

**JUNE 29, 2009**

**What:** **Clear Water: *Great Lakes Bay Visions* Art Exhibit Opening**  
**When:** Friday, July 10, 2009; 7-8.30 pm  
**Where:** Creative 360, 1517 Bayliss Street, Midland  
**Cost:** No admission fee; donations gladly accepted  
**Information:** Call 989-837-1885 or visit [www:becreative360.org](http://www.becreative360.org)

**[Midland]** – Works of 52 artists from the Great Lakes Bay Region fill the art gallery at Creative 360 starting Friday, July 10. The 73 works on exhibit include 2D and 3D art selected for the show by jurists Bruce Winslow, Michelle Courier, and Les Reker, as well as one work by each jurist. At the opening reception on Friday, July 10, visitors can meet the artists and hear the announcement of prizewinners named by the panel of jurists. The prizes to be awarded include Best in Show (\$500), Best 2D Work, Best 3D Work, Best Environmental Statement (\$200 each) and six honorable mentions. Wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served at the reception and tours of Creative 360 will be available. There is no charge for the reception or visits to the gallery during the two-month exhibit, and the public is invited.

Exhibit hours through the summer are 8 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday, plus occasional evening and weekend hours (phone 989-837-1885 to confirm these).

#### **About the exhibit**

The inspiration for the exhibit at Creative 360 followed the adoption of the new designation of the Tri-Cities Area as the Great Lakes Bay Region. The name's imagery suggested the theme of clear water, and the exhibit organizers state that "During an economic downturn, artists are a community treasure, in a position not only to fulfill the role of the artist as interpreter of meaning, but also to awaken hope in a population through continuing to produce creative work during a time of uncertainty. Connecting creative work to a social imperative, such as the need to protect the natural environment, can make a powerful contribution to awareness and even change the beliefs and values of visitors affected by the works on exhibit. In hosting this exhibit, we see the opportunity to spotlight the wide range of visual art being made in the region and to introduce children and youth to the potential for making creative expression a part of life." Sarah Gorman, Creativity Director at Creative 360, says the organization set out to create an event through collaboration among artists in Midland, Bay and Saginaw Counties, and to underline the positive contribution made by the arts to a thriving business climate. Funding for the exhibit is provided by the Northeast Michigan Arts Council, and cooperating groups include Studio 23 in Bay City, the Midland Artists' Guild, the Saginaw Arts and Enrichment Commission, and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance.

## **The Artists**

Of the 49 juried artists, 32 are from Midland County, two are from Bay County, and 15 are from Saginaw County. Bay County artists are Laura Stockwell and Kyle David Jankens. From Saginaw County, artists include Sanford Buchalter, Janet Faerber, Sally Giroux, Rosemary Hayes, James Hughes, Matthew R. Knapp, Gail LeDuc, Matt Lewis, Letitia Little, Paolo Pedini, Julia Rohde, Chris Thompson, Patricia Washburn, Don Williams and M. Zimmerman-Thompson. Midland County artists are Kepka & Risa Belton, Greta Bolger, Larry Butcher, Cheryl Clark, Lenore Crawford, Randal Crawford, Clara del Valle, Merrill Downs, Mike Ford, Faith Freedom, Stuart Frohm, Cal Hoerneman, Robert Iwamasa, Heather Junge, Cynthia Keefe, David Lackey, Shurle Lee, Jan List, Nancy Nickerson, Barbara L. Pulver, Bill Rievert, Laurie Roberts, Donald Rulf, Phyl Schneider, Dave Sierawski, Linda Z. Smith, Patricia Smith, Marilyn Soules, Carol Struthers, Jacqueline Stubbs, Kathy Wertz, and Barbara Zimmerman. Keefe and Linda Smith of Midland are co-founders of Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center).

## **About the jurists**

**Michelle Courier** of Bay City is a landscape and abstract artist and teacher. Her works are part of collections throughout the United States and in Italy. She graduated from Delta College and holds a BFA from the University of Michigan. She has held more than 20 solo exhibitions and currently teaches painting at Studio 23 Arts Center and the Midland Center for the Arts.

**Les Reker** is an artist and Executive Director of the Saginaw Art Museum. He earned a BFA from Indiana University and an MFA in painting and art history from Queens College of the City University of New York. His representational landscape paintings have been exhibited and collected in New York and elsewhere for over 30 years. He taught studio and art history classes at several colleges, most recently as a tenured full professor of art at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He has been the exhibition coordinator of a New York gallery and two community colleges in Pennsylvania. He was director of the Payne Gallery of Moravian College for 15 years; and served as Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Columbus Museum, in Georgia and as Executive Director at the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, in Indiana. He is immediate past president of the Association of College and University Museums and Galleries, an affiliate of the American Association of Museums.

**Bruce Winslow** is an artist and Director of the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art at the Midland Center for the Arts. He teaches painting, drawing, design, professional practices, and art history in the Center's Studio School. He holds a BFA from Central Michigan University and an MFA From the Pratt Institute in New York City. He has taught applied art and art history at Saginaw Valley State University, the Pratt Institute, and Central Michigan University; and has prepared for exhibit fine art prints by artists in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. He has curated, installed or juried over 45 art exhibitions and his paintings have been featured in 18 solo shows.

## **About Creative 360**

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness 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, exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to

enhance the development of physical, psychological and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Summer 2009 highlights, in addition to the Clear Water exhibit, include art camps for children and youth, two outdoor performances of *The Comedy of Errors* by the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, and a tour of the Harvest Wind Farm in Michigan's Thumb. Schedules showing all classes and events at Creative 360 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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