



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Strathmore Fine Art Presents**

**STRATHMORE UNLEASHED!**

*25 artists herald D.C.'s dog days of summer with canine-themed art exhibit*

*Special Yappy Hour invites dog owners to bring pooches to exhibition*

**NORTH BETHESDA, MD** – There are 78.2 million dogs owned in the United States, driving a more than \$50 billion industry. America has gone to the dogs in an undeniable way, and the new exhibition *Strathmore Unleashed!* explores the significance of man's best friend with **works by 25 artists**—including **renowned photographer William Wegman**—in the Mansion and campus grounds from **Saturday, April 28 through Saturday, June 23, 2012**. The societal significance of dogs, their emotional and economic value, representation in art throughout history, anthropomorphism and, conversely, the animalistic nature of humans are touched upon through painting, photography, installation, video, mixed media, fiber art and sculpture to explore the multidimensional impact dogs have on people. For more information, call (301) 581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

The Opening Reception for *Strathmore Unleashed!* on Thursday, May 3, 2012 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. will feature a special **Yappy Hour from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., for dog owners to bring their pets to the exhibition**. The reception is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Mansion parking lot. Well-socialized dogs are welcome in the Mansion for Yappy Hour, provided they and their owners observe the following doggie decorum: dogs must always be on a leash; no animals on the furniture; while on campus, owners are expected to pick up after their pooches; and dogs may not be tied up or left unattended at any time.

Initially inspired by the book *Barkitecture* by Fred Albert, *Strathmore Unleashed!* Curator Harriet Lesser elevates the dog domicile to a fine art featuring five doghouse structures—from futuristic polypod structures to scale models inspired by the Sydney Opera House—accompanying the **more than 60 works by 25 artists**. Highlights of the exhibition include weimaraner photographs by the iconic **William Wegman**; large scale installations by Massachusetts artist **Dale Rogers**; fiber sculpture by **Ann Citron**; painting by **David Corcoran, Anna Dibble, Clair Hartmann** and **Heather LaHaise**; a memorial assemblage by **Donna McCullogh**; mixed media works by **Jackie Ehle**; and video by **Moira McLaughlin** of *Dog Art Today*.

Also featured in the exhibition are painters **Kathryn Freeman, Kent Ambler, Sheila Cameron** and **Marjorie Weiss**; sculptor **John James Anderson**; metalsmith **Virginia Sperry**; mixed media artist **Jane O'Hara** and **Jeanne Drevas**;

woodworker **Michael Brolly**; and architects **Dickson Carroll, Michael Leighton Beaman, Tom Gibbons, Zaneta Hong, Nina Lesser** and **Stephen Sheng**.

### **Summary of William Wegman's works in *Strathmore Unleashed!***

In the Mansion, visitors will see a lesser-known side of photographer **William Wegman**, popular for his photographs of weimaraners. *Strathmore Unleashed!* features the triptych “Green Caramel,” a single dog complete via three separate images and given different color treatments to enhance the different shades represented in its coat, as well as “Show of Shadow” featuring a backlit shadow of Wegman’s muse projected onto a silkscreen and “Untitled (Yawning)” featuring a dog, wide-mouthed, yawning deeply, its image reflected in a mirror. All three pieces are on loan from Washington, D.C.’s Adamson Gallery. *Nest*, loaned by Wegman for the exhibition, features two weimaraners entangled and curled up in a tufted mustard yellow chair, against a similarly-colored background, highlighting Wegman’s ability to address the subtleties of color in the dog’s coat.

### **Summary of Exhibition Highlights**

*Strathmore Unleashed!* is experienced even before viewers enter the Mansion, as they’re met with three of **Dale Rogers’** towering 6-foot-tall, rust-covered American Dog sculptures guarding the Mansion grounds. The pieces were originally conceived for Rogers’ 2009 exhibition *Big Dog Show*; upon its premiere it was the largest solo exhibit in New England. In the Mansion, painted works depict dogs in varying lights. **David Corcoran’s** imposing portrait juxtaposes a straight-ahead view of a snarling German Shepherd next to an equally menacing, self portrait of the artist screaming—revealing similar primal behavior and expressions in animals and humans. Representative of ubiquitous witty Internet memes, **Anna Dibble** paints dogs in a comical light, with wry narration accompanying each piece as her animal subjects find themselves in humanistic situations. **Clair Hartman’s** work reflects the deification of pets in art, with her hyper-realistic pet portraits showcasing the unique personalities of dogs and, inherently, their owners. **Heather LeHaise** balances abstractionism and realism in her portraits, with elongated limbs and exaggerated settings that make her subjects seem to drip off the canvas. A memorial assemblage by **Donna McCullough** features found objects with the centerpiece being her departed German Shepherd, Rudy’s tag, representative of human grieving and the profound impact pets have on their owners’ lives. Conversely, the mixed media sculpture of **Jackie Ehle** showcases dogs in a lighthearted way, depicting the familiar image of a dog craning its head out a car window, an orange pup bounding through the air and a pooch obediently seated. Her work is executed using wire and found objects, including map remnants, scrap metal, plastic and glass. Fiber artist **Ann Citron** features the stereotypical “bad dog” in her work, the quirky pooch relieving itself in gold beads on the gallery floor—so cute the viewer can’t be mad.

**Moira McLaughlin** of *Dog Art Today*, (website of the same name), acted as the lead advisor on this project. Moira is also exhibiting a video installation tracking the visual treatment of dogs in art throughout history, with Egyptian hieroglyphs, images from Ancient Greek pottery, Italian mosaics and Renaissance paintings seamlessly morphing into cartoon drawings, Pop Art masterpieces and digital interpretations of man’s best friend.

## **Education Programming**

Strathmore will enhance the visitor experience of *Strathmore Unleashed!* with public education programs. On **Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 12:30 –3:30 p.m.**, kids ages 6–11 tour *Strathmore Unleashed!* and create a canine crib in **Rover’s Rad Retreat**, becoming animal architects as they design and create their own miniature wooden doghouses. In **Drawn to Dogs** on **Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**, students 6-11 years old sketch-a-pet using famous First Dogs like Checkers and Bo as inspiration. This workshop invites youngsters to study artist George Rodrigue’s *Blue Dog* series and tour *Strathmore Unleashed!* before creating one-of-a-kind dog portraits using oil pastels, watercolor and wax-resist techniques.

On **Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.**, a **Children’s Talk & Tour** invites children to explore the exhibition and exercise their creativity through a hands-on arts activity. At the **1:00 p.m. Art Talk & Tour**, adults learn about the artwork in the exhibitions from exhibition curator Harriet Lesser. Both events are free. Reservations are required for the Children’s Talk & Tour and can be made by calling (301) 581-5109.

Also for adults, on **Thursday, June 7, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**, architect Jeffrey Broadhurst discusses the process of creating the award-winning Crib in **A New Kind of People’s House: The Crib at Strathmore**. An “envi-responsible shelter” and temporary art installation at Strathmore, the Crib takes its form from traditional American corn cribs used to store and dry corn.

## **About Strathmore**

Strathmore is an arts presenter and cultural destination serving to nurture art, artists and community through creative and diverse programming of the highest quality. The Mansion at Strathmore is located at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD, one half-mile north of the Capital Beltway and immediately adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro’s Red Line.

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*Strathmore is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities.*

*Strathmore is also supported in part by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.*

## **Strathmore Fine Arts Presents**

### ***Strathmore Unleashed!***

**Saturday, April 28 through Saturday, June 23, 2012**

**Curator, Harriet Lesser**

**Advisor, Moira McLaughlin**

Gudelsky Gallery Suite

Gallery Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### **Opening Reception**

**with Yappy Hour dog-friendly preview**

Thursday, May 3, 2012

Yappy Hour: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Reception: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Free, open to the public

Dog owners are welcome to bring their canine companions to see *Strathmore Unleashed!* during Yappy Hour. Please note that Strathmore expects all visitors to observe the following rules of doggie decorum:

- Dogs must always be on a leash
- Only well-socialized dogs are welcome in the Mansion
- No animals on the furniture
- While on campus, owners are expected to pick up after their pooches
- Dogs may not be tied up or left unattended at any time

### **Education Activities**

**Rover's Rad Retreat** Saturday, April 28, 2012

12:30 - 3:30 p.m. For ages 6-11

Tuition: \$55 (Stars Price \$49.50) **Drawn to Dogs** Saturday, May 5, 2012

10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. For ages 6-11

Tuition: \$45 (Stars Price \$40.50) **A New Kind of People's House: The Crib at Strathmore** Thursday, June 7, 2012

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Adults

Tuition: \$5 (Stars Price \$4.50)

**Art Talk for Adults** Saturday, May 19, 2012

1:00 p.m. Free, no tickets required. **Children's Talk and Tour** Saturday, May 19, 2012

10:15 a.m. For ages 5 and up with adult. Free, but tickets are required.

Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike

North Bethesda, MD 20852

*For additional information or to purchase tickets visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call (301) 581-5100.*