

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **2009 ART BEAT COMMEMORATIVE PRINT CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED**

**SOUTH BEND, IN** - Downtown South Bend, Inc. (DTSB) and the Art Beat steering committee are pleased to announce the winner of the annual Art Beat Commemorative Print Contest. This year's winning artist, Naoko Fujimoto, is a Japanese poet and fine artist living in South Bend. The artwork titled, *Wedding Treasure Hunting at Art Beat*, is a colorful pastel pencil and mixed material piece reflecting Fujimoto's Japanese upbringing and culture.

Fujimoto commented on the thoughts behind creating *Wedding Treasure Hunting at Art Beat*. "This piece expresses the desire of a bride who realizes her wedding is the day after Art Beat! She is always a last minute person and is still missing many items needed for the wedding. The bride's artistic friends, who make fabulous customized dresses, hats, accessories, party favors, stained glass candle holders and other beautiful things, are showcasing their works at Art Beat. This work of art gleefully depicts the bride rushing around Art Beat to collect what she needs for her wedding day."

Fujimoto's original print will be used in the design and creation of all 2009 Art Beat marketing and promotional materials which include; large commemorative prints, t-shirts, a program book, postcards, billboards and flyers.

Art Beat, in its seventh year, is a free public event to be held along the streets of downtown South Bend. The talents and works of fine, culinary and performing artists from five surrounding counties will be showcased for an entire day from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Art Beat, traditionally held on a Thursday evening, will take place on Saturday, September 26 in conjunction with the official unveiling of the George Rickey kinetic sculpture installations on Michigan Street in downtown South Bend. "Usually held on a Thursday evening, Art Beat has moved to a Saturday to incorporate the opening celebrations of the multi-million dollar George Rickey sculpture exhibit in downtown and to accommodate a full days worth of activities for artists and visitors." stated Art Beat co-chair Jitin Kain.

Visual Artists interested in registering can visit [www.artbeatsouthbend.org](http://www.artbeatsouthbend.org) and then follow the directions for online registration. Culinary and performing artists can download a registration form for this year's event, but cannot register on-line. Completed registration forms should be turned in by August 3, 2009 for consideration by the Art Beat Steering Committee. Participants are encouraged to visit the ArtsEverywhere Website at: [www.artseverywhere.com](http://www.artseverywhere.com) and create their free profile for added exposure.

For more information on DTSB and other downtown South Bend events, visit:

[www.DowntownSouthBend.com](http://www.DowntownSouthBend.com) or call 574.282.1110.

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