

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Fort Wayne Museum of Art presents**  
**Contemporary Realism Biennial 2012**  
**August 11 – October 28, 2012**

Sponsored by Lincoln Financial Foundation

America has enjoyed a long, rich history of Realist art from Colonial times to the present. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art's Contemporary Realism Biennial is a national invitational and juried exhibition which highlights the strength and innovation of America's current trends in realism. In the course of the history of art, a singular quest has commanded more artists' attention than any other: to render the objects in nature with accuracy, dignity, and grace. We are proud to expand the discourse on this enduring tradition in presenting the 2012 installment of this dynamic contemporary exhibition.

The art in this exhibition presents a vast range of ideas, approaches, styles, and subject matter. Some artists are building and expanding upon the legacies of Photorealism, Magic Realism, trompe l'oeil, and urban realism. Others strive to capture light and texture, or delve into the psychology of the situation or sitter. Several create fantastic and macabre narrations or even border on abstraction.

The majority of the exhibition, however, is devoted to representing the current trends in Realist painting, sculpture, and drawing across the country. Nearly one hundred works were selected from an outpouring of entrants from large and small communities in 34 different states, an even broader artist representation than ever before. This year's biennial is growing in diversity, too: many of the 2012 Biennial artists are of diverse ethnic heritage and depict themes derived from a variety of cultures. This overwhelming response confirms that there are Realist artists working throughout the entire country and challenges the notion that the art world exists only in major cities or on the coasts.

The FWMoA will award prizes to outstanding exhibiting artists, to be determined by prize juror Frank Bernarducci, Director and Partner of Bernarducci.Meisel.Gallery, a prominent SoHo gallery presenting the finest contemporary realist art including established and emerging artists of the genre.

Contemporary Realism Biennial 2012 will be accompanied by a distinctive, full color exhibition catalog, featuring the talented artists and their striking contributions to the evolving story of realism in America. The exhibition will be celebrated at the **Fall Party on October 12 from 6-9pm** at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Entrance is \$5.00, and the party will feature live music, unique food and drink, and many of the artists exhibiting in the Biennial will be in attendance. For more information, please visit the Museum's website at [www.fwmoa.org](http://www.fwmoa.org).

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is funded in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.