

December 12, 2007

**The Bay Model Visitor Center welcomes
New Photography Exhibit with Artist's Reception and Concert**

Sausalito, CA: The public is invited to attend a free artist's reception and concert, to celebrate the opening of two new photographic exhibits at the Bay Model Visitor Center. The Center is located at 2100 Bridgeway, (via the Marinship Way Access road) in Sausalito. **The reception will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2008, from noon to 3:00PM. The show will run from January 8-February 23, 2008.**

The first exhibit, entitled **Whales in Public Places: A New Paradigm in Photography and Conservation**, will feature a small collection of large-scale digital photographs of humpback whales. The images were taken in Tonga by Santa Cruz photographer Bryant Austin. The photographer has collaborated with experienced whale biologists, and has invested entire seasons photographing specific whale populations.

Austin seeks to form a genuine connection with his huge subjects. He begins the process of composing by taking a series of photographs along the whale's body, swimming from just few feet away, to produce a full size composite. The scale of this work will reach dimensions up to fifteen feet high by ninety feet long.

His vision is to ultimately bring these life-sized photographs to public venues within whaling nations, via a traveling public space exhibition. By allowing whales to be seen in life-size reproduction, Austin's intention is to inspire change about the continued killing of whales, by evoking unexplored thoughts and feeling from within children and adults residing in these countries.

To further his work, Austin founded a non-profit organization, Marine Mammal Conservation through the Arts (www.MMCTA.org). The mission of the MMCTA is to inspire, inform, and empower a broader international audience on issues affecting the survival of marine mammals. In order to fund the next phase of his project, he has released a limited edition of nine photographs, with twenty prints per edition, composed during the previous two years.

Bryant Austin will be donating a percentage of any sales of these prints made during the exhibit to SEAFLOW, a non-profit marine conservation organization, based at Ft. Cronkhite, in The Marin Headlands. SEAFLOW is launching a campaign to create model noise regulations to protect our California National Marine Sanctuaries and state Marine Protected Areas from noise pollution generated by cargo vessels, oil tankers, seismic exploration for gas and oil, and high intensity Navy sonar. For more information please check the website at www.seaflow.org.

The photography show will also include the winners of WildCare's 2007 first annual Living with Wildlife Photography Contest. WildCare received more than a hundred submissions to the contest, all of them illustrating the diversity and beauty of wildlife in the Bay Area. Only photos taken in the nine Bay Area counties were eligible for entry. The resulting photographs show the drama of white Fallow Deer in West Marin, the humor of rival egret chicks sharing a nest, and the awesome beauty of the natural world in which we live. Both contest winners, and selected non-winning entries, will be shown during the exhibit.

WildCare's mission is to advocate for wildlife for a sustainable world through programs in wildlife rehabilitation and nature education. Each year WildCare treats more than 3,000 ill, injured and orphaned wild animal patients in their wildlife hospital, teaches more than 40,000 Bay Area children and adults in their Terwilliger Nature Education programs and answers thousands of calls on their 24-hour Living with Wildlife Hotline. For more information on WildCare's programs, wildlife, and upcoming Photography Contest details, please visit www.wildcarebayarea.org.

During the reception, attendees will be treated to an original composition, created especially for the grand opening, "Concert for the Oceans". This music was composed, and will be performed, by Bradford W. Tilden of Orinda. Mr. Tilden describes himself as "a Composer in Resonance, Conductor of Healing Energy, and Founder of Harmonious Being: Vibrational Health". You can find out more about his wonderful music and healing work at: www.CrystalMusicHealing.com.

The performance will be opened by singers from The Threshold Choir, under the direction of Kate Munger. The all-women chorus honors the ancient tradition of singing at the bedsides of people who are struggling: some with living, some with dying. The voice, as the original human instrument, is a true and gracious vehicle for compassion and comfort. The choirs provide opportunities for women to share the sacred gifts of their voices at life's thresholds. Visit www.thresholdchoir.org to learn more about this phenomenal woman's chorus.

The Bay Model Visitor Center is a fully accessible education center administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which makes possible the viewing of a scientific tool: a working hydraulic model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System. For more information please call 415-332-3871 or visit the website at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/bmvc/>. The Center is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM. Closed Sunday, Monday and on legal holidays. Light refreshments will be available by donation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact event organizer Susan L. Miller by phone at 415-483-1823 or email at baymodelwhales@yahoo.com

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