



For Immediate Release

April 9, 2010

ELLARSLIE OPEN XXVIII
The Best of the Best at Ellarslie and Artworks

Exhibit Run: April 24 through June 20, 2010

Museum hours

Tuesday - Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(closed Monday's and all municipal holidays)

Opening receptions

At Artworks April 23, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

At Ellarslie May 1, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Awards and presentations will take place May 1 at 6:45 p.m.

Exhibit Contact: Brian O. Hill, Museum Director 609-989-3632

Mayor Douglas H. Palmer announced today that one of the City of Trenton's premier cultural sites, the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park, together with The Trenton Museum Society and Artworks, will present an exhibit featuring the Best of the Best of regional and Trenton area artists.

This year, Brian O. Hill--director of the Trenton City Museum--reports that the Museum received a 13 per cent increase in entries for consideration totaling 579, of which 199 were chosen for exhibit at Ellarslie and an additional 87 very edgy works were selected for exhibition at Artworks.

The 'Salon Exhibit' had its inaugural debut at the museum in 2007 in celebration of the competition's 25th year. From inception the ancillary Salon Exhibit was so well received by artists and patrons that this portion of the Ellarslie Open juried exhibition was moved to Artworks in order to accommodate the large volume of work chosen.

The Ellarslie Open at Artworks begins with an opening reception April 23 from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. and once again, for a \$1.00 donation, the public will be invited to vote for their selection of "Best in Show" at the Artworks exhibit. All donations will go to the winning artist's prize.

Michael Cagno, Executive Director of the Noyes Museum, this year's Ellarslie Open Juror, will determine the winners of the main exhibit, including: Best in Show, Honorable Mention in 8 categories. There will also be Special Award presentations, including: The Mayor's Award, Best in Show Overall, Utrecht Award for Excellence in Painting, Director's Award, President's

Award, Ben Whitmire Purchase Award, Trenton Artists Workshop Award, Trenton Museum Society Purchase Awards.

The following are award sponsors of the 26th Annual Ellarslie Open: Artful Deposit, Farnsworth Gallery, Shoppe 202, Trenton Printing, TAWA, Utrecht Art Supplies, and (for their permanent collection) the Trenton Museum Society Purchase Award and Ben Whitmire Purchase Award.

With a 13 per cent increase in works submitted the juror, Michael Cagno of the Noyes Museum, continues the long tradition of jurying the multi-medium work of regional, state and nationally known artists. Mr. Cagno went through the work and picked what is truly the Best of the Best. This show continues to have it all. Our distinguished juror, accepted 199 works for the 28th Ellarslie Open and 87 for the exhibition, and third partnership, with Artworks. I found in most of the works submitted, that the originality of the artists work, combined with both their mastery of technique and their spirit... is the embodiment that permeates this region and this exhibition. This is the Best of the Best and we are proud to have in the City of Trenton, now in two locations.

-Brian O. Hill, M.A., Director Trenton City Museum

JUROR

Michael Cagno -

Executive Director-Noyes Museum of Art, Oceanville, NJ

Adjunct Professor- Cumberland County Community College, Art History

Adjunct Professor- Richard Stockton College, Arts Management

Juror's Statement

One of the toughest assignments in the arts is to jury work by many talented artists. As the Executive Director of The Noyes Museum of Art, I have the pleasure of looking at a lot of art from professional and emerging artists. Of course, to jury artwork for an exhibition is completely subjective. The juror must take into account their training, background, and yes, taste! Though not committed to a particular style, medium, or subject matter, I consistently look for originality. The elements of art such as: composition, line, form, color, shape, and texture play a critical role in the creation of a piece, but equally as important is avoiding the three second kiss of death. The first impression by a viewer must be strong enough to engage in further discovery; otherwise, it's on to the next piece. Artists must separate their work from others. If one paints beach scenes, then paint it differently than everyone else, otherwise, it all looks the same.

-Michael Cagno

This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts. Programming and additional exhibit support provided by the Trenton Museum Society.

The Trenton City Museum is owned, maintained and operated by the City of Trenton, Department of Recreation, Natural Resources and Culture, Division of Culture and is located at the Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park. Hours are: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. and Sundays, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays and Municipal Holidays. Visit www.ellarslie.org for more information and directions or contact Museum Director Brian O. Hill at 609-989-3632.