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ARTISTS FROM MARYLAND AND BEYOND RAISING MONEY FOR AUTISM CHARITY

Annapolis, MD — Artists from Maryland and beyond have joined together with local artist, Claudine Intner, to raise money for autism awareness and research. For the second year in a row, Claudine Intner has organized Art Now for Autism, an online exhibition and fundraiser. The project raises funds for Autism Speaks, a national autism awareness and research organization.

The second annual Art Now for Autism will be held during the month of October and will include the work of over 100 artists from around the United States, Canada, England, France, Australia, and Italy. The exhibit will include a range of fine arts and crafts including painting, drawing, collage, photography, mixed media, jewelry, fiber art and more. In addition, there will be a selection of puzzle piece pins available for a \$25 donation. 100% of the funds raised from the sale of art will go to Autism Speaks. The exhibit includes several artists with autism including well-known British artist Stephen Wiltshire who donated three prints. Other artists have family members or students with autism. Art available will range in price from as little as \$10 to over \$500 for original works of art.

Claudine Intner was inspired to start this project because of her son's autism. When Intner's son was diagnosed in 2005, she and her husband were devastated. They worked hard to find the best education and treatment for their son but they felt a need to do more. "We wanted to prevent other children and families from having to go through this." In 2006, Intner began selling her own art to raise money and in 2007, she organized the first Art Now for Autism. Last year's event raised close to \$4,000 and included the work of 27 artists. Intner hopes to raise \$10,000 this year.

Autism is a growing epidemic. According to the CDC, 1 in 150 children in the United States have an autism spectrum disorder. The symptoms include social and behavioral issues and range from very mild to quite severe. To learn more about autism and Autism Speaks, please visit <http://www.autismspeaks.org>.

Art Now for Autism coincides with the Washington, DC Walk Now for Autism organized by Autism Speaks. Claudine Intner, along with her family, will participate in this event held on November 8, 2008 on the National Mall. For further information on the walk, visit www.walknowforautism.org.

Art Now for Autism's online exhibition and fundraiser begins October 1, 2008 and will continue throughout the month of October. For more information including a list of artists participating and a preview of some of the works that will be available, please contact Claudine Intner at artnow@artnowforautism.com or 410-757-1130 or visit www.artnowforautism.com.

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