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Contact: James Bellis, Board President: 973.895.8930
Deborah Hurley, Public Relations Consultant: 201.709.4296
David J. Wagner, Ph.D., Curator/Tour Director: 414.221.6878/ 920.839.9569
www.blauveltartmuseum.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum Introduces New Exhibit
Biodiversity in the Art of Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen**

The Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum proudly presents a new exhibit entitled BIODIVERSITY IN THE ART OF CAREL PIETER BREST van KEMPEN. This award-winning painter explores the rich diversity of the natural world from exceptionally unique perspectives, making our exhibit of his art a real treat for wildlife art enthusiasts. The Hiram Blauvelt is the first museum on the entire east coast to showcase this exhibit. The exhibit will open on December 17, 2011 and run through March 31, 2012. "We are very excited to have this prestigious exhibit at our museum. Many hours are spent in producing an exhibit, and having an artist whose work has been seen throughout the world is a great opportunity for us. This is truly an exhibit not to miss." – James Bellis, President, Board of Trustees.

Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen uses art to illuminate how organisms live and interact with other organisms and their environments. Brest van Kempen paints from first-hand experience and knowledge. He has traveled across Africa and Central and South America, and studied both threatened and extinct species and their ecosystems in lavish detail.

Since he was a child, Brest van Kempen, of Dutch descent, has always been a student of nature. He spent his youth exploring untracked back country along the Wasatch Range of the Rocky Mountains; drawing, studying, and collecting native flora and fauna. As a boy, Brest van Kempen practiced falconry and bred lizards. He began drawing wildlife when he was only three years old and created his first painting at the age of twelve. At the University of Utah, his studies focused on biology, which he hoped to teach, and field work. By 1988, his interests in art and nature matured to the point where he could pursue a full-time career of painting. Though Brest van Kempen is among the most highly accomplished technicians in the entire art world, and among the most creative, he is essentially self-taught. Brest van Kempen paints in a highly realistic manner. Unique in the world of wildlife art, Brest van Kempen's approach is reminiscent of the art of Salvador Dali, which has always fascinated him. There is no other wildlife artist who paints like Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen; his approach and style are truly unique. We, at the Hiram Blauvelt Art museum urge you see his fabulous collection of works.

To learn more about Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen and his artwork, contact David J. Wagner, Ph.D., Curator/Tour Director at 414.221.6878 or visit www.davidjwagnerllc.com. Families looking for something to do this holiday season should visit the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum, 705 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ 07649.
