



NEWS RELEASE:

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HERMITAGE HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL STUDIO ARTIST EXHIBITION

Norfolk, VA- The Hermitage Museum & Gardens will hold the second annual Hermitage Studio Artist exhibition, *Artistic Differences*, November 7 - 23, with a free public opening reception Thursday, November 6th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The artists will also hold a special Open House event in connection with the exhibit on Sunday, November 23rd from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Cottage studios. The Open House is a wonderful opportunity to purchase unique gifts for the holidays.

The Hermitage opened the doors of the Gardener's Cottage, located adjacent to the Hermitage Visual Arts School, in July of 2007 to the first group of participants of the program. Each year, six artists are juried into the program based on portfolio submissions, professional commitment, and interest in participating in the exchange of artistic ideas.

The program invites juried artists to experience the Hermitage as the Sloane family did: inspired by the surrounding natural beauty of the grounds and the richness of the arts community.

The six artists included in this year's exhibit *Artistic Differences* are Jane Cleary, Anne Iott, Patricia Isenhour, Helena Navarro, Amanda Page Stephens and Virginia Van Horn. These artists work in a broad range of media and their exhibited works will demonstrate that same range of artistic expression through a variety of techniques, materials, and styles. From vibrant watercolors to coffee-stained canvases, dyed fabrics to textured oil paints, *Artistic Differences* will endeavor to discuss the choices behind self expression.

To view featured artists' biographies, artist statements, and sample works visit www.thfm.org.

For more information on the *Hermitage Studio Artist Program* or the exhibit *Artistic Differences*, contact Caitlin Smith, Public Programs Manager, at 757-423-2052 ext. 207, or cs@thfm.org.

The Hermitage offers 45-minute guided tours, on the hour, of fifteen galleries filled with the Sloane family world-wide art collection, furniture, and history. The Visual Arts School houses classrooms, a complete ceramics studio, and darkroom photography facilities. Open daily 10-5, Sundays 1-5-closed Wednesdays. Free for Museum Members, children under 6, and Active Duty military. Admission: \$5 for Adults, \$2 for ages 6-18, and \$3 for students. For more information on the museum and membership offerings call 757-423-2052 or visit www.thfm.org.

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For high resolution images of sample works by the Hermitage Studio Artists contact Matt Serino, Marketing Manager, at (757) 423-2052 x 208 or ms@thfm.org.