News Release

May 5, 2009

Contact: Christine Nichols
KAM Communication & Events
Coordinator
(517) 353-9834
nicho357@msu.edu
www.artmuseum.msu.edu

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

EXHIBITION: Michigan Masters Invitational

DATES: May 2 through July 31, 2009

EXHIBITION RECEPTION: Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 5-7 p.m.
Free and open to the public

RELATED EVENTS: Scheduled throughout the summer.
See http://artmuseum.msu.edu/ for details

LOCATION: Kresge Art Museum
Michigan State University Campus, East Lansing, MI

Exhibition Showcases Depth and Diversity of Michigan Visual Artists
Kresge Art Museum, MSU

EAST LANSING, MI — The Michigan Masters Invitational exhibition brings together works by 30 artists deemed the most exciting and inventive of the thousands active in the state today. Best of the vetted best, artworks included in the exhibit stimulate, challenge and reward viewers. The Invitational inspires hope, at a time of economic gloom, and shows that Michigan’s visual culture is a splendid bright spot. The exhibition is on view at Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, May 2 – July 31, 2009. The exhibition reception will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 5-7 p.m., with an opportunity to meet many of the featured artists.

In its 50th year, Kresge Art Museum reprised the exhibition of Michigan artists that had been a feature of the museum’s schedule in the past. Contemporary art was shown in KAM’s inaugural year, 1959, and every year since. Artists for this exhibition were selected from recommendations by curators, gallerists, artists, critics and others knowledgeable about Michigan artists specific to their region. In making final selections, KAM curator April Kingsley imposed an additional demand. “I wanted their range to be outside of Michigan,” she explained about the invitees. “Not just to show in Michigan, but to be seen in Chicago, New York and L.A.”

The resultant exhibition concentrates on artists who have national recognition or practiced their craft for decades. Many, among them Beverly Fishman, Michael Hall, Gerhardt Knodel, Heather McGill, Gilda Snowden, Lois Teicher, Marie Woo and Robert Wilbert, have taught in university art departments and art schools across the state. David Barr, Mark Chatterley, Gordon Newton, and John Stephenson exhibit and are collected across the country. These plus many others are well-known “masters” and hence the title of the show.

continued on page 2
The invited comprise a remarkably if unsurprisingly diverse group. Many parts of Michigan, urban and rural, are represented, so are artists of different ages, genders and races, working in heterogeneous styles and media while pursuing widely dissimilar aims. Realist, variously abstracted and conceptual art, together with experimental pieces in new or adventurously mixed media will be on view. Mediums include painting, sculpture, print, drawing, fiber and ceramic.

In addition to the art on view in the museum, three sculptures on MSU’s south campus by Russell Thayer, Charles McGee, and Richard Hunt are part of the show including a soaring bronze sculpture by Hunt who was recently honored with the International Sculpture Center’s lifetime achievement award.

A 68-page color catalogue with information on each artist will be available for purchase from the museum gift shop. Following the success of KAM’s first-ever cell phone tour during the 50th anniversary exhibition, this latest technology will be employed again for the Michigan Masters exhibition. Cell phone accessible recorded commentary on several pieces in the current collection is available by dialing a local access number (517-759-5018). The tour is also downloadable from the museum’s website, www.artmuseum.edu

The exhibition is funded in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum. Kresge Art Museum is located on the first floor of the Kresge Art Center at the intersection of Physics and Auditorium Roads, on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. Museum hours through May 31, 2009, are Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Museum hours June 1 through July 31, 2009, are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., closed Mondays. The museum is closed in August and reopens to the public on September 8, 2009. For additional information, call (517) 355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

###

**Caption/Credit for attached image:** Charles Pompilius (American, born 1953), *Tablut*, 2009, Oil on panel, 18 x 24 inches, Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, loan from artist, courtesy David Klein Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan

###