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Information Contact:

Jessica Thomason
Development & Marketing Manager
The Art Center of Corpus Christi
Jessica@artcentercc.org
Phone: 884-6406 Cell: 510-6887
www.artcentercc.org

**The Art Center of Corpus Christi Launches “Master Artist Series”
February - March 2011 will Feature Realist Painter Guy Morrow**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — The Art Center of Corpus Christi has launched an ongoing “Master Artist Series” that will recognize accomplished, Art Center member artists who have made a significant impact and contribution to the regional art scene. February – March will feature Corpus Christi “master” realist painter Guy Morrow, with an exhibition in Desiree’s by the Bay and in the Bay view Room at the Art Center.

The Art Center has dedicated the series to exhibiting works by local master artists, to provide exposure, networking and marketing opportunities for artists. One or two artists will be chosen to participate for two months at a time. Artists will exhibit their works in Desiree’s by the Bay and in the Bay view Room at the Art Center, perform live artist demonstrations, and be available for a “meet and greet” at Art Center receptions.

The definition of a master is someone who has dedicated himself or herself to, “teaching, leading by example through prolonged excellence in the arts, and the selfless giving of their time and energy, to spread knowledge and understanding of the arts to his or her fellow members. This is not only a position of honor, but also one of responsibility.”

Teacher, minister, family man, philanthropist, entrepreneur and self-taught artist extraordinaire Guy Morrow, is the first master artist featured in the series. Morrow’s distinctive realistic style is well known throughout Corpus Christi, and a natural choice to be the first artist showcased with the launch of the Art Center’s new series on masters.

Morrow developed his realistic style through a self-study method that started early in life. As an alternative to art school, Morrow spent his energies attending art shows, studying art books, and talking with other artists. His inquisitiveness and eagerness to learn, mixed with dedication, adventure and curiosity allowed him to develop his artistic style and create habits that would benefit him throughout his career.

“Even today I research subject matter. I have files and files of information in my studio of research I’ve done over the years. I never really knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. This way I can be everything; a marine biologist, a botanist...or, I can do geology,” quotes Morrow. His education in the arts opened a world of opportunity,

allowing him to communicate ideas and practices of a wide variety of disciples through his artwork.

Inspired by Rembrandt, Vermeer and other Flemish artists, Morrow's early works, considered his "dark period," were painted in dark oils similar to the old masters. At 15, Morrow studied with the renowned artist Dick Turner, who was well known for his revisions of the Old Masters' style of painting. In this phase of his life, Morrow learned that he could make objects look real by capturing and manipulating light and form. At age 19 his work evolved to depict an increased lightness, representative of his personal spiritual growth and relationship with God.

A key medium utilized to create "lightness from within" and an ethereal, almost spiritual aspect to his paintings was the use of egg tempura. Once used as a technique by Ancient Egyptians on wall murals, Morrow became intrigued by the permanence it had as a painting medium. With as many as twenty layers of paint and thousands of brushstrokes, Guy's paintings depict life like scenes of people in natural environments, with a striking resemblance to the realism of a photograph.

In the words of a true master, "You can have a lot of knowledge, but if you don't have wisdom...you've flunked," quotes Morrow. This wisdom comes with time, experience and through the support of local artists. The Art Center's Master Artist Series will provide a network for local artists to learn from one another, develop their technique, grow their number of contacts in the local art scene, and like Morrow, become a master themselves.

Also scheduled to be featured this year are local artists Carolyn Young and Ron Stephenson. The Art Center's Exhibition Manager, Dianna Bluntzer and artist Louis Garcia will oversee the series. Candidates considered must be an active member of the arts in their community and have achieved excellence in his or her art for an extended number of years.

WHO: Master Painter Guy Morrow

WHAT: Artist featured with the launch of the Art Center's "Master Artist Series"

WHEN: February – March, 2011

WHERE: The Art Center of Corpus Christi located at 100 Shoreline Boulevard

About the Art Center of Corpus Christi The Art Center of Corpus Christi

(www.artcentercc.org (361-884-6406) was founded as a community art center and 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization in 1972. "The Center" provides an environment for creative expression with educational programs and exhibition of the arts. Its facilities include nine art organizations, five gallery spaces, and studio space for art classes. The Art Center is located at 100 Shoreline Boulevard on Corpus Christi's historic bay front. Its facilities are available for weddings, receptions, and special events. The Art Center has free admission and is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Image Captions:

1) Guy Morrow hanging a piece in Desiree's by the Bay at the Art Center