



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 3, 2009

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**The Women's Board of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
hosts the Preview Party of the
108th Annual Student Exhibition**

Presented by Bollinger Insurance

PHILADELPHIA – The Women's Board Preview Party launches the 108th *Annual Student Exhibition* (ASE) at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in the Samuel M.V. Hamilton Building at 128 North Broad Street, Philadelphia. Presented by Bollinger Insurance, with additional support provided by Sandcastle Strategy Group, the benefit evening is **Thursday, May 7, 2009, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.**

The Preview Party kicks off the historic *Annual Student Exhibition*, now in its 108th year. This festive event offers guests the first chance to view and purchase more than 1,000 paintings, sculpture, works on paper and installations created by Academy students on the very cusp of their professional careers. The students will be present to discuss their work and they retain the majority of the purchase price of works sold. From 5 to 6 p.m. "Collectors" level attendees have an exclusive first full-hour to enjoy the exhibition and make their selections. After 6 p.m., additional guests enter at half-hour intervals.

Underwritten by the Women's Board, the Annual Student Exhibition features works by Bachelor of Fine Arts students, third- and fourth year Certificate program students, and Master of Fine Arts students, as well as award recipients. More than \$160,000 in scholarship and travel funding will be granted to student exhibitors this year. Included in these awards are the prestigious Cresson, Scheidt, Ware Memorial, and Women's Board Travel Scholarships.

Co-chairs of the Preview Party are Christine H. Berrettini of Haverford and Alicia A. Sterling of Bryn Mawr. Mrs. Berrettini stated, "The outstanding modern architectural setting of the Hamilton Building provides a unique experience to purchase art for everyone from connoisseurs to new collectors." Mrs. Sterling added, "the Preview Party is a wonderful opportunity to support these dedicated and talented individuals as they make their first foray into the professional art market."

The co-chairs promise an elegant evening with wine, cocktails, and an array of hors d'oeuvres. Complimentary valet parking will be provided.

The Preview Party begins at 5 p.m. Ticket prices are linked to arrival times. "Collectors" enter at 5 p.m. for \$300 per person. "Patrons" are admitted at 6 p.m. for \$200; "Cresson Fans" enter at 6:30 p.m. for \$150; and discounted tickets of \$75 are available to Young

Friends and Academy Alumni for 7 p.m. entry. Visa, MC, American Express, checks, and cash are accepted to purchase Preview Party tickets and artworks.

Order tickets online at www.Wbsecure.org or contact Leigh Sweda in the Women's Board office at 215-972-7639 or lsweda@pagf.org. All tickets will be held at the door. Proceeds from the event support the scholarship fund and outreach programs of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

The *Annual Student Exhibition* opens to the public May 8 and continues until May 31, 2009.

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Women's Board

Founded in 1950 as the Women's Committee, at the request of Academy President John Frederick Lewis, Jr. and Director Joseph T. Fraser, Jr. the Women's Board's mission is to support the Pennsylvania Academy and promote American artists through fundraising and volunteerism.

The Board hosts the preview openings of the Academy's annual winter and spring exhibitions, as well as student luncheons throughout the year.

Funds raised from these events support scholarships and programs of the Academy, including costs of the *Annual Student Exhibition*, the After School Studio Art Program for High School Students, summer programs, and special projects as needed. For information, contact Patty Castner at 215-972-0550, pcastner@pafa.org or visit www.pafa.org/About/Women-s-Board/328/

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Founded in 1805, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts is America's first school of fine arts and museum. A recipient of the 2005 National Medal of Arts presented by the President of the United States, the Academy is a recognized leader in fine arts education. Nearly every major American artist has taught, studied, or exhibited at the Academy. The institution's world-class collection of American art continues to grow and provides what only a few other art institutions in the world offer: the rare combination of a world-class museum and an extraordinary faculty known for its commitment to students and for the stature and quality of its artistic work.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Academy is located at 118-128 N. Broad Street in Philadelphia. Admission to the Permanent Collection is Adults \$10, Seniors & Students with I.D. \$8, Youth ages 5-18, \$6. Admission to Special Exhibitions (includes Permanent Collection) is Adults \$15, Seniors & Students with I.D. \$12, Youth ages 5-18, \$8. Admission is free for members and children under the age of 5. Admission to Morris Gallery exhibitions is free.