

OLD TOWN ART FAIR

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2009
Images available upon request

60TH ANNUAL OLD TOWN ART FAIR TO SHOWCASE ARTWORK BY 260 NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ARTISTS

*Event will feature music, children's activities, historic tour and garden walk
June 13 - 14, 2008*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: The Old Town Art Fair will celebrate its 60th anniversary on June 13th and 14th as the charming, tree-lined streets of the city's historic Old Town Triangle District will set the stage for 260 nationally acclaimed artists and an estimated 50,000 art lovers.

The artists featured in the 2009 Old Town Art Fair were chosen by an independent jury of professional artists, gallery owners and museum curators. As with every year, the Old Town Art Fair will feature a wide range of art mediums, including 2D- and 3D-mixed media, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, and works in metal, stone and wood.

This year's Old Town Art Fair will be held June 13th – 14th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. The main gate of the Old Town Art Fair is located at Lincoln Avenue and Wisconsin Street. The requested donation is \$7.00, with no request for donation for children 12 or under. Proceeds benefit a host of local youth groups, schools, and neighborhood preservation projects.

The Old Town Art Fair was recently ranked the Number One Fine Art & Craft Show in Chicago and among the Top 10 Fine Art & Craft Shows in the country by The Harris List. Published by Editor and Consultant Dr. Larry Harris, The Harris List annually rates the approximately 125 best fine art and craft shows in the United States, based on artist surveys and objective measurements. "We are delighted that the Old Town Art Fair has received top rankings from The Harris List, which we attribute to the dedication and support of Old Town residents and to the 750 neighborhood volunteers who come together each year to make it all possible," said Christina Beer, General

Chair of the 2009 Old Town Art Fair. "We're also excited to announce the return of our soundstage, which proved a popular new addition to the fair in 2007 and featured a variety of neighborhood heroes and Chicago's most renowned acts, several of whom will be returning this year to reprise their live performances."

Produced by the Old Town Triangle Association, a not-for-profit community organization, the Old Town Art Fair is a 100 percent volunteer effort. "Chicago is host to dozens of neighborhood festivals each year. What sets the Old Town Art Fair apart from others is that it is completely volunteer managed and staffed," said Emily Rose, General Vice Chair of the 2009 Old Town Art Fair. "Each year, a group of about 30 friends and neighbors gather to organize this fine arts fair, which has grown to include a music stage, a garden walk, and a children's art program. This group includes everyone from individuals who have been volunteering for this event for over 30 years, to the newly formed 'artist aide committee,' which is comprised of the younger members of our community. This core committee recruits over 750 volunteers to help run the fair. It's amazing to see the energy generated by this event."

Other highlights of the Old Town Art Fair include a garden walk through more than 30 urban home gardens, a self-guided historic tour of the Old Town Triangle District, a children's corner offering arts and crafts activities, and a food court hosted by popular local eateries. Souvenir stores throughout the fair will offer collectible posters, t-shirts and other Old Town Art Fair collectibles.

The Old Town Art Fair continues in the spirit of the "Old Town Holiday," a popular event started in 1949 that invited artistic residents to display their work and collected 25 cent donations to raise money for improved living, working and recreational conditions in the area. "Today's Old Town Art Fair is a great departure from neighbors hanging art on fences, but we're proud that the original intent and commitment are the same: children and community. The national ranking by The Harris List and continued success of the fair as a fundraiser make our efforts that much more rewarding," said Beer.

The Old Town Art Fair extends heartfelt gratitude to its 2009 sponsors: Art de Triumph / Artful Framers Studios, Blick Art Materials, Chicago Tribune, LUNA Bar, Rose Packing Company, WXRT-FM, and Yelp.com.

For more information, visit the virtual press room at www.oldtownartfair.com or call the Old Town Triangle Association at (312) 337-1938.