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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EVENTS

Opening Reception

Friday, November 1, 2019, 6 – 9 pm

JRB Art at The Elms Presents

Katherine Kerr Allen: “Portraits of Joy”

George Oswald: “Going West—The American Western Utopia”

Karam: “Searching for the Inner Self”

OKLAHOMA CITY – In November at JRB Art at The Elms Gallery in the Paseo Arts District, three accomplished artists will present three distinctly different bodies of work that deal alternatively with man’s search for Identity, search for Utopia, and/or search for Joy.

In “Portraits of Joy,” Katherine Kerr Allen presents the viewer with a series of paintings that chronicle her creative process as well as her attempt to bring creative balance in an unbalanced world. In explaining her process, Allen explains, “The marks and shapes created by drawing, throwing, pouring paint and water are particular to me. They create a portrait of the limits of my body, materials and state of mind at a unique moment in time never to be repeated.” She continues, “As water evaporates, colors interact under the influence of gravity and forces of nature have their say. Often a synergy occurs between intention and chance. In these golden moments when everything is working, I feel the universe coming into a beautiful, perfect balance. The resulting painting is a portrait of that moment of joy.”

George Oswald’s, “Going West—The American Western Utopia,” is a series of paintings that offer a satirical look at the contemporary west. The paintings depict rolling jumbled

landscapes in which diminutive protagonists are cast adrift amid the bumpy terrain. The characters in the paintings attempt to migrate through the landscapes. Oswalt calls our attention to incessant unrest and rootlessness that are hallmarks in the western expansion experience from the first pioneers to Hollywood road movies. How far West will the characters in the paintings go to find their post-1960's Utopia?

In "Searching for the Inner Self," Karam documents her search for identity after her immigration from Korea to the United States. Initially Karam tried to reject the "Korean way of thinking," but later decided to embrace her Korean roots; create works that incorporate both cultures; her unique philosophy and emotions. Karam's collection "Searching for the Inner Self" is being curated by Julie McGuire, a New York City based curator who also served as Director of the Brett Weston Archives.

Katherine Kerr Allen was born in Brainerd, Minnesota and raised in Oklahoma. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a BFA in Graphic Design & Illustration and received her MFA degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

She is a full-time studio artist, with studios in Oklahoma and Minnesota. Allen's work is held in museum, private and corporate collections. Her work has been exhibited Nationally and Internationally in venues including: Stanford University, Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, American Embassy, Belize, Taiwan National Living Center, Suzhou Art & Design Technology Institute, China, Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, Academy Art Museum at Easton, Maryland.

George Oswalt had his first one-man show in 1974 and has shown in national and regional exhibitions. He received his MFA in 1993 from the University of Oklahoma and has taught both high school and college over a 30-year period. Oswalt wrote art reviews for the Oklahoma Gazette and is currently painting full time. He is featured in both private and public collections including The Fred Jones Art Museum in Norman, The Goddard in Ardmore, The Mabee-Greener Museum in Shawnee, and The Oklahoma State University of Art Museum in Stillwater.

Karam's deep desire to create art at a young age led her to New York, where, upon completion of BFA in Communication Design in Parsons School of Design, she started her career as a graphic designer. A few years later, Karam decided to quit her successful career in order to pursue her passion for fine arts which has captured Karam's interest since childhood.

Her experience as a graphic designer assisted her in finding better ways to combine colors and composing spaces to create art. The inspiration for her works comes from the heart. Karam has an open mind toward style but is pursuing originality; she wants to stay away from pre-existing styles. Karam believes that creating art is an unconscious process in which intuition leads the tip of the artists hand to convey the deepest emotions from within the artist onto the canvas.

All of these artists' works will be available to view at JRB Art at the Elms from November 1 – November 30, 2019.

About JRB Art at the Elms

JRB Art at The Elms presents a diverse roster of emerging, established, and internationally exhibited artists who create in a wide range of media including paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, fine crafts, functional objects, fiber art and photographs. This 8,000-square foot award-winning gallery in Oklahoma City's Paseo Arts District changes its exhibits monthly in a gracious environment that fosters a dialogue between the arts and the larger community while providing quality art for first time buyers as well as individual, corporate and museum collections.

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