



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2009

**What:** *A Creative Couple: Dinner and Conversation with Valerie Allen and Armin Mersmann*  
**When:** Wednesday, March 25, 2009; 7 pm  
**Where:** Creative Spirit Center, 1517 Bayliss Street, Midland  
**Cost:** \$45 registration due by March 20  
**Information:** Call 989-837-1885 or visit [www.creativespiritcenter.org/classes/htm](http://www.creativespiritcenter.org/classes/htm)

[Midland] Armin Mersmann and Valerie Allen, Midland artists with national recognition, will be honored by Creative Spirit Center at a soiree on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, in the Center's gallery. The event includes dinner, wine, conversation with the artists, an artists' talk, and slides of their works. Mersmann and Allen will discuss their individual creative evolution, and will share insights from their marriage in honoring each other's creative process, inspiration from a creative spouse, and how to support the creative process in another. Both artists' works will be featured at Northwood Gallery in Midland from March 23 – May 25, 2009. The March 25 event is a fundraiser for Creative Spirit Center.

#### About the Artists



**Armin Mersmann**, a native of Germany, immigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of 7. He was greatly influenced and tutored by his father, Fritz, a successful oil painter. Mainly known for his intensely naturalistic graphite drawings, he also works in oils, often with wood construction elements. His works have been shown in more than 150 exhibitions regionally, nationally and internationally. He has won more than 30 awards, recently winning first place in the Second Annual National Drawing exhibition held in Santa Fe NM.

**Valerie Allen** was awarded the BFA by the University of Cincinnati and pursued graduate studies in the humanities at Central Michigan University. She serves on the faculty of the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art and has taught art at Delta College and Northwood University. She teaches and lectures on painting with acrylics throughout the upper Midwest, through Golden Artist Colors. She has exhibited art at the Chicago Biennial, the New American Drawing Exhibition in Santa Fe NM, and the Eighteenth Annual National Collage Society Juried Exhibit at the Montserrat College of Art in

Massachusetts, as well as Michigan venues. In 2007 she was awarded the Special Award of Merit at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibition. Her paintings are currently displayed in the Michigan Governor's Residence in Lansing.

### **About Creative Spirit Center**

Creative Spirit Center is a not-for-profit community arts organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, conferences, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, psychological and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Printed Winter/Spring 2009 schedules showing all classes and events at Creative Spirit Center are available at no charge. Telephone 837-1885 to have schedules delivered to your business or location, or mailed to your home.

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