

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2005

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Ferris Gallery to host Nature, Wildlife Art Show Reception

BIG RAPIDS – Devotees of nature and wildlife art will have a chance to meet firsthand with 22 Michigan artists and view their works on Saturday, March 19, in Grand Rapids.

Ferris State University's Rankin Art Gallery is sponsoring an Artist Reception for presenters of the Nature and Wildlife Art Show at DeVos Place. The show is part of the Grand Rapids Sport, Fishing and Travel Show which runs from March 17-20.

Ferris faculty, staff and local residents are invited to attend the reception from 9-11 p.m., which is after regular show hours. There is no admission charge for the formal wine and cheese social. Harpist Martha Kuch of Traverse City will be performing and a specimen and promotional materials from the University's Card Wildlife Education Center will be displayed.

The Art Show, located on the glass balcony area, is included in the \$8 admission fee to the Sport, Fishing and Travel Show. Those attending the reception and arriving after 8 o'clock will be admitted to both shows free of charge.

Invited artists were selected for their unique talents celebrating and capturing nature by Kimberlie Bindschatel, editor of *Whisper in the Woods, Michigan's Nature Journal*, published in Traverse City. Attendees can enjoy landscape, nature and wildlife art, including photography, watercolor and acrylic painting, illustrations and other mixed media presentations.

Most of the items will be offered for sale, as will several works from the University's Canadian Collection, according to Carrie Weis, Ferris Gallery coordinator. She said this marks the state's first major wildlife art show in approximately 10 years.

Weis had met with Bindschatel several years ago in an attempt to organize a wildlife expo at Ferris. That effort stalled, but the journalist took the idea forward and later contacted the travel show sponsor to make arrangements for next week's event. She also offered Ferris the opportunity to participate in the reception.