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FORUM 35 ART MELT A SUCCESS

Forum 35 hosted its 6th Annual Art Melt on Friday, July 10th, at the Shaw Center for the Arts. This year's Art Melt, bringing an estimated 10,000 patrons downtown, was one of the most successful shows since its inception, and has grown into one of the most popular juried art showcases in the state of Louisiana. Forum 35 is proud of the tradition created by this signature event and thanks the Baton Rouge community for supporting hundreds of Louisiana artists since 2004.

Out of nearly 600 submissions representing 20 cities statewide, Kenneth Wilks' *Real People #3*, photographic imagery of a fully clothed and nude woman, was selected along with 78 other submissions for inclusion in Art Melt 2009. The artwork was displayed at the Art Melt Preview Party, was temporarily removed, and is currently hanging in the Brunner Gallery at the Shaw Center for the Arts. Forum 35 regrets the decision to temporarily remove the piece without in depth consideration of its impact on the artistic integrity of the piece, the artist, and the arts community and its supporters. Forum 35 and the Art Melt Committee will work to ensure this mistake is not made in the future. The decision to temporarily remove the piece does not reflect the views and opinions of Art Melt affiliates, sponsors, or vendors.

Forum 35 values the arts and considers a vibrant arts community a necessary component of a truly great city. Forum 35 reinvests any proceeds from each year's Art Melt to the local arts community. We encourage the community to visit the entire showcase, which is currently on display at the Brunner Gallery at the Shaw Center for the Arts through July 20th.