

For Immediate Release:

January 10, 2007

The Museum of Florida Art Presents:

Equus: The Art of the Horse & Equifest: An Equestrian Event

The opening of *Equus, The Art of the Horse* will take place on Friday April 13, 2007 at the DeLand Museum – The Museum of Florida Art, with a reception from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The public is welcomed; the event is free. The exhibit will run from April 13th to June 17th.

The featured artist this year is Melissa Mason (formerly Hosfelt). Her paintings convey a sense of energy, a direct reflection of her life, love and travels. Her favorite subjects are horses, surreal landscapes, fruit, florals, and tropical fauna. Her bold use of color and contrast create images that mesmerize and fascinate. Using acrylic paints on surfaces ranging from watercolor paper to canvas and Masonite, she is able to create powerful effects. By successfully combining the transparent look of watercolor and opaque passages of paint she creates rich depth, complex texture, and sparkling color.

The intimate nature of her horse paintings and portraits convey her love of horses. Being an avid horse rider for many years has given her the ability to capture their spirit and beauty in paint. Melissa's award winning paintings are in private collections throughout the US and Europe

Altogether, it is anticipated that the works of 20 artists will be on display.

On Saturday, April 14th, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Equifest III will be held at the Lake Helen Equestrian Center. This event has grown in attendance and variety of exhibits, vendors and programs each year.

The full panoply of equestrian events is still being developed but will definitely include the Poulin Sisters, accomplished riders following in the hoof prints of their famous father, Olympian, Michael Poulin and their equally renowned mother, a horse breeder and dressage trainer.

Returning performances include the Cowboy Mounted Shooting, the Arabian Fantasy Riders, the Southern Pride Mounted Drill Team, the Paso Fino Drill Team and many other breeds and riding exhibitions. The Jack Russell Terrier races will be back again along a new dog agility event, art exhibits, food vendors, Civil War re-enactors, children's art activities, music, food and retail vendors.

Every two weeks between now and April 9th, there will be another release highlighting artists and Equifest events thereby providing a wealth of material for journalists.

William C. Hall

Marketing Director

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Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 10-4

Sunday 1-4

Closed Monday

Non-Member Admission \$3.00 Children under 12 Free

Sundays Free

Tours can be scheduled for groups of 10 or more. Youth tours are free.

Call the museum at 386-734-4371

The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue where:

- *creativity is fostered.*
- *appreciation of art is nurtured.*
- *all people are welcomed.*

The mission of The Museum of Florida Art is to integrate exhibitions and education to create an enriching and stimulating experience for a diverse audience. The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue for emerging and established Florida artists to support the cultural legacy of our state.