

Contact:
Julie Dukes
Communications Manager
(989) 631-5930 x 1602
dukes@mcfta.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 16, 2014

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art presents

Nature's Fading Chorus: The Works of Brandon Ballengée
Batrachology: Amphibians in Art

January 18 – April 13, 2014

MIDLAND, MI – To complement its "FROGS! A Chorus of Colors" exhibition (opening January 18), the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art at Midland Center for the Arts presents two complementary exhibitions: "**Nature's Fading Chorus: The Works of Brandon Ballengée**" and "**Batrachology: Amphibians in Art.**" On exhibition January 18 – April 13, they are included with Museum admission. An opening reception will be held January 18 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Nature's Fading Chorus: The Works of Brandon Ballengée:

Featured are photographs that support the scientific research of Ballengée, an artist, biologist and environmental activist based in New York City. His work in the field is centered on the investigation of the occurrence of developmental deformities and population declines among amphibians.

Using high-resolution scanner photography and chemical treatments to color the frog specimens, Ballengée creates individual portraits of these frogs, printed in large scale that document his ecological studies in an effort to increase the public's environmental understanding.

Ballengée explains, "For more than a decade, a central praxis of my primary biological research and subject of my artworks has been the declines and potential causes of deformities among amphibian populations."

As an artist and biologist, he has studied amphibians internationally, collaborating with numerous other researchers and hundreds of participating members of the public. He currently is finalizing his Ph.D. through a collaborative program between the University of Plymouth (UK) and Hochschule für Gestaltung Zürich (Switzerland). Since 2011, he has been a professor at the School of Visual Arts in New York City teaching in both the Fine Arts Department and the Humanities and Sciences Department.

Batrachology: Amphibians in Art

This exhibition features nearly 80 works of art by visual artists from across the United States and Canada. Their diverse approaches to the subject of batrachology – the study of amphibians – create a dynamic exhibition full of surprises. While some artworks are lighthearted or humorous, others are dedicated to the scientific basis of herpetology and amphibian anatomy. Others are purely biological illustration, while many are very artistic in the sophistication of their expression and execution. The works span the range of media from oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, drawings in graphite and colored pencil, printmaking, paper sculpture, bronze sculpture and welded metal.

Participating artists:

Sue deLearie Adair (Schenectady, NY), William Allen (Maple City, MI), Matthew Bohan (Lansing, MI), Jerry W. Bowman (Lawton, MI), Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen (Holladay, UT), Matthew Eyre (Essexville, MI), Tony Hochstetler (Fort Collins, CO), Ranae Kelly (Atlanta, GA), Kim Kori (Sedona, AZ), Janie Mork (Minneapolis, MN), Patricia Pepin (Bromont, Quebec), Tiffany Miller Russell (Broomfield, CO), Kim Shaklee (Brighton, CO), Rachelle Siegrist (Townsend, TN), Wes Siegrist (Townsend, TN), Mary Jo Wickline (Midland, MI), and Steve Worthington (Santa Fe, NM).

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (ABDM) provides a forum to engage the people of mid-Michigan in the constructive and creative expressions found in science and in art. Exhibitions in the Museum, classes at the Museum School, multiple outreach programs, a permanent collection and various special events are all components in the ABDM programming.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Choirs, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, and Midland Symphony Orchestra. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

#

Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • www.mcfta.org