



Contact:

Monica Baer, 262-522-9687

mbaer@baercarlson.com

Wendy Lutzke, 920-684-0218

wlutzke@wisconsinmaritime.org

For Immediate Release

“Between the Shining Seas” Opens at Wisconsin Maritime Museum
Exhibit Captures Maritime Scenes Throughout the Country

MANITOWOC, Wis. — The Wisconsin Maritime Museum, located at 75 Maritime Drive in Manitowoc, will host “Between the Shining Seas,” the first exhibition of the American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) in the western Great Lakes. Fifty pieces of original artwork will be on display at the museum through August 22. Previous ASMA exhibitions have been hosted museums outside the Midwest. Entrance to “Between the Shining Seas” is included with admission to the museum.

The 50 artworks were selected from more than 140 submissions and include 48 paintings and two bronze sculptures. They capture maritime scenes across the country – from the coves of Maine, to Chesapeake Bay off Maryland, to Beaver Island in Lake Michigan, to the locks of the Mississippi River, to a California estuary and harbor. Lighthouses, ocean liners, schooners, fishing trawlers, steamers, racing boats, classic yachts, tug boats, barges, bridges, locks, pirates, port towns, harbors, high and low tides, turtles and pelicans are vividly portrayed in original artwork created by professional artists.

After their exhibition at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, the pieces will travel to the Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona for display September 7 – November 13.

“It’s truly an honor for the Wisconsin Maritime Museum to partner with ASMA. We’re delighted to host this prestigious exhibition of marine and maritime art during our peak season when we attract the most museum guests,” says Norma Bishop, executive

director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. “Also, we are pleased to mark a generous gift of the Frank G. & Frieda K. Brotz Family Foundation with the first exhibition of the ASMA in the region. The foundation recently pledged \$150,000 over three years to support the museum’s programming and historical work. The generosity of the Brotz Family Foundation will be acknowledged with the placing of a plaque at the museum’s Riverside Gallery entrance. This substantial gift will permit the museum to continue providing exhibits and educational programming of the highest quality to Wisconsin residents and the many visitors who travel here from throughout the country.”

“The American Society of Marine Artists is particularly pleased to have its Northern Region Exhibition hosted this year by two leading marine art museums in the Great Lakes region,” says Ian Marshall, a distinguished artist and president of the ASMA. “This region has an important marine history and tradition, both military and commercial. The significance of this is insufficiently appreciated on a national level. There is some sign of reawakening of knowledge and interest in the legacy of this period in our national history, and of greater efforts to cherish the inheritance. We consider it part of our mission to contribute to this.”

Noted maritime artists who are part of the exhibit include nine ASMA fellows, including: Peter Egeli of Drayden, Md. who has devoted more than 50 years to marine and portrait painting; David Bareford a painter from Stonington, Conn. who has completed many commissioned paintings for private and corporate clients; Ian Marshall of Mount Desert Island, Maine who is president of ASMA and the author of four books on painting; Kim Shaklee of Brighton, Colo. who is an award-winning wildlife and marine sculptor; Charles Raskob Robinson of Washington, Conn. who is a founding member of ASMA and whose work has been exhibited in museums across the country; Don Stoltenberg who was born in Milwaukee and now lives in Cape Cod, Mass.; Don Demers of Eliot, Maine; John Barber of Richmond, Va.; and West Fraser of Charleston, S.C.

Don and spent considerable time during the Great Depression living with relatives, including his maternal grandfather, who had a farm near the shipyards in Manitowoc.

“In the late ‘30s and early ‘40s I would spend my summers there. I used to build ship models, but I was fascinated by the big cranes and machinery I saw every time we passed the Manitowoc shipbuilding yards on our way to and from the farm,” says Stoltenberg.

Stoltenberg's work has been included in major exhibitions of contemporary art throughout the United States, most notably at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., among others.

Stoltenberg's piece "S.S. AMERICA in Southampton," a watercolor on paper, is featured on the back cover of the "Between the Shining Seas" exhibit catalog. The S.S. AMERICA ocean liner was designed by the noted naval architect William Francis Gibbs and built in 1940.

Now in his 80s, Stoltenberg still produces work from his studio in Cape Cod.

The oil painting "Storm's Wake" by Don Demers is featured on the front cover of the exhibit catalog.

Demers' interest in painting maritime subjects began while spending his summers on the coast of Maine near Boothbay Harbor. He furthered his maritime experience as a crewmember aboard many traditional sailing vessels, including schooners and square-riggers.

Demers' paintings have been featured in a number of publications including *American Artist*, *Artist*, *Plein Air*, *Fine Art Connoisseur*, *Art and Antiques* and *Yachting* magazines. Most recently, his work was on the cover of *American Art Collector*, a monthly art magazine written for collectors, galleries and painters of traditional fine art.

"I did the painting (Storm's Wake) from my memory and imagination. Since I was a boy, I've spent many hours by the sea watching it, drawing and painting it, and trying to understand it. It has always compelled me in some elemental way. I need to be near it. The obsession I have with the water is the genesis for a painting like this. Many times I have witnessed the aftermath of a storm system and the surf it leaves behind. I've attempted to portray nature's perpetual momentum in this painting."

John Barber is known for his lifelong documentation of Chesapeake Bay's marine history.

"Over the years, I've created more than 500 pieces of art illustrating the bay's every mood and, during this process, I've developed an abiding love and respect for the Chesapeake and her people," says Barber.

"Lorraine Rose Rounding Hooper Island Lighthouse" is an oil on linen that depicts the skipjack Lorraine Rose during its working life on the Chesapeake Bay.

Barber is a charter member of the American Society of Marine Artists. His work has received widespread media attention and is the subject of the book "John_Barber's Chesapeake," published by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

West Fraser is well known for his coastal landscapes, streetscapes and travel paintings. Fraser's career began in the early 1980's and his career has garnered many awards. He has had numerous one-man and group museum exhibitions throughout the United States, Canada and Bermuda. His paintings hang in permanent collection in nine museums across the United States, Bermuda and at The White House Historical Association

Fraser's work "Cozy Cove" is an oil on linen that was executed "en plein air" while the artist was on a painting trip in Maine. The subject is an old bowling alley and local store that catered to down Easters living on islands and then to tourist and summer boaters. The town of Boothbay purchased the building to protect it as a local iconic piece of history.

Area Subjects & Artists

Several other artists have ties to Wisconsin, including Janice Sexton, Debra Reid Jenkins and Jon Olson.

Janice Sexton was born and raised in Milwaukee and moved to the West Coast in her early 20s.

Now living in Westport, Mass., Sexton has won several honors from the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife for her paintings. She has won second place two times, honorable mention three times and recently won first place in the 2010 duck stamp design competition for her exquisitely rendered Canadian goose.

Sexton's piece, "Winter Watch," is an oil on linen that was sketched on a very cold winter morning just outside the Westport Harbor in Buzzards Bay, Mass. According to Sexton, the seagulls seemed oblivious to the cold and biting wind as they settled on the huge rock, which is a local landmark for boats going in and out of Westport Harbor and certainly something to avoid in the fog.

Jon Olson painted "Loading Ice at Little Sturgeon Bay," an oil on board. According to Olson, in the latter part of the 19th century, the ice harvest was an important part of the economic base in Wisconsin's Door County. In his painting, a small lake schooner takes on a cargo of cut ice for delivery to Milwaukee or Chicago.

Olson's parents' cottage was built on the site, and the underwater crib that anchored the end of the loading dock still exists. The artist grew up swimming around it and losing many fishing lures to its ancient timbers.

Debra Reid Jenkins was born in Grand Rapids, Mich. She created "Beautiful Morning," an oil on canvas as a close-up view of a wave breaking on the shore of Beaver Island in Lake Michigan. According to Reid Jenkins, the water is so clear around the island, you can see the sandy bottom even when the water is close to 20 feet deep.

"I am always drawn to the complexity of patterns in water. Seeing the ripples in the sand provides another dimension. In this painting I especially liked the challenge of having the wave moving forward while the ripples in the sand seem to move backward," says Reid Jenkins.

ASMA Comments & Background

According to Marshall, "ASMA was founded more than thirty years ago, membership has always extended across the country, and today we have members in over 40 states. We are a not-for-profit body, devoted to enhance public awareness of the field, to research and record the history of American marine art and to encourage the work of newcomers.

"Our National Exhibitions, which are held every three years or so, have established a considerable reputation: the upcoming 15th National in 2012 will be shown in seven museums in southern and western states.

"Strides have been made in recent years to pursue scholarship and education more broadly, and the Regional societies are doing more on their own initiative. It takes a lot of work, and we are all aware of the need to provide support, and to try to maintain the highest standards by getting contributions from all across the country. This effort includes encouraging student level participation, to alert a wider public to our national tradition in marine art and to nurture future masters.

"We want to thank the Wisconsin Maritime Museum for such an enthusiastic response to this initiative, and we keenly look forward to the opening of this show at the Minnesota Art Museum in Winona in September."

Wisconsin Maritime Museum Background

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum is open seven days a week, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. through Labor Day. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children. Discounts are available for senior citizens, families, veterans and active duty personnel.

Located in Manitowoc along the shores of Lake Michigan, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum is a great place to learn, play and explore the rich maritime history of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum offers visitors a unique experience learning about schooners, sailors, shipbuilders and submariners. Its interactive exhibits offer many opportunities for family fun.

Founded in 1970, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum has grown into one of the largest maritime museums in the Midwest. In addition to commemorating the maritime heritage of the Manitowoc-Two Rivers area and the submarines built in the area during World War II, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum is a leader in preserving the maritime history of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region.

For more information, visit wisconsinmaritime.org or call 1-866-724-2356.

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