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Star Studded Art Extravaganza

November 1, 2012 at 7pm

CHARLESTON, SC (July 26, 2012) - M Gallery of Fine Art SE LLC will be hosting the Charleston art event of the season November 1, 2012 at 7 p.m. Located at Hibernia Hall, 105 Meeting Street, and featuring demonstrations by five world renowned figurative painters, Thomas Reis, Lynn Sanguedolce, Bryce Cameron Liston, Kevin Beilfuss, and Michelle Dunaway, who will paint from life five models resulting in five great paintings that will be raffled off. The event will be black tie optional, hors d'oeuvres and champagne will be served and a cash bar will be present.

Thomas Reis

Thomas Reis's painting "Amelie" recently won Best of Show at the ARC 2012 International Salon. The painting also won First Place in Artist's Magazine 28th Annual Art Competition and was featured on the cover. In September, "Amelie" and "Twilight Hour" will open at The World Art Museum in Beijing, China--beginning a year-long tour of China as part of a traveling exhibition of ACOPAL member artists. In the past several years, Tom's work has exhibited at other prestigious venues, including The Butler Institute of Art, The National Arts Club, Ogelthorpe University, The Marietta Museum of Art and the Museum of Arts and Sciences, where he had a solo exhibition in 2010. His work has appeared in International Artist Magazine, Artist's Magazine, The Pastel Journal, and Southwest Art Magazine, among others.

Reis earned a BA from Stetson University in 1988 and began work as senior art director for JP Morgan Chase in New York City, shortly after receiving his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1993. Two years later, he was illustrating for nationally-known publications, including Time magazine, Rolling Stone, the Wall Street Journal,

Entertainment Weekly, Sports Illustrated, Business Week, TV Guide, Barron's, Forbes and Smart Money. Corporate clients have included MGM, Dupont and Colgate. Throughout his career, Tom also has worked as a fine artist. Tom currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lynn Sanguedolce

Lynn was recently selected as a Finalist at the Portrait Society of America's International Portrait Competition 2012 for her painting "Tom Poynor in the Studio", which received one of the very top awards - *First Honor*. Lynn was also selected as a Finalist in the ARC International Salon 2012 for her portrait "Tom Poynor", which is a head-study of the same subject. This painting was honored with the "Artist Magazine Award of Excellence" at the Salon International 2012. Lynn was also selected as a Finalist in the RayMar Fine Art and the Fine Art Studio Online BoldBrush Competitions in March 2012.

The inspiration for Lynn's work stems from her appreciation of the beauty of nature and a passion for great art. She enjoys painting a broad range of subject matter, from landscapes to figures, but finds painting people particularly rewarding, since that allows her to translate the essence of a subject's personality into a piece of fine art. Her deep admiration for beautiful paintings has led her to research many art movements and masters of the past. She has amassed an impressive library of art books that she studies on a daily basis. It has been through her love of art history, combined with study and practice, that Lynn has found her voice.

Lynn's early career focused on watercolor illustration for many publications in the New York City area, such as Reader's Digest. She transitioned into working in oil, producing landscape, figurative and portrait works. Her commitment to life drawing, plein air landscape and alla prima figurative painting have always been, and continue to be, a crucial component in Lynn's ongoing development as an artist.

Lynn grew up in an artistic family. Her father was a professional artist, who was a member of the Scenic Artist Union, and her mother graduated from the Cooper Union School, in New York City. Lynn's formal art education includes study at Carnegie-Mellon University, The School of Visual Arts in New York City and the California Art Institute, where she later became an instructor. Throughout her career, she has continued to study and practice traditional drawing and painting principles through various workshops, classes and private instruction. Some teachers and friends that Lynn feels particularly indebted to are John Phillip Osborne, John Frederick Murray, Glen Orbik and Jeremy Lipking.

Lynn has been represented by prestigious galleries across the country. A professional artist for over thirty years, her work may be found in collections throughout the United States and abroad. Lynn currently resides in the San Francisco East Bay.

Bryce Cameron Liston

Born in 1965 in a small town in Utah, Bryce believes his first desire to be an artist was formed at a very young age when he would go out with his mother while she painted the Utah landscape. Later in school, drawing was a comfort zone for Liston “it was a subject that excited me- I always had energy and interest for it”. It was here that Liston found his love of the human form. “I don't quite know why I was drawn to the human form, it might have come from looking at the art of the great American Illustrators like N.C. Wyeth and Howard Pyle that planted the seed.

It was then that he knew it was the human form that he wanted to portray in his art. Later he attended the University of Utah but dropped out not long after “I wanted to learn about the craft of art, not just talk about it” With limited resources Bryce found himself working in the studio and foundry of master sculptor Edward J. Fraughton. The time Liston spent with Fraughton provided him with knowledge of anatomy that few painters possess, that understanding brings depth and life to the figures he paints. “In Ed's studio I learned a lot about art, It's funny, I learned about painting from a sculptor- I don't think that happens everyday”.

But Bryce will be the first to tell you he is a self taught artist. He will also tell you that it's a long hard way to go about it but that it does have its advantages. Being self taught is slow and laborious, but it allows you to find your own voice rather than emulating that of your teachers.

Bryce's work is shown in galleries around the country and he participates in many national and international exhibitions each year. Bryce's artwork has won numerous prestigious awards, including The Tuffy Berg Award, The Honorary Chairman's Award and the Southwest Art Award of Excellence at the 2010 CM Russell Auction. He is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America and was awarded Best in Show at the 2008 OPA Western Regional Exhibition. He was also named one of the Top Ten Artists to Watch by Southwest Art Magazine in January, 2009. His art has been published in many magazines as well as on book covers. He currently resides in Holladay, Utah with his wife and three daughters. “I can't even imagine myself not painting or sculpting. My mother was a very talented artist and I can already see some of the same abilities emerging in my young daughters.”

Kevin Beilfuss

After graduating from Illinois State University and the American Academy of Art, Kevin set out on a free-lance illustration career which lasted thirteen years. Working mainly in the editorial area of illustration, his work consisted mostly of paintings for book covers and magazines. Some of his clients included: Penguin Publishing, Houghton Mifflin, Harlequin, Signs of the Times, Guideposts, Readers Digest, and Golf Digest.

"I had always dreamed of becoming an illustrator," explains the artist. "But the demands of painting someone else's ideas finally took its toll. I decided that life is too short and that I had to paint from my heart. We're only given one chance at life, and I had to paint what was important to me. What's important to me", says Kevin, "is that I try to capture a little of what God has already created, in each of my paintings. One can obviously see the beauty in God's creation in the landscape, but for me it is even more profound when I see and experience that beauty in people. There is always something new and awe-inspiring to discover when painting the human figure."

Kevin's work has been the subject of several one man shows as well as being included in such prestigious annual shows as the Oil Painters of America (Regional & National Exhibitions), The Great American Figurative Shows (Waterhouse Gallery, Santa Barbara), Scottsdale Salon of Fine Art, and Salon International (Greenhouse Gallery, San Antonio). Kevin's award winning artwork can be seen at galleries throughout the U.S. Kevin has won the 'Peoples Choice Award' and an 'Award for Excellence' at the OPA Eastern Regional Exhibitions in 2008, and 2009. He most recently received the Award for Excellence in Figurative Painting at the 2010 OPA National Exhibition, and the Gold Medal for his painting 'What Dreams May Come' at the 2010 OPA Eastern Regional Exhibition.

Leading workshops throughout the US, Kevin uses his ability as a teacher to help artists gain an understanding of how to 'see' as an artist, and sharing his knowledge to help students improve their skills.

Kevin resides in the Chicago area with his wife Janice, and his son Drew.

Michelle Dunaway

Michelle Dunaway is a professional artist living in New Mexico and has been drawing for as long as she can remember. As a young child she was captivated with drawing people and that focus continues to this day. "I've always been intrigued with drawing faces and hands, also capturing the essence of the human spirit fascinates me, whether it is found in the graceful movements of the human form or the eyes of the model. There is a whole story waiting to be found and revealed through the brush."

She credits her mother's creative influence and her upbringing in Alaska as fueling her artistic imagination. "My mother was always doing something creative, whether painting, wood carving, or stained glass... there were always art books around the house and she encouraged me to do charcoal drawings at around the age of seven. I think growing up in Alaska gave me a love of color and also, growing up in such an untamed wilderness made me aware of all the beauty that is in the everyday. My Father and I always went on adventure hikes in the wilderness, taking the 'path less traveled.' I think that really gave me a joy of the process of discovery that translates into the creation of art. For me, the most profound stories are found in the simplest moments. That is something I aspire to convey in my paintings."

Michelle moved to New Mexico in her teenage years and studied at Art Masters Academy with artist Lou Maestas where she first learned to work with oils and paint from a live model. Michelle then went on to attend the prestigious Art Center College of Design in Pasadena California where she attained a solid foundation in drawing and anatomy, studying with teachers such as Steve Huston. Afterward, she returned to New Mexico and began to teach as well as receive numerous portrait commissions.

In her mid 20's Dunaway lived on the East Coast while doing a commissioned sculpture. While there, she was exposed to paintings of the great masters such as John Singer Sargent, Jules Bastien-Lepage, and Cecilia Beaux at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. "It was a pivotal time for me," Dunaway recalls, "seeing these originals for the first time, I knew that I wanted to focus my passion on representational painting."

Dunaway sought out the instruction of contemporary masters such as Morgan Weistling and Jeremy Lipking, whom she credits as having great influence on her approach. "I feel blessed to have such talented and dedicated artists as friends and mentors who share so generously of their knowledge. I think that's why I've always been moved to teach as well, it's important to pass on the wisdom ..."

In recent years, she has lived and worked in California, teaching at the renowned California Art Institute in Westlake Village and at the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art. She has exhibited at Morseburg Galleries in West Hollywood and Wendt Gallery in Laguna Beach, as well as several galleries in Santa Fe.

Dunaway was a top finalist in the Portrait Society of America's International Portrait Competition in 2010, where she won the Award of Exceptional Merit for her double portrait of the daughters of actress Jane Seymour.

Michelle was featured in Southwest Art magazine's "21 under 31" issue as one of the twenty-one emerging fine artists of the United States. Her paintings and drawings have been featured in American Artist Workshop magazine, spring 2010, American Art Collector magazine, Southwest Art, and International Artist. Michelle's drawings are included in the book Strokes of Genius 2: The Best of Drawing Light and Shadow.

Dunaway is represented by The Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, AZ and Jackson, WY, Sage Creek Gallery in Santa Fe, NM, M Gallery of Fine Art in Charleston, SC and InSight Gallery in Fredericksburg, TX. Her work is in numerous private collections.

For more information please contact M Gallery of Fine Art at 843.727.4500, sales@mgalleryoffineart.com, www.mgalleryoffineart.com, or stop in 11 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401.