

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Catherine Rosich
203-753-0381 ext. 11

Mattatuck Museum
Art and History Live in Waterbury
144 West Main St. Waterbury, CT 06702
Tues. – Sat. 10 – 5, Sun. Noon – 5
www.MattatuckMuseum.org

January 22, 2010

William Gerdts to Lead Panel Discussion on 20th Century Connecticut Artists

Waterbury, CT ... The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center salutes F. Luis Mora's outstanding works with an exhibition closing celebration event on Sunday, February 7th at 2 pm. The event begins with a panel discussion focusing on rediscovering Connecticut artists of the early 20th century. The discussion, illustrated with slides of the artists' works, is led by William Gerdts, Ph.D., internationally recognized as a leading authority on American art. Participants may also view several paintings by artists being discussed on display in the museum's 19th Century Gallery. Other distinguished panelists include art experts Lynne Pauls Baron, Jeffrey Cooley, and Peter Hastings Falk. A reception follows, during which participants may have informal discussions with the panelists and visit the *F. Luis Mora and the Expression of Beauty* exhibition before his works are returned to their original collections. The closing celebration event is generously sponsored by the TD Charitable Foundation. Admission is free.

Many artists who were contemporaries of F. Luis Mora were held in high regard during their lifetimes. They came together to form the art colonies of Connecticut's Northwest corner, coast, and farmland, living where we live and painting scenes that we see. Their legacies, soon forgotten upon their deaths, are now in various stages of rediscovery. Learn about the lives and works of such artists as Lillian Genthe who painted nudes running through her landscapes, Spencer Nichols who painted imaginative landscapes, Robert Nisbet first president of the Kent Art Association, and others.

William H. Gerdts is internationally known as a leading authority on American Art. He is Professor Emeritus of Art History at the Graduate School of City University of New York and the author of over 25 books on American art including *American Impressionism*, *Painters of the Humble Truth*, and the 3-volume series *Art Across America: Two Centuries of Regional Painting*. Lynne Pauls Baron is the principal of Baron Art Estate Managers, author of *F. Luis Mora: America's First Hispanic Master*, and co-curator of *F. Luis Mora and the Expression of Beauty*. Jeffrey Cooley is the director of The Cooley Gallery in Old Lyme; his primary interest is American art of the mid-19th century with a focus on painters of the Hudson River School, and on American Impressionism and contemporary realism. Peter Hastings Falk is president of Hastings Art Management, author of the biographical dictionary *Who Was Who in American Art*, and editor of *F. Luis Mora: America's First Hispanic Master*.

Located at 144 West Main Street, Waterbury, the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Convenient, free parking is located directly behind the museum on Park Place. The Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center is operated with support from the Connecticut Commission on Cultural & Tourism, and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, fifteen world-class museums and historic sites (www.arttrail.org). For more information about *Rediscovering Connecticut Artists of the Early 20th Century*, the museum's collections, and other programs, please call 203-753-0381 ext 10 or visit the website at www.MattatuckMuseum.org

###