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**Redwood Media Group and Art Brand Studios Announce
[PLATFORM] Artist of the Year Awards Contest Winner**

-Premier awards contest for visual artists of every type names Kevin Grass as winner-

Hinckley, OH (January 30, 2017) – [Redwood Media Group](#), which owns and produces fine art shows around the country, announced artist [Kevin Grass](#) as the winner of the [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year Awards, a contest produced in partnership with [Art Brand Studios](#). Grass will receive prizes valued at \$65,000, including \$10,000 cash, a publishing and licensing contract with Art Brand Studios, and numerous exhibition opportunities at Redwood Media Group’s 2016–2017 shows.

“We created the [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year Awards contest to empower talented artists and introduce their work to the world,” said Eric Smith, president and CEO of Redwood Media Group. “We had really wonderful artists submit their work, so it was a tough decision to make, and we are really excited to provide this opportunity to Kevin Grass, a very gifted artist.”



Revolution. Acrylic on panel. 2013. Retail Price: \$10,000



Grass paints representational landscape and surrealistic figure paintings. He has been interested in art since he was a young child and, while in high school, he spent time on a wide variety of commissioned

works, ranging from portraits and landscapes to campaign signs and car decorations. He exhibits his work throughout the East and Southeast, and the Evan Lurie Gallery in Carmel, Indiana, currently represents his figure paintings. Grass's work has been purchased for museum, corporate, public, and private collections throughout the United States and in Europe.

Grass will gain access to Redwood Media Group's large network of art-industry professionals and be featured in Art Brand Studios' [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year booth at multiple prominent fine art shows this spring, including [Spectrum Indian Wells](#) (March 16-19, 2017) and [Artexpo New York](#) (March 21-24, 2017)—the world's largest fine art trade show that attracts nearly 40,000 art industry professionals and enthusiasts annually.

"I feel very honored that I was chosen as the winner among all of the talented artists that entered," said Grass. "I couldn't be more excited for this opportunity and to see what comes next."

A panel of art-industry judges selected the finalists and winner. The other nine finalists were Julie Schumer, Rae Broyles, Sara Conca, Flavio Galvan, Jeremy Sicile-Kira, Veronica Leiton, David Gonzalez, Sergio Valenzuela, and Leon Oks. In addition to the finalists, there were winners in four special categories. The Special Category Winners are as follows: Sculpture—Jean Jacques Porret and Steven Lustig; Photography—George Saitas and Charleen Baugh; Mixed Media—Mary Hong and Beth Goldberg; Glass—Alexis Silk and Elizabeth Dunlop. The nine finalists will receive prizes valued at \$30,000 each, including contract opportunities with Art Brand Studios and inclusion in Redwood Media Group's marketing throughout the year.

"Art Brand Studios is very excited to work with Kevin," said James Lambert, Publisher and Creative Director at Art Brand Studios. "We will be providing not only art publishing, but a comprehensive set of tools, from retail placement to marketing strategy, propelling his art, and building his brand and market reach in the art industry."

Art Brand Studios is a comprehensive art publishing company with over 30 years of connections in the industry, including publishing Thomas Kinkadee, the most collected artist in history; and Noah, a prolific artist with extensive reach through art and licensing. The winner's contract will include fine art publishing production, retail placement with participation in Art Brand Studios' art gallery programs, a product licensing program, a comprehensive marketing plan, promotion on Art Brand Studios' website, and more.

For more information, please visit www.redwoodmg.com/events/abs-platform-artist-contest.

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About Redwood Media Group

Since 2009, Redwood Media Group (RMG) has been revolutionizing the global fine art community by helping artists and gallery owners grow their businesses through fine art exhibitions and publications, art business education, mentoring, marketing, and social media. Today, RMG owns and operates six fine art shows: Artexpo New York, Spectrum Miami, Art San Diego, Spectrum Indian Wells, Art Santa Fe, and Red Dot Miami. Artexpo New York, the world's largest fine art trade show for 38 years and counting, attracts more than 35,000 art enthusiasts every year, including 4,500 industry buyers. Spectrum Miami and RMG's newest acquisition, Red Dot Miami, take place during Miami Art Week, an annual attraction that draws over 80,000 art collectors to the city. Over the past seven years, RMG has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to their events, sold millions of dollars' worth of art, and helped

thousands of unrepresented and established artists launch or grow their careers. Aside from hosting multiple high-end art shows throughout the year, RMG also owns *Art Business News* and *DECOR* Magazine.

For more information, visit:

www.redwoodmg.com, www.artbusinessnews.com, www.artexponewyork.com, www.art-sandiego.com, www.spectrum-miami.com, www.spectrum-indianwells.com, www.artsantafe.com and www.reddotmiami.com.

About Art Brand Studios

Art Brand Studios publishes the work of Thomas Kinkade, Thomas Kinkade Studios, and a group of esteemed artists, including Noah, Marjolein Bastin, Zac Kinkade, and others, with distribution of the art and related collectibles through independently owned galleries worldwide, an extensive network of branded and licensed dealers, and strategic marketing relationships with more than 70 licensees. The company's primary products are canvas and paper reproductions that feature inspiring themes.

For additional information, visit: www.artbrandstudios.com and www.thomaskinkade.com.