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Project Art for Nature exhibition promotes awareness and stewardship

Summary: Several of the contributing artists will visit campus to share career advice with senior studio art majors and to attend the opening reception on Thursday, October 22.

(October 15, 2009)-The University of Minnesota, Morris is proud to present the Project Art for Nature (PAN) exhibition at the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery from October 22 until November 27, 2009. The opening reception, free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, October 22 from 7 until 9 p.m. Several of the artists will attend the opening reception and will also meet with senior studio art majors to discuss career paths within arts and share career advice.

Founded in 2001, PAN is a collaboration of Minnesota and Wisconsin artists and illustrators who create artwork that promotes awareness, understanding, and stewardship of threatened regional natural areas. Each artist chooses one or two natural sites to regularly visit and then creates artwork focused on, inspired by, or illustrating aspects of their chosen area(s). The artists become intimate with the native plant and animal communities and changes to the prairie, savannah, forest, wetland, or riparian habitats.

“Whether protected, in need of maintenance or restoration, or surviving through benign neglect, all the areas chosen by PAN artists provide diminishing habitat for precious native flora and fauna,” states artist and PAN founder Vera Wong.

The exhibition includes work in diverse media by artists Mary Coughlin, Marj Davis, Estella Lerma, Denise Friesen, Mark Granlund, Barbara Harman, David Morrison, Bonnie Ploger, Teri Power, Diane Wesman, and Wong.

HFA Gallery hours are 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Friday and 1 until 5 p.m. on Saturday. For more information about the reception or exhibition, contact Michael Eble, HFA Gallery curator, at 320-589-6285 or meble@morris.umn.edu.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.