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Body of work by Michael Eble, students

Summary: "Beats of Haiga," a body of work by art faculty, Michael Eble, along with murals created by students in Eble's Media Studies: Mural Project and Public Art course, will comprise the next exhibition in the HFA Gallery.

(January 10, 2006)-"Beats of Haiga," a series of new paintings by University of Minnesota, Morris Assistant Professor of Studio Art, Michael Eble, are responses to the haiku poems of Jack Kerouac, a beat poet. "Beats of Haiga" will be part of the next exhibition in UMM's Humanities Fine Arts Gallery, January 19 through March 11. Eble will present an Artist Lecture at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2.

A central emphasis in these new pieces of artwork is the process in which Eble references the Japanese art of Haiga. HAI comes from haiku, three-line poems of five, seven, five syllables. GA is the word for painting, so Haiga literally means haiku-paintings. Through his art form, Eble, who teaches classes at UMM in painting and drawing, blends poetry, calligraphy, mark making and painting into a new creative body of work. Works from this exhibition can be viewed at www.michaeleble.com

Eble received a master of fine arts in painting and drawing from the University of Mississippi, Oxford in 2002. In 2001, he completed an artist's residency at the Vermont Studio Center, an international creative community in Johnson, Vermont. He received a bachelor of fine arts in painting with a minor in photography from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette in 1997. Eble has taught at the University of Minnesota, Morris since 2002 and also serves as curator for the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery.

This project is funded in part by the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota.

Along with Eble's paintings, the work of art students in Eble's Media Studies: Mural Project and Public Art course will be on display on the mezzanine gallery. Students created and painted three different murals during the fall 2005 semester.

An opening reception for both exhibits, which are free and open to the public, will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19.

Students involved in creating these murals were: Erica Belkholm, Josef Gold, Gretchen Guinn, Alison McDonagh, Christy Meyer, Ricky Noren, Bridget O' Brien and Dean Wilson.

The first mural, reflects the importance of locally-grown foods to the community and is located in the Food Service building on the UMM campus. The second mural was designed for the Salvation Army in Morris and will be installed sometime this spring. This mural shows the importance of the Salvation Army's role in the Morris community and beyond and was designed to increase arts and cultural opportunities in west central Minnesota. The students in the class conceived the concept for the final mural of the semester. This allowed students creative freedom while still maintaining a consistent theme for the mural. Students painted their own personal door, which was then combined to make a wall

mural, which will be unveiled at the HFA Gallery on January 19.

This class was sponsored by community partners: Sodexo Campus Services, Morris Salvation Army and UMM Service Learning Program/Learn and Serve Grant.

HFA Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

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