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Fort Wayne Museum of Art Announces Best in Show for the **2012 Contemporary Realism Biennial**

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is excited to once again present its biennial exhibition devoted to representing the current trends in Realist painting, sculpture, and drawing from across the country. The exhibition features 98 works by 77 artists from all over the United States, awarding three artists best in show.

On Saturday, August 11, 2012 the Fort Wayne Museum of Art unveils the **2012 Contemporary Realism Biennial**. Frank Bernarducci of the Bernarducci.Meisel.Gallery in New York City was given the arduous task of choosing three best of show artworks in this exhibition that features top American realists. His choices are: First Place - David Eichenberg, *Aimee*; Second Place - Martin Arnold, *Christina in Stripes*; and Third Place - David Jamieson, *Nested*. Honorable mention includes Lanna Pendleton-Hall, *After the Rain*; **Indiana Artist** Ivan Chermel, *The Trainer*; and Philip Jackson, *Transitory Reflections: Tangerine and Apples*.

When asked to describe the selection process, Bernarducci said, "As a dealer, I have definite criteria by which I view a painting. Our gallery receives close to 10,000 artist submissions a year--one every 20 minutes. So we know right away when we have something special. First there must be an emotional response to the work, a certain truth and beauty. The artist must have a unique point of view. It must be painted in a thoroughly modern way, a way that we have never seen before. These criteria are very difficult to achieve. Many of the selections for this Biennial are in that 1% - the cream of the crop: images that make you look a second and a third time, paintings and sculpture by the truly gifted. So to select three is almost unfair. It becomes a totally subjective process. There is no good or bad or best. My final selections are works that make my own pupils dilate. I would suggest seeing this extraordinary show for yourself. Then make your own three selections. See how easy it is."

The **2012 Contemporary Realism Biennial** is on view through October 28, 2012. The exhibition is sponsored by Lincoln Financial Foundation. An accompanying catalogue will be on sale in the Museum's Paradigm Gallery in September.

Visit the Museum website www.fwmoa.org or call 260.422.6467. The FWMoA is located at 311 East Main Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm, Thursday 10:00am – 8:00pm, and Sunday 12:00 – 5:00pm.

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United.