental, uncontrollable and immeasurable ocean. Thielhelm studied at the London School of Fine Arts and earned the Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY in 1988. Her works are included in numerous public and private collections.

MaryBeth says, "My intention is to capture the tension of two opposing ideas within one image, to address the complexity of a single form possessing opposite truths: tranquility and foreboding, beauty and brutality, silence and loudness."

Images of the Sea: Sandra Gottlieb Photographs

New York-based artist Sandra Gottlieb has spent much of her life looking out over the Atlantic Ocean from her Rockaway Beach home in Queens. Dramatic and sensitive, these are photographs of the most poetic moments on the horizon, that edge between the sky and water. Sometimes turbulent, other times calm, and always a different combination of color, Gottlieb's exploration of the water and light's various mutations record altering moods in the grandness of nature surrounding her. She holds the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Brooklyn College and has studied at the International Center for Photography, NYC and the New York School of Interior Design. She has a long list of exhibitions and is included in numerous private and public collections. This exhibition is organized through Katharine T. Carter & Associates.

"The shoreline provides an inexhaustible supply of infinitely variable forms. The sea and clouds combine to create myriad abstract visual elements," she says. "With my camera I am able to go directly to the source. I find ready to use what a painter has to create. Starting from what is complex, it is possible to reach what is simple and timeless." www.sandragottlieb.com

Liquid Sculpture, Water Plays: Martin Waugh Photographs

Using high speed photography, Waugh combines science and art and captures the smooth and effortless curves of liquid, as drops of liquid impact the surface. The drops are photographed, mid-splash, to reveal the phenomenon which is affected by viscosity, surface tension and augmented by varying color. He earned his Bachelor of Science in physics from Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. His work can be found in both corporate and private collections.

"What you see are high-resolution photographs of liquids in motion, captured with high-speed flash photograph," comments the artist. "What you see is what nature provided. The same

characteristics of liquids that make them so visually engaging also make them difficult to control. Therein lie the irresistible puzzle and satisfying rewards.”

Waugh received his B.S. degree in Physics from Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. He lives in Portland, Oregon. His work can be found in museum, corporate, and private art collections. Martin writes about his techniques, and other musings at www.martin-waugh.com. Learn more and view his art at www.liquidsculpture.com

Ocean Fields: Clifford Smith Paintings

Clifford Smith creates spectacular large-scale paintings depicting the surface of water. Smith says of his work, "When I am painting water, I am thinking of how it tastes and feels, of expressing my central response to it, instead of just a visual one." Smith was born in Passaic, New Jersey in 1951. He earned his BS degree in 1973 at Southern Connecticut State College, New Haven, Connecticut, and his MFA degree in 1979 at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York. Smith now resides in New Hampshire. He has exhibited with Spanierman Modern NYC, The Art Center at Hargate, New Hampshire, New England Collect, Greenville Museum of Art, NC, Moravian College, PA and numerous others and is represented in numerous public and private collections.

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.

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