

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***The Magic of John Wilde at the Chazen Museum of Art***

Madison, Wisconsin, March 22, 2010—The Chazen Museum of Art will present *The Magic of John Wilde*, an exhibition of the Wisconsin native's magic realist paintings and drawings. The exhibition is taken from the Chazen's exceptional collection of art by John Wilde, ranging from the 1940s to the 1990s. *The Magic of John Wilde* is on view May 29–July 25, 2010.

Wilde's imaginative dreamscapes reflect artistic traditions from European Renaissance painting to twentieth-century surrealism. His artistic vision was also profoundly influenced by his domestic military service during World War II and a deep respect for nature, inspired by rural Wisconsin. Wilde's exquisite oil painting technique is evident in still lifes, allegorical landscapes, and portraits. Vivid and colorful, his fanciful Edenic landscapes are populated with animals, people, and recurring objects that symbolize themes of nature, love, and death.

Born in Milwaukee, Wilde attended the UW–Madison from 1938 to 1942, where he learned the challenging medium of silverpoint from James Watrous and intensely studied the Old Masters. He majored in art, then was drafted in 1942 and served in the U.S. Army until 1946. Following the war he returned to the UW–Madison for his MA in art and art history, with a thesis on the French surrealist Max Ernst. Wilde taught art at UW–Madison from 1948 to 1982. A dedicated gardener, he lived the last 40 years of his life outside Evansville.

### Related Programming

**Exhibition reception:** Friday, June 4, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Refreshments and a cash bar.

Generous local support for this exhibition has been provided by the Chazen Museum of Art Council, Hilldale Fund, Brittingham Fund, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Digital images for media use can be found at [http://www.chazen.wisc.edu/pr\\_pictures.asp](http://www.chazen.wisc.edu/pr_pictures.asp)

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The Chazen Museum of Art is open Tuesday–Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to galleries and educational events is free. Museum Shop hours are 11 to 4 Tuesday–Sunday. The museum is located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and is accessible to wheelchairs from the north entrance (nearest to Library Mall). An elevator is down the corridor to the right. Visitors can reach the north entrance from Park Street by walking through the Humanities courtyard. Parking is available at the City of Madison State Street Campus Ramp (entrances on Frances and Lake streets) and under University Square. Metered parking is available in the UW lot 46 lower level. Evening and weekend parking is also available in UW lot 83 under Fluno Center, entrance on Frances Street, and in UW lot 7 under Grainger Hall, entrance on Brooks Street. During construction on Murray Street and Library Mall, the Chazen's University Avenue entrance is easiest to reach; the north entrance is still accessible from Park Street. The Chazen will provide sign language interpreters for associated programs by three-week advance request to Anne Lambert, Curator of Education, weekdays, (608) 263-4421 (voice). Information is also available by visiting our Web site at [www.chazen.wisc.edu](http://www.chazen.wisc.edu).