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**17th ANNUAL *USArtists*: AMERICAN FINE ART SHOW
OCTOBER 17-19, 2008
Preview Gala: Thursday, October 16
33rd Street Armory, Philadelphia, PA**

PHILADELPHIA, PA - Over 50 of the leading art dealers from around the country will gather once again in Philadelphia for the largest exhibit and sale of work by American artists in the nation. The 17th annual *USArtists: American Fine Art Show* is open to the public from Friday, October 17, through Sunday, October 19, at the 33rd Street Armory in Philadelphia. *USArtists* is presented for the fifth consecutive year by Pitcairn, one of the world's leading multi-family offices. The Women's Board of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) produces the show, and funds raised by the Women's Board through *USArtists* and other events directly support student scholarships and museum programs.

USArtists provides the opportunity to view and purchase over 5,000 pieces of original work brought in by the country's most prestigious dealers from New York to California, Maine to Florida and many points in between. Collectors of fine art consider the show a unique opportunity to purchase from a vast selection of exceptional work. "Some pieces at *USArtists* are acquired for museums, but most purchases go to private collections, so in many cases this is the last chance to view a particular piece by a favorite artist," said *USArtists* co-chair Susan Muller. Featured dealers for the 2008 show include Adelson Galleries of New York, NY; John H. Surovek Gallery of Palm Beach, FL; Walker-Cunningham Fine Art of Boston, MA; Godel & Co. Fine Art, Debra Force Fine Art, Inc. and Gerald Peters Gallery – all of New York, NY. New dealers joining the show this year include Robert Henry Adams Fine Art of Chicago, IL; Principle Gallery of Alexandria, VA; Papillon Gallery of West Hollywood, CA; and Gratz Gallery of New Hope, PA.

The series of events during the show include a Preview Gala on Thursday evening, October 16, and new Collectors Night on Friday, October 17. "We will also have a Family Day on Saturday that should be a lot of fun, with special activities planned for children," said *USArtists* co-chair Ellie Fine. On Friday and Saturday visitors may attend free lectures by the art dealers on topics that range from remarkable women artists to displaying and protecting your art collection. Throughout the show attendees will also have the opportunity to observe students from PAFA sketch models, and PAFA-trained docents will offer personalized tours each day before the show opens to the public.

General admission to *USArtists* is \$15 and includes a bound, full-color show catalogue. Seniors, students with ID, and groups of six or more pay \$12. Group docent tours are \$18 per person. The show is open to the public from 11am to 8pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 11 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Tickets are also available for the Preview Gala on Thursday night (\$125 to \$550) and the New Collectors Night on Friday (\$75). For tickets and additional information, call 215.972.7639 or visit www.usartists.org.

Admission to *USArtists* also includes one free admission to PAFA good for the entire year. PAFA, founded in 1805 by artist, scientist and civic leader Charles Wilson Peale, is the oldest museum and school of fine arts in the country. PAFA is located at 128 North Broad Street in Philadelphia, less than two miles from the *USArtists* show site. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. For more information visit www.pafa.org.

USArtists is produced by the Women's Board of PAFA, and is committed to furthering PAFA's mission. Established nearly 60 years ago, the Women's Board has been a vital supporter of PAFA through its events and other fundraising efforts. For more information about the Women's Board, visit <http://www.pafa.org/About/Women-s-Board/328/>.

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