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18th ANNUAL JURIED NATIONAL FINE ARTS EXHIBITION
A Exhibition of Artworks Selected by Ben Apfelbaum

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents its 18th Annual Juried National Fine Arts Exhibition selected by curator and gallery director Ben Apfelbaum. More than 50 artists from five states submitted more than 160 pieces for our juror's consideration this year. The selected artworks include a wide range of approaches to contemporary art making in diverse artistic mediums encompassing ceramics, jewelry, handmade paper, prints, photographs, sculpture, paintings and drawings. The exhibition opens on Thursday, November 11th, and will be on view through December 19th. Hosted by the Douglas County Arts Guild, the opening reception will be held on Thursday, November 11th, from 6 until 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the general public.

Among the many highlights of 18th Annual Juried National Fine Arts Exhibition are a number of pieces by Douglas County-based painters including Carol Collins who is represented with a floral painting on rice paper, *Hidden Treasures*, Elizabeth Henry who will display three of her most recent memory paintings (*Papa's Rainbow*, *Pumpkin Vine Creek*, and *The Blackberry Pickers*), and Randy Lewallen who exhibits an oil on wood panel, *Five Flowers*. Local photographers are also well represented with multiple works by Larry Grams, John Johnston, Randy Myers and Carolyn Tumlin included in the exhibition. While the show includes many artists who have shown at the Cultural Arts Center in the past, this year a host of lively new talents will be on display, notably Grady Haugerud from Atlanta, Eilis Crean from Carrollton and Lourdes Perdomo from Avondate Estates.

In order to promote the appreciation of the contemporary visual arts, the Cultural Arts Council invited Ben Apfelbaum, director of the Spruill Art Gallery, to select the works for the exhibition. Ben Apfelbaum has been a collector, student, and scholar of American and Canadian art, folk and vernacular art, outsider art and self-taught art for over thirty years. An alumnus of Antioch College and the University of Chicago, he holds a Master's Degree in American Folk Art Studies from New York University. He has taught there and also at the Folk Art Institute of the Museum of American Folk Art. In Atlanta, Apfelbaum has taught at the Atlanta College of Art, Chastain Arts Center, and at Spruill Center for the Arts. Author of *Beneath the Ice: The Art of the Fish Decoy*

(N.Y.: E.P.Dutton, 1991), he has written for trade and popular journals, and has been profiled and consulted by several national publications including *The New York Times* and *Country Home*, and has also appeared in *Folk Art*, the publication of the Museum of American Folk Art, and the *Folk Art Messenger*, in addition to contributing essays and articles to several books and catalogs. His article on vernacular architecture in Alabama was published in the British outsider art journal, *Raw Vision*, in 1998. Apfelbaum has lectured for Sotheby's in New York, various historical societies and art museums around the country, recently for the Memphis Brooks Museum, the Taylor-Benfer Museum, and was keynote speaker at the national convention of the National Society of Decorative Painters in 1994. He is currently preparing an article on the implications to the history of American folk art of the candlewick bedspread industry in Georgia; he expects to expand it into book format in the future. He served on the board of ART PAPERS, the international journal of contemporary art criticism.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Commission, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, located about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Commission, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For detailed directions and more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site --- www.artsdouglas.org.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

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