

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Alliance's Art of Conservation highlighted  
with special event and new ambassadors program***

Home to the breathtaking Tetons and our nation's most cherished wildlife, Jackson Hole teems with a conservation ethic, and has become a draw for world-class painters, photographers and sculptors. The valley's irreplaceable natural characteristics have thus created a unique marriage between art and conservation.

This special connection was demonstrated Saturday evening, March 12, at *The Art of Conservation*, hosted by Altamira Fine Art, 172 Center St., with hors d'oeuvres by Bistro Catering. The fundraising event featured six premier conservation artists, each of whom demonstrated their talents in person and generously donated art to support the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and its conservation stewardship of the valley.

The artists in attendance included landscape and historical artist **R. Tom Gilleon**, plein-air impressionist **Louisa McElwain**, expressionist **Marshall Noice**, wildlife and landscape artist **Mary Roberson**, tonalist and landscape artist **Jared Sanders**, and sculptor **Greg Woodard**.

"We are honored to host the first Art of Conservation and to build awareness of conservation ideals for Wyoming," said Mark Tarrant, director of Altamira, which specializes in exceptional Western contemporary art, photography and sculpture.

The natural partnership of conservation and art in Jackson Hole was further represented Saturday as the Alliance announced three inaugural Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Arts Ambassadors, whose world-class artistic expertise, insight and conservation leadership express values the nonprofit environmental organization works to protect.

The Alliance Arts Ambassadors are renowned wildlife photographer **Thomas D. Mangelsen**; acclaimed wildlife and scenic landscape artist **Mary Roberson**; and world-champion bird and wildlife sculptor **Greg Woodard**. These and future Alliance Arts Ambassadors will represent a diverse range of artistic mediums and will provide insight and support to further the Alliance's mission to keep the valley wild and beautiful.

Roberson, whose work captures the spirit of the West and hangs in the National Museum of Wildlife Art and Grand Teton National Park Visitor Center, said she was excited to have the opportunity to give back to the wildlife and the land that has inspired her and offered her a sense of peace. When Roberson started painting wildlife, she promised herself that with every painting sold, she would give back to causes involving wildlife and children.

“It’s really important to me,” Roberson said. “Without the wildlife, without nature, I wouldn’t be an artist. I wouldn’t wake up smiling.”

The Alliance board and staff thanked Altamira Fine Art for its support of conservation in the valley and praised the artists for their passion for Jackson Hole’s wildlife and scenic wonders, and for their desire to protect and preserve their sources of inspiration.

“No matter what your walk of life is in Jackson Hole – artist, business owner, environmentalist – we’re all bound by a common thread, and that’s our love of the wildlife and lands around us,” Alliance Managing Director Cindy Harger said. “The artists who participated in the Art of Conservation and that have become Alliance Arts Ambassadors inspire people to protect what we love every single day through their awe-inspiring talents.”

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*The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to responsible land stewardship in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to ensure that human resources are in harmony with the area’s irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources.*