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RE: Opening of National Art Exhibitions

National Show to open at The Bennington Center for the Arts

Three of the country's finest art magazines, American Art Collector, Fine Art Connoisseur and Southwest Art, have invited a select number of "emerging" artists to participate in an exhibition and sale titled Artists for the New Century at The Bennington Center for the Arts. The official show is now open but an opening reception will be held on Saturday, June 16th at 4:30 pm.

The Bennington first organized this show in 2002 with the plan that it would be done every five years. The focus would be on artists that were not necessarily young or new to the art scene, but rather those that had proven themselves to be excellent artists but had not yet received the recognition they deserved.

While the art center has a very extensive list of artists from around the country that participate in their shows, they felt the national art magazines would have the best feel for these "new" artists and so asked for their input. The magazines were pleased to be a part of this exhibition and each sent in a list of artists. The resulting show was a great success. The show now on exhibit at the Center is the third of its kind.

"This is such a wonderful show to exhibit, and it is great fun organizing it," said Gallery Director Shirley Hutchins. "We know and work with so many of the country's finest artists and then we get the invitation lists from the magazines and know very few of them! It is amazing how much wonderful talent there is out there and we are so happy to become acquainted with the artists creating it and to be able to introduce our patrons to them through this show."

Some of the artists included in past shows are now among the country's most recognized representational artists. Michael Albrechtsen, Carolyn Anderson, John Cogan, Nancy S. Crookston, Dan Gozee, Matthew Hillier, Ignat Ignatov, Calvin Liang, Huihan Liu, William Schneider, Gabor Svagrik and S. Mark Thompson are just a very few. In a number of years, artists participating in this show may be included in these ranks.

"It is a great opportunity for those interested in contemporary American art to be able to come to the Center to see this exciting or even purchase this new work," commented Hutchins.

Three other shows also opening this week include The Small Works Show, American Artists Abroad and the perennial favorite, Art of the Animal Kingdom, now in its seventeenth year. All work is for sale.

Greg Beecham from Wyoming juried this year's show. Almost 100 pieces are displayed and depict wildlife and domestic animals from all parts of the globe.

Events at the Bennington Center for the Arts begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday with lectures and presentations. Included in the schedule is a Raptor Encounter put on by VINS. Greg Beecham will give an art critique at 3:30. The reception for the artists begins at 4:30 during which awards will be announced. There is no admission on Saturday and the events are open to the public.

The day ends with the Hubbard Hall Opera Theater production of Mozart's "Abduction from the Seraglio" a comic tale of capture, rescue and love. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

For more information go to www.TheBennington.org or call 802-442-7158. The Center is located on Vermont Route 9 just west of downtown Bennington.