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For Immediate Release



Photos Attached

**Lighthouse Center for the Arts' Bra-Vo! Auction of "ArtBras"
a Night of Fun, Fashion and Fundraising for Breast Cancer Research**

Tequesta, FL. (March 3, 2010) — The Lighthouse Center for the Arts hosted an audience of 300 guests on February 11, attending **Bra -Vo!**, LCA's first annual exhibition and auction supporting the fight against breast cancer. Forty-nine bras were created by local artists with individual themes and dedications, and were on exhibition January 7 - February 11. The crowning event was the Pink Cocktail Party, where the ArtBras were modeled down a pink runway for bidders to consider in silent and live auctions. Kathy Greene, WJTW's "Gal on the Go" served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The Lighthouse Center for the Arts, in partnership with the **American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** research mission, raised \$5,000 toward breast cancer research. The Breast Institute at JFK Medical Center sponsored the Pink Cocktail Party event, along with Cake Kingdom, Flowermart, Anna Flowers, Carol Frezza, WJTW, Jupiter Academy of Music, Irina Ponomareva Photography, and Rosalie Roush. Speakers included Linda Spielman, Palm Beach area executive director of the American Cancer Society, and Dr. Beth Lesnikoski, Medical Director of The Breast Institute and vice-chair for the ACS's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Palm Beach event.

Shannon Frezza, LCA curator, envisioned the event as a way to honor those in our community who have experienced the breast cancer battle or shared it with a friend or loved one. The event was held in honor of Evelyne Bates, long-time staff member and historian, who battled and won her breast cancer fight in 2008. Fellow LCA staff wore pink tiaras as a show of solidarity.

The highest live auction bid brought \$420 for James Hook's sculpture fitted with a bra titled "Mardi Bra: Unmask the Myth of Breast Cancer." Dr. Beth Lesnikoski, who won the sculpture, intends the prize to be a centerpiece when the new offices of the Breast Institute are complete. "I want this art piece to be a source of comfort and strength to women visiting the Institute," she stated. "Its message is one of hope." For the time being, the sculpture can be seen at the ACS office on Australian Avenue in West Palm Beach.

Participating artists were Gerri Aurre, Camille Babusik, Sheila McDonald-Bell, Carol Bernstein, Jacque Blair, Lani Click, Ann Cofone, Darby Condon, Mary D'Avanzo, Katie Deits, Alex Pardo DeLange, Kathy DiGioia, Carrie Dzama, Nazare Feliciano, Judy Flescher, Kathryn Fox-Winokur, Shannon Frezza, Rhonda Gagliardi, Cynthia Gardner, Sherri Gilbert, Esther Gordon, James Hook and Peggy Kirkwood.

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ArtBras were also created by Tess Lindsay, Linda Manganaro, Linda Mathison, Irene McAviney, Cynthia Palmieri, Martha Price, Veronica Ruiz, Maxine Schreiber, Sally Silk, Julie Silk-Beaumont, Boshia Stone, Carol Stone, Stephen Stone, Lisa Stowe, Deborah Train, Karla Walter, Julia Weston, Nellie Wiggins, Jo Woodson, Keelee Wright and Elise Yannuzzi.

Bra-Vo! will reappear as an encore exhibition in 2011. Returning and new artists are already writing down ideas and making plans for next year's creations. Curator Shannon Frezza was "astounded by the creativity and number of ArtBras donated this year. I can't even imagine what we will see come in next year." Frezza, along with LCA board president Colette Meyer, will present a check to the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Palm Beach in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Lighthouse Center for the Arts Museum, School of Art, exhibitions, programs and events visit www.LighthouseArts.org or call (561) 746-3101. The Lighthouse Center for the Arts is located in Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, FL, one-half mile west of US Hwy 1. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday is Family Day, with free admission, hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Lighthouse Center for the Arts (LCA) is a member-supported not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community arts organization, providing excellence in art exhibitions, instruction, education and outreach for all ages. Programs are funded in part by the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

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Photos Attached

Cutline:



LCA-BRA-010 Nathalie Garaicoechea models *Hope Springs Eternal*, a bustier creation by artist Cynthia Palmieri, on the Bra-Vo! runway. Lighthouse Center for the Arts' Bra-Vo! ArtBra auction raised \$5,000 for breast cancer research. (Photo by Irina Ponomareva)



LCA-BRA-013 Breast cancer survivor and LCA staff member Eveylne Bates in *Fandango Flamingo*, created by Tess Lindsay. Bra-Vo! and the Pink Cocktail Party at Lighthouse Center for the Arts raised \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Palm Beach event. (Photo by Irina Ponomareva)



LCA-BRA-014 Curator Shannon Frezza in her own creation, *B-Cup*, on the runway at Bra-Vo! The Lighthouse Center for the Arts raised \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Palm Beach event. (Photo by Irina Ponomareva)



LCA-BRA-017 Lighthouse Center for the Arts member Mary Imle in an ArtBra creation, *Dog Gone*, created by Irene McAviney. On the runway with her is Winston (on lead), who volunteers with Mary each week at LCA. Lighthouse Center for the Arts' Bra-Vo! Pink Cocktail Party featured an ArtBra auction for breast cancer research funds. (Photo by Irina Ponomareva)



LCA-BRA-022 Former Juno Beach Mayor Frank Harris presents Dr. Beth Lesnikoski with two dozen pink roses sponsored by Flowermart to Bra-Vo!'s highest bidder. Dr. Lesnikoski bid \$420 for artist James Hook's *Mardi Bra: Unmasking the Myth of Breast Cancer*. The Lighthouse Center for the Arts raised \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Palm Beach event. (Photo by Irina Ponomareva)