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**IMPRESSIONS OF FLORIDA 2009**  
*Bonnet House Juried Art Exhibit and Annual Fundraiser*  
**A GREAT SUCCESS**

**February 4, 2009, Ft. Lauderdale, FL** – On Friday, January 30, 2009 over 300 guests, including 35 artists, enjoyed an evening of fine art, fine food and an array of performances to celebrate the opening of *Impressions of Florida 2009*. To date this event has raised \$81,000 to benefit Bonnet House.

Presenting sponsor LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels along with their catering company 360° Catering designed an unforgettable event. Mojitos and champagne were offered as guests entered the Carl Weinhardt Gallery to view the juried art exhibit. On exiting the gallery, guests enjoyed live statues framed within black boxes on the veranda lawn along with cocktails and passed hors d'œuvres. An ensemble from the Symphony of the Americas provided entertainment. Dinner was held in the estate's Hibiscus Garden under a magnificent canopy illuminated in pastel hues and festooned with vibrant draping and artwork frames. A Latin dance duo enhanced the dining experience with a live performance. Once the music ended, winners of the juried exhibit were announced as well as the winners of the art auction and cash raffle.

Additional major sponsors of Impressions include Nova Southeastern University, EDSA, JM Family Enterprises, Inc. and Ralph and Diana Rau. All sponsors and guests who purchased a VIP level ticket were treated to a special tour of the seldom-seen upstairs living quarters of the Bartletts during an exclusive reception held prior to the event.

Over 100 entries were considered by juror, Matt Carone, with 47 pieces selected for exhibit. The winning art was then selected by Mr. Carone just prior to the opening. Becky Anderson is the First Place winner with her digital photograph *Beach Colors*. Robert Barra is the Second Place winner with *Phalaenopsis and Ripe Melon*, an oil painting. Third Place was awarded to Liora for *Growing Bananas*, a watercolor/mixed media painting. Marilyn Johansen is the People's Choice winner for *Baby Monkey*, a watercolor painting,

The Carl Weinhardt Gallery at Bonnet House is the location of the exhibit which runs through March 29, 2009. Fifty percent of all art sales benefit Bonnet House. The exhibit may be seen on all regularly scheduled tours of Bonnet House. For information call (954) 563-5393 or go to [www.bonnethouse.org](http://www.bonnethouse.org).

**About Bonnet House Museum & Gardens:** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a City of Fort Lauderdale designated landmark, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is an historic house museum located on 35-pristine acres in the heart of Ft. Lauderdale Beach. In addition to being open for tours six day per week, Bonnet House offers a myriad of specially designed programs for schools, continuing education opportunities for adults, and various family

oriented programs. The estate is the site of the highly popular Young Artist Music Series and home to an annual Orchid Fair. Bonnet House is also available for weddings, corporate events, and commercial film and photo shoots. The mission of Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is to preserve, interpret and share the unique and eclectic historical legacy – artistic, architectural and environmental - of the Bartlett and Birch families, inspiring in our diverse audiences an appreciation for creative expression, historic preservation and natural conservation, while enhancing the educational, cultural and economic growth of the community.

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