

Noyes Museum of Art – **Hammonton Gallery**

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For Immediate Release – May 5, 2010

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The Art of Tattoo – *Prepared by Noyes in collaboration with Exotic Body Works Tattoo Shop*

Exhibit Dates: June 1 - July 31, 2010

Reception: Saturday, June 5, 12 - 2 p.m. - Artist lecture with Keith Titus at 1 p.m. Tattoo demonstration prior to reception.

HAMMONTON, NJ - The Noyes Museum of Art presents *The Art of Tattoo*: an exhibition exploring the method, the history and the art of tattoo design. The Noyes, in conjunction with Exotic Body Works will be exhibiting the work of some of South Jersey's finest tattoo artists. This exhibit explores the machinery, and the varying artistic styles and designs of tattoos. Actual sketches and tattoo related artworks are incorporated to portray the different styles.

Keith A. Titus Jr. – Titus has had a strong artistic presence since childhood. His drawings of vivid, detailed pictures led the win of an art contest given by the Arch Diocese of Philadelphia. This enabled him to attend a summer art school, where he learned about color theory, shading and depth techniques, and painting in different mediums. At age eight he was exposed to the art of tattoo when his father befriended a tattoo artist. This ancient art form amazed him and ultimately influenced his future path. He found an opportunity to fulfill his tattooing desires at age fourteen. Now, over twenty years later, Titus uses his knowledge of tattooing to adorn many living canvases with his one of a kind artwork. He owns and operates Exotic Body Works- Custom Tattooing in Hammonton, NJ.

“As an artist, there is nothing more fulfilling knowing that a piece of your artistic creation is on a living canvas, going through their daily journey's being seen by all and traveling to all corners of the earth.”

Brian Bocker – Bocker has had a lifelong passion for drawing, but his interest in tattooing started after getting his first tattoo at age 20. This is when he knew this was the career he wished to pursue. He dedicated his free time to learning everything he could on the art. He brushed up on his drawing skills and drew tattoo flash in order to put together a portfolio. His fascination with tattoo machines and how they work let him to attempt the actual construction of these devices. He eventually mastered the design and now builds the machines one hundred percent by hand, starting with a piece of metal that he grinds and welds into a work of art. Today, his machines are sold to local shops and at conventions.

“My style is mostly new school and traditional, but I will do whatever makes the client happy. There is a story behind every tattoo, people trust me with something that means a lot to them. I take their story, sketch it out on paper then lay it onto their skin. Ultimately, their story becomes part of them, something they will have for the rest of their lives and I am honored to be a part of that.”

Dustin Rebecca – Art has been a part of Rebecca's life for as far back as he can remember, from paint by number to drawings of comic books and superheroes. He was also fascinated by tattoos throughout his childhood, specifically his father's ink. This guided him to a career as a tattoo artist early on. At age seventeen he landed an apprenticeship after several dead ends. He dropped everything to pursue tattooing. He worked twelve hour, sometimes fifteen hour days, seven days a week for nine months straight. He did everything from scrubbing toilets and floors, picking up cigarette buds, setting up and breaking down stations, to drawing up tattoos for paying customers. In 2003 he did his first paying tattoo and has been tattooing ever since.

“Everything in my life has led me to where I am at now. Every time I do a tattoo I’m living my dream, and for that I am truly thankful. Now-a-days I strive for progression. I absorb and reflect not only what I see in everyday life, but techniques and theories of other artists that inspire me. Other than creating art on skin, I paint on canvas.”

The Noyes Museum of Art- *The Noyes Museum of Art was founded in 1983 to collect, preserve and exhibit American fine art, crafts and folk art. An emphasis is on New Jersey artists and folk art forms, reflecting the area's long history, traditions, landscape and culture. It opened its satellite gallery in Hammonton in October, 2008. The mission of the Hammonton location is to provide additional exhibition space to area artists, market the main museum in Oceanville, NJ and to showcase the museum's permanent collection. The Noyes Museum of Art: Hammonton is open Tues. & Wed.: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm, Thurs.: 1:00 - 9:00 pm, Think Thursday! Fri. & Sat.: 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. It is closed on Sundays, Mondays and major holidays. Admission is free.*

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