

For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura Bessinger-Morse
Director of Marketing and Development
(561) 746-3101
Email: laura@lighthousearts.org



IF YOU GO:

**Form and Fiber: A New Twist on Art Quilts and Ceramics
Through March 27 at Lighthouse Center for the Arts**

Fiber artwork of Jo-Ann Golenia and Pat Kumericich along with work by members of the Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches

Event: Opening reception

Date: Thurs., Feb. 18 Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission: Admission free to members, \$5 to non-members ages 12 to adult; Sunday is Family Day - public admission free

Information and directions: (561) 746-3101 or www.LighthouseArts.org

Museum Hours: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**FORM AND FIBER: A New Twist on Art Quilts and Ceramics
Through March 27 at Lighthouse Center for the Arts
Opening reception February 18 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Tequesta, FL (February 11, 2010) – Fiber artists Jo-Ann Golenia of Venice, Florida, and Pat Kumericich of Naples, Florida, will show their original fiber paintings in conjunction with the Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches in an exhibition titled *Form and Fiber*. This one-of-a-kind collection of fresh, new fiber art and imaginative ceramic pieces runs from February 11 through March 27 with an opening reception Thursday, February 18, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Lighthouse Center for the Arts, located in Gallery Square North, at 373 Tequesta Drive in Tequesta. The event is free to members of the Lighthouse Center for the Arts and \$5 for non-members at the door. For reservations, call (561) 746-3101.

“This is indeed a new twist on traditional quilting and ceramic perspectives,” commented Laura Bessinger-Morse, LCA’s Director of Marketing and Development. “We are thrilled to have the unique fiber artwork of Jo-Ann Golenia and Pat Kumericich,” added Bessinger-Morse, “and we are equally excited about the one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces created by members of the Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches, which are also part of the exhibition.”

ABOUT THE CERAMIC LEAGUE OF THE PALM BEACHES

The Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to advancing the education of its members in the Ceramic Arts and in promoting public interest, appreciation and enjoyment of Ceramics in the Palm Beach area. The Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches meets the third Wednesday of every month at The Craft Gallery in West Palm Beach. For more information, call Betty Wilson at (561) 585-7744.

Form & Fiber displays works by 20 local artists ranging from wheel-thrown pottery to elaborate sculptures. Georgia Novotny has three pieces in the exhibit, including a large wood-fired gladiola vase. Victoria Rose Martin’s creations represent whimsical sculpted figures blended into furniture with a vivid color palette, symbolism and lettering. Martin is a professor at Palm Beach State College. Karla Walter’s installation “Feet on Pins & Needles” has a visual strong impact as the life-size feet gingerly walk across the silver pins. Jean Goddeau’s ceramic vessels are sculptural as well

as functional. On her pieces she uses a scraffito technique and sculpts faces and hands into her tall vessels. Susan Saladino's expertly sculpted figures are full of hidden meanings and are very thought-provoking.

ABOUT THE FIBER ARTISTS

Jo-Ann Golenia

As an avid fiber artist, Jo-Ann Golenia has worked with fabric arts all her life. Ms. Golenia earned a Master's degree in education from State University of New York, teaching for sixteen years before devoting herself full time to her fiber art. Ms. Golenia is a member of the Studio Art Quilt Association, International Quilt Association and Art Quilters Unlimited.

Her work is created with fabric and thread. "The fabrics I use are my paints," she says. "Often I will change the color of an area of fabric by stitching a new color of thread over it. That way, I can control shading, bring an area into focus, or meld it into the background." Golenia is intrigued by the way thread can tie different fabric areas into one element. "The surface stitching and texture is decided after the fabric work is completed. This additional texture from thread work gives fiber art its special advantage." Golenia's fiber art typically takes weeks or months to complete. Looking closely, you can see the amount of stitching in each piece. "My intent for each work is to show the subtleties, beauty and conflict of the world around us," she added. "Every object has remarkable aspects to it. If I can show just some of them, let just some small part of them proffer a sense of recognition, I have reached my goal."

She is currently directing her artistic energies toward two main series: The "Collage Portrait" series and "Scenes from Life" series. The allure of the human face, always similar yet always different, has become her Collage Portrait Series. These works consist of portraits created by laying down tiny bits of fabric to create the highlights and shadows of her subject. She either creates a soft tapestry art quilt of the portrait, or mounts it on canvas with a wooden frame support. Observation of the world around us led to her Scenes from Life series. The images include people, plants, and everyday objects. She strives to bring out the amazing hidden beauty of these objects in her work. Hopefully, they will strike a chord of remembered joy in your life.

The artist draws inspiration from what she sees, and is inspired by the constant state of change that is ever present. "The world around me is my constantly changing source of inspiration," she says. "The everyday world presents us with incredible, what I call, hidden beauty. By looking very closely or by changing the colors of what we see, a whole new vista is formed. The three-dimensional shapes of objects, when seen closely, are sturdy, curving and familiar, yet new and strange."

Pat Kumicich

Pat Kumicich holds City and Guilds Certificates in Patchwork and Quilting from the London Institute of Arts. She has art quilts in numerous private and corporate collections. Her work has appeared in the book 500 Art Quilts (Lark Books), Fiberarts Magazine, Surface Design Journal, and other publications.

Her art has evolved from traditional to contemporary, focusing on social and women's issues as well as self-portraits. By using a variety of fabrics, threads and techniques, Kumicich creates art quilts which are easily recognized by their vibrant colors and rich textures.

Kumicich lives in Naples, Florida, with her husband, Richard. She is also a doll maker, an avid reader, and enjoys walking on the beach. "Like many artists throughout history, I find it difficult to articulate my feelings in a conventional way," says Kumicich. "Fabric has given me my voice, allowing me to create colorful, powerful statements about the things that I love, find abhorrent, or am

moved by.” Kunicich says that she is often inspired by women in the news and women she knows (and some that she imagines), and they are reflected in the strong textures, vibrant colors, and wide variety of fabric and thread that characterize her work.

“Experimenting with different techniques is an integral part of my art,” says Kunicich. “I dye, paint or print many of the fabrics I use and often incorporate found objects.” The artist feels that working in the art quilt medium allows her to express her innermost feelings about the world around her, the times we live in, and the human condition. “I love making my mark with needle and thread, and I too hope to have an effect on our era.”

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 arts 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.

###

Images attached /cutlines:



FormandFiber001: *Feet on Pins & Needles* by Karla Walter. (Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches). Ceramic, 7" x 24" x 15"



FormandFiber002: *Large Box Twins* by Victoria Rose Martin. (Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches) Ceramic, 18" x 7" x 6"



FormandFiber003: *Gifts from the Sea* (detail) by Jo-Ann Golenia. Fiber art tapestry 33" x 53.5"



FormandFiber004: *The Last Bird* by Susan Saladino. (Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches)
Ceramic, 27" x 6" x 7



FormandFiber005: *Gladiola Vase* by Georgia Novotny. (Ceramic League of the Palm Beaches)
Ceramic, 11 inches by 14 inches by 24 inches