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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL HOSTS 25<sup>TH</sup> Annual *Resident Visual Artists' Exhibit* and *Faux Fossil***

**Ellicott City, MD** – On May 8, 2009, the Howard County Arts Council opens two new exhibits, the annual *Resident Visual Artists' Exhibit* and *Faux Fossil*.

**2009 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the *Resident Visual Artists' Exhibit* at the Howard County Arts Council.** In Gallery I, over fifty works are presented by the fourteen visual artists who maintain studios at HCAC: Jim Adkins, Pat Baker, Joan Bevelacqua, Carolyn Cates, Art Landerman, Diana Marta, Heidi Praff, Leora Smith, Thomasine Spore, Andrei Trach, Jamie Travers, Mary Jo Tydlacka, Xiaoxia (Airry) Zhang, and David Zuccarini. Various media are represented in the show including painting, drawing, sculpture, jewelry, and furniture.

***Faux Fossil***, in Gallery II, features photographs combined with mixed media by Jenée Mateer and abstract wall sculpture by Marcella Morgese. Mateer takes inkjet photographs and embalms them in resin, plaster or wax. The layers of media enhance the layers of contrasting images and symbols in her work. Marcella Morgese's sculptures, created from steel remnants, wire cable and found objects, mirror both natural fossils and human relics; her structures emulate shields, shells, leaves as well as the skeletal remains of animals.

**A free reception for both exhibits will be held on Friday, June 19, from 6-9 p.m.** The reception will include open studios from 6-8 p.m. The black box theatre will host a gallery talk at 7 p.m. by art aficionado and Still Life Gallery owner, Rebecca Weber and showcase performances by resident art organizations Howard County Ballet, The Columbia Orchestra and Chesapeake Shakespeare Company beginning at 8 p.m. The reception is in participation with the **Columbia Festival of the Arts**. The exhibits run through June 21, 2009.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday 12 – 4 p.m. The Galleries are closed Memorial Day Monday, May 25, 2009. For more information about Howard County Arts Council programs and exhibits call 410-313-ARTS (2787) or visit <http://www.hocoarts.org/>.

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The Howard County Arts Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the citizens of Howard County by fostering the arts, artists and arts organizations. The Howard County Arts Council receives major grants from the Howard County Government and the Maryland State Arts Council and sustaining annual support from corporate, foundation and individual sponsors. Howard County Arts Council offices are located at the Howard County Center for the Arts, 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The Howard County Center for the Arts is an accessible facility encouraging the full participation of individuals with disabilities. For information, call 410.313.ARTS (2787), fax 410.313.2790, or email [info@hocoarts.org](mailto:info@hocoarts.org). TDD: 711