

NEWS RELEASE



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**THE MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES A NEW MURAL BY
DAN FENELON:
*MYTHS, MEMORIES, AND INSPIRATIONS***

Artist to Create the Mural On-Site

MONTCLAIR, NJ, October 7, 2009—The Montclair Art Museum (MAM) has selected Dan Fenelon to create a site-specific mural for its Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation Art Stairway. Fenelon is working on the mural throughout October and plans to complete it by November 1. The final mural will measure 12 feet high x 32 feet wide, starting 12 feet from the ground. The Stairway faces east, toward Bloomfield Avenue, and will be highly visible from the street.

Dan Fenelon is best known for his vibrantly colored works that include sculpture, toys, paintings, and murals. His work blends cartooning, street art, graffiti, and ancient tribal motifs. This mural is inspired by works in MAM's permanent collection, which Fenelon re-imagines with his distinct tribal style. Apparent in the mural are Tony Abeyta's *Hunters Procession*, 1995, animal imagery found on both totem poles and transformation masks, and various pottery, basketry, and katsina images found within MAM's Rand Gallery of Native American art. Fenelon, like Abeyta, believes that "if paintings are successful, they should communicate a powerful force, a feeling that is contained in all of us." In this work, Fenelon translates these feelings and inspirations of native art into his own vocabulary and vision.

MAM Director Lora Urbanelli said: "Dan approaches his canvas intent on capturing a deep and serious cultural spirit. In the synthesis, myth and symbol are processed through a graphic filter that combines depth of meaning with a lighthearted and dazzling presentation. The result is both youthful and mature, thought-provoking and downright fun!"

Speaking about his work, Fenelon said: "My art infuses a blend of cartooning, street modernism, and ancient, labor-intensive tribal motifs, along with an explosion of vibrant colors. Cartoons were a big influence on me growing up, and when I began to examine

Egyptian hieroglyphs and Aztec codes, I made a connection between them and modern sequential art.”

A native of Montclair, Fenelon currently lives in Madison, NJ. He has also recently completed a mural for the Montclair Public Library. For more about Dan Fenelon, please visit his website at www.wavedog.com.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. MAM’s Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, youth, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling (973) 746-5555. For the run of MAM’s current exhibition, *Cézanne and American Modernism*, the Museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and Thursdays, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. The Museum is closed on Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is free for members and children under 12, \$12 for nonmember adults, and \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D.

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