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

*-Premier awards contest for visual artists of every type, with prize values totaling $375,000-*

**Hinckley, OH (July 22, 2016)** – [Redwood Media Group](http://redwoodmg.com/), which owns and produces fine art shows around the country, announced today a deadline extension until September 30, 2016, of its [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year contest, sponsored by [Art Brand Studios](http://artbrandstudios.com/). Referred to as the American Idol™ of the art industry, this premier awards contest is in search of the next “it” artist and is offering prize values of up to $375,000, including a contract with Art Brand Studios and exhibition opportunities at Redwood Media Group’s shows.

“We created the [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year contest to empower talented artists and introduce their work to the world,” said Eric Smith, president and CEO of Redwood Media Group. “This is a great opportunity for emerging as well as established artists to submit their work to a panel of professionals with the chance of winning an opportunity of a lifetime-and now they have until September 30th to enter.”

A panel of art-industry judges will select one winner and nine finalists. The winner will receive prizes valued at $65,000, including $10,000 cash, a contract with Art Brand Studios, and numerous exhibition opportunities at Redwood Media Group’s 2016–2017 shows. The finalists will receive prizes valued at $30,000 each, including contracts with Art Brand Studios and inclusion in Redwood Media Group’s marketing throughout the year. Additionally, special awards will be given in the categories of sculpture, glass, mixed media, and photography.

The winner of the [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year contest will gain access to Redwood Media Group’s large network of art-industry professionals and be featured in the Art Brand Studios booth at multiple prominent fine art shows, including Spectrum Miami, Art San Diego, Spectrum Indian Wells, and Artexpo New York, the world’s largest fine art trade show, which attracts more than 30,000 art enthusiasts annually.

Art Brand Studios is a comprehensive art publishing company with over 30 years of connections in the industry, including publishing Thomas Kinkade, 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.

“Art Brand Studios is very excited to work with the next [PLATFORM] Artist of the Year,” said James Lambert, Art Brand Studios’ Publisher and Creative Director. “We will be providing not only art publishing, but a comprehensive set of tools, from retail placement to marketing strategy, propelling them into a successful career in the art industry.”

The judging panel will include James Lambert, Eric Smith, James Baird, and Mary Ann Cohen. Judges will consider originality, sense of composition, creativity, technical skill, use of materials and light, commercial appeal, and overall impact of the artwork.

Artists are invited to submit work in the following mediums: painting, photography, mixed media, drawing, sculpture, glasswork, and more. Artists will register, provide background information, submit an entry fee, and then upload three to five images that best represent their work. The online entry deadline for artists is September 30, 2016. The 10 finalists will be announced on or before October 15 and the winner will be announced on or before October 30.

For more information, please visit <http://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 30,000 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 publishes *Art Business News*and *DECOR* magazine.

For more information, visit:

[www.redwoodmg.com](http://www.redwoodmg.com), [www.artbusinessnews.com](http://www.artbusinessnews.com), [www.artexponewyork.com](http://www.artexponewyork.com), [www.art-sandiego.com](http://www.art-sandiego.com), [www.spectrum-miami.com](http://www.spectrum-miami.com), [www.spectrum-indianwells.com](http://www.spectrum-indianwells.com), [www.artsantafe.com](http://www.artsantafe.com) and [www.reddotmiami.com](http://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](http://www.artbrandstudios.com) and [www.thomaskinkade.com](http://www.thomaskinkade.com).