



PRESS RELEASE

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**Racine Art Museum Showcases Local Visual Arts Community
RAM Artist Fellowship 2015:
Presented by the Osborne and Sceikic Foundation**

Racine, WI August 25, 2015

Opening at RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts on August 28, the **RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition 2015** showcases the diversity and vitality of the Racine/Kenosha visual arts community. This exhibition is a series of solo shows featuring the work of four area artists who were recipients of RAM Artist Fellowships in 2014— Lisa Marie Barber, Diane Levesque, Bill Reid, and Jim Sincock—representing a diverse range of styles and media. The show continues through November 28, 2015.

Sponsored by a grant from the Osborne and Sceikic Family Foundation, the biennial RAM fellowships provide support for the professional development of the community's artists. Additionally, the program distinguishes the region as a place that values the arts and enhances the area's desirability as a place for artists to work and live.

Comprised of work newly created since the fellowship period began in January 2014—as well as work already in existence—this exhibition offers a sampling of the dynamic visual arts scene in this corner of southeastern Wisconsin.

Originally from Tucson, AZ, **Lisa Marie Barber** received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin. Currently Associate Professor and Art Department Chair at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, she has been teaching there since the fall of 2003. Barber works with many media, favoring clay and fiber for her larger compositions. Diane Levesque earned her BA at State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh and her MFA in Painting at the University of Chicago. A resident of Kenosha, Levesque exhibits her work at numerous locations throughout the area, including the James Watrous Gallery, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Rockford Art

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Museum, and RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts. Levesque is currently Assistant Professor of Art at Carthage College where she also serves as Director of the H.F. Johnson Gallery of Art.

Artist-in-residence at The Prairie School in Racine, WI, **Bill Reid** is recognized internationally as "one of the leading fabulists in a fabulously world." He has been making painted steel sculpture for over 30 years. An attendee of the Tulsa Welding School in Tulsa, OK, Reid earned his BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute, MO, and his MA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI.

A native of Wisconsin, **Jim Sincock** studied at Milwaukee Center for Photography and Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. After living in Colorado for almost 20 years, he returned to his home state of Wisconsin in 2013. While he has worked as a publication graphic designer and a web designer, Sincock ran his own commercial photography studio in both Milwaukee and Boulder, Colorado. Sincock's work has been featured in View Camera Magazine, Landscape Photography Magazine, and other publications.

Preview and Opening Reception

The public is invited to meet the artists during the **RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition 2015 Preview and Opening Reception** on Thursday, August 27, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts. Light refreshments will be served. Wustum Museum is located at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine.

Further details about this year's featured artists as well as general information about RAM Artist Fellowships, including an artist prospectus for the next application period, is available at the museum's website, ramart.org.

The *RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition 2015* is made possible in part by: Presenting Sponsors – Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, SC Johnson, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Gold Sponsors – Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Osborne and Scekic Family Foundation, Racine Community Foundation, W.T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors – Racine County, Racine United Arts Fund, Real Racine, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors – EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, Modine Manufacturing Foundation, The Norbell Foundation, Orkney Springs Retreat, Polyform Products, Inc., Ruud Family Foundation, Wisconsin Public Radio.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and
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PRESS RELEASE

photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open to the public Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon - 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.