



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 2006

Contact: Shary Brown, Executive Director

Phone: (734) 994-5260

Email: sbrown@artfair.org

PO Box 1352
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Lynn Whipple, featured artist for 2006 Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Original

Ann Arbor, MI – Lynn Whipple was selected at the 2005 Fair to be the 2006 Ann Arbor Street Art Fair featured artist. Since 2003, the Street Art Fair has commissioned for its annual poster an original work of art that features the Burton Memorial Carillon Tower, a prominent University of Michigan landmark and popular point of reference for the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair. The 47th annual Fair takes place on the grounds surrounding the tower, on North University Avenue, and the University's pristine, grassy Ingalls Mall and Diag, close to Hill Auditorium, the Michigan League and Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

Whipple's piece will appear on the official t-shirts, posters and other souvenirs for the Fair. She began developing the image in the spring, and now at its final stages, it depicts a subtle tower image, a found image face of a child in the face of the clock, and the words "enjoy art" spelled out in scrabble-style wooden block letters across the mixed media image. She created two companion pieces for the t-shirt and hat. "I wanted to communicate the idea of enjoying art, enjoying a great day with family and friends, being outside and being inspired by all the amazing styles and ideas of so many talented artists," said Whipple.

Before participating in juried art shows, Lynn Whipple worked as the art director for Nickelodeon Studios, producing children's television shows. Today, she works full time on her oil painting, plein air painting, photography, guitar playing and songwriting. Most recently, she started a project focused on gathering and documenting laughter, employing photography and digital tape and submitted items. "I realized one day, how laughter is a universal language. It crosses all barriers, all ages, every culture, you name it. It's such a great part of life and communication," she said. She put together a postcard and leaves it around in her travels, asking people to send her things that are funny. This may develop into a long-term project that could lead to a gallery show or book. Whipple was recently awarded an Award of Excellence at the Baltimore American Craft Show, Best of Show at the Coconut Grove Art Festival in Miami, Florida, and a 2006 Florida State Grant honoring her work.

Whipple hails from an artistic family. Her mother paints, sculpts, and makes jewelry, and her sister D has made her mark working with animals. Her husband John Whipple is an artist as well, pursuing mostly painting, mixed media, and hand forged and found object sculpture. John's mother, Marty Whipple, travels around the United States participating in shows and winning awards for her found object jewelry.

Whipple's work is mixed media. She uses collage, painting, drawing, photography, and found objects to tell stories. "Usually my pieces have a sense of humor or a carefree feeling, but if I am lucky, they also can be sophisticated. Keeping things simple isn't as simple as it looks," she said. "[Being an artist] is a way of life, it's a way of looking at things, it's just a huge part of who you are and how you relate to your world, our world. It's a way of sharing and communicating. It's a way of giving back, and exploring life. It permeates every thing you do and think about. Being an artist is an incredible gift of appreciation. I think I appreciate the tiniest things every day, the details. Living as an artist gives you such license to celebrate nuance."

If you are interested in Lynn's work, you can visit her in booth A104 at this year's Fair, and visit her website at www.whippleart.com.

The Street Art Fair is the Original of the four concurrent award winning Ann Arbor Art Fairs that take place on Wednesday, July 19th through Saturday, July 22rd, 2006. The hours of the Fair are 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM Wednesday – Friday and 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday. More information and images of Lynn's work may be found on www.artfair.org.

#