

Art League of Rhode Island Looks Ahead *Exhibitions, New Appointments and Members, and 10th Anniversary Planned*

Providence, RI (July 6, 2009) – At its annual membership meeting held in June, the Art League of Rhode Island (ALRI), Rhode Island’s premier visual art association, announced a schedule of events that will lead up to the 2010 milestone, the appointment of new board members, and the admission of four professional artists as new members.

“We are looking ahead to an exciting schedule of events and reflecting on some wonderful accomplishments,” said Iona Dobbins, president of the organization’s Board of Directors. She continued, “Our new office space at One Meeting Street, Providence, will enable us to more effectively promote the arts, engage the public through our community projects, and meet the needs of the League’s 200-plus membership.”

Events during 2009 begin with a South Coast Open Studio tour, taking place on July 18, followed by the 9th Annual Members’ Show at the Attleboro Museum, from September 23-October 16. Hope Alswang, Director of the RISD Museum will be a guest speaker at the show on September 26. The 2009 schedule will close with the League’s first “Small Works” show at the Royal Gallery on Atwells Avenue from November 19-December 20.

The highlight of ALRI tenth year will be the Anniversary Exhibition held at the RISD Museum, which will include works by the members of the League. The show will open on Gallery Night, June 18 and run through July 26, 2010. A schedule of speakers will be announced. In recognition of the anniversary, the League will publish its third artist catalog.

Dobbins added, “Clearly we are excited by this roster of events and over the next two years we hope this range of exhibits and venues will increase League awareness and engage more individuals throughout the state. We are fortunate to have such a richly diverse group of artists.”

The new board includes: Deborah Baronas, a textile artist/designer and RISD alumna; Belinda Gabryl, who earned a MFA from the University of Texas in Austin, and who is a sculptor working in ceramics; Nicholas Palermo received his MFA degree in printmaking, has taught extensively and is currently an Associate Professor at RISD in the Department of Illustration; and Mark Wholey, a graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute and an artist/sculptor who has invented of “The Right Brush,” an ergonomically designed paint brush that is currently being sold throughout the country. They have replaced four outstanding members Bill Heydt, Johanna McKenzie, Pamela Neal, and Evelyn Thistle Rhodes. Continuing board members include: Joan Boghossian, Iona Dobbins, Stephen Metcalf, Paulette Miller, David Morganeli, Carol Shelton, Carole Stone and Felicia Touhey.

A jurying committee selected the four new professional artist members out of twenty-nine applicants. They are: Agustin Patino, a painter; Kathleen Armor, a sculptor; Arlene McGonagle, a basket-maker; and Deborah Baronas, an artist who works in charcoal, oil and fabric dyes.

The Art League of Rhode Island membership includes professional artists, who represent two-thirds of the cities and towns across the State. Founded in the year of the millennium 2000, ALRI remains a steadfast union of artists committed to individual artist excellence and public partnership. Community projects include the Hasbro Children’s Hospital Arts Project and the ALRI-Timberland Boot Project with Central Falls High School Students. The Art League of Rhode Island numbers among its founding members some of Rhode Island’s most prominent artists working in a wide range of media from painting to furniture-making. For more information about ALRI, visit www.artleagueri.org.