



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2008

COME SHARE OUR ABUNDANCE !

“God’s gifts to us are in every moment, every person, every animal, and every landscape; connecting with God and His creation is what painting is all about,” says **Karen Vecchioni**, featured artist at the **Charleston Artist Guild Gallery**. **Vecchioni’s** show “**ABUNDANCE OF BEAUTY**” is a series of inspirations from the low country. .

The lowcountry became home for Vecchioni more than three years ago. “Charleston and the lowcountry has captured my soul!” says **Vecchioni**. “It is like being in a living painting – sweet smells of jasmine, salt & sea air, oyster shells – sounds of breaking waves with gulls & pelicans crying out – scenes of silence, where man is absent & wildlife becomes the focus in endless marshes - majestic horses dance down streets and intriguing faces fill the squares – a true **ABUNDANCE OF BEAUTY** for the painter and the viewer to enjoy.”

Growing up in Wayne, Michigan, **Vecchioni** was inspired by the beauty of her uncle’s horse farm to begin sketching and painting. Karen was recognized at an early age for her talent and was admitted to the very prestigious Center for Creative Studies to begin her formal training in classical art, where she excelled and was later admitted to Wayne State University to perfect her gift. Early in her career **Vecchioni** worked as an illustrator specializing in greeting cards. Her transition into portrait art began when she painted her beloved Santini, a Shepherd/Husky mix. Her talent for human and animal portraiture quickly became recognized and her passion was established. Today **Vecchioni** spends her time painting commissioned portraits of animals and people

Karen’s favorite medium is oil on canvas, although she also uses pastel, graphite and color pencil. While her artistic medium varies, her work is realistic and evokes emotional sensitivity. **Vecchioni’s** work is enjoyed by many around the country and is exhibited in numerous private and public collections. Likewise, **Vecchioni** is noted for providing master classes to help novice artists develop their talent.

“Art is more than color or lines, it is a spiritual journey. It should have the power to change you and bring you a sense of beauty and well-being” (Alexandru Darida, painter) Come meet Karen and have your soul refreshed with the very essence of God’s handiwork here in the Lowcountry.

Opening reception will be held February 1st, from 5 pm to 8 pm. The exhibit will run from February 1st through February 29th. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and is located at 6 North Atlantic Wharf off East Bay Street and across from a convenient parking lot.

Contact: Elaine Hruska, Director of Publicity 843-722-2454, or the guild gallery 843-722-2425

Charleston Artist Guild, a non-profit organization

#####