

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Landscape Paintings by Madison Artist Dennis Nechvatal at the Chazen Museum of Art**

Madison, Wisconsin, June 18, 2010—The Chazen Museum of Art will present *Dennis Nechvatal Landscapes*, an exhibition of lush, vivid paintings by one of Wisconsin's best-known artists. This exhibition will feature some large-scale recent work, including *Hope*, an 8-foot-wide painting commissioned by the Chazen Museum of Art, and a selection of new landscapes and other works from private collections. *Dennis Nechvatal Landscapes* will be on view August 7–October 3, 2010.

Using a primitive stylistic language developed over 30 years of painting, Nechvatal infuses what he calls “verve” into his landscapes. Inspired by the Native American belief that the earth is a living being and we are responsible as its stewards to protect it, Nechvatal paints as a contemplative spiritual act and aspires to create works that will invoke an ideal communal vision of the natural world.

Nechvatal lives and works in Madison. He is a versatile artist whose recent pursuit has been to explore and master new styles and techniques. His cut tin masks and mask paintings, as boldly executed as his vivid landscapes, are also well known. His recent painting *Offering II* was selected for the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission 2010 poster. Many other museums have purchased his works for their permanent collections, including Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Art Institute of Chicago, and Milwaukee Art Museum. His work has been exhibited nationally since the 1980s.

On Friday, August 6, 5:30–7:00 p.m., the Chazen will host a preview reception with music by Green Means Go, refreshments, and a cash bar. The event is free and open to the public.

Generous local support for this exhibition has been provided by the Chazen Museum of Art Council.

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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).