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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mark Weber: ANIMALS at the Erie Art Museum**

*October 3, 2017, Erie, PA* – Artist and Illustrator Mark Weber combines his twin passions for drawing and wildlife in his new exhibition, ANIMALS, opening in the Erie Art Museum’s Ronald E. Holstein Gallery on October 27, 2017.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will host an exhibit opening party on Thursday, October 26, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Aptly named *Art, Ales & Animals*, the evening will feature Weber’s improvisational quick-drawing, adult coloring pages based on his designs, animal-themed beer pairings provided by Erie Beer Company, and special animal guests from The Traveling Zoo, a part of the Erie Zoo’s community outreach program. \$10 general admission; \$8 for museum members; \$8 for guests who arrive dressed as animals. 21+

Whether using acrylic paint, marker, or graphite, drawing is always the foundation of Weber’s work. Sometimes he invites the element of chance by applying ink loosely with a brush and blowing and turning the support to manipulate the drips. This stream-of-conscious interaction with his work leads to dreamy landscapes populated by strange human and anthropomorphic animal figures. His other signature style is to pack the flattened surface with compressed stylized animals, vegetation, and abstract shapes. He then fills the space with vivid primary colors.

Weber is well known to Erie audiences through his many exhibitions and illustrations for Showcase and other local publications. He has created many designs for the Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival (most recently in 2015). This year, Weber worked with The Big Picture to create and lead an interactive mural project at the Festival, enabling participants to help create a large painting based on Weber’s design.

The resulting canvas has been finished by Weber and will be installed as a permanent outdoor mural at St. Martin Center Early Learning Center in downtown Erie. The installed mural will be dedicated on October 27, 2017 at 10 a.m.

Mark Weber has worked as a fine artist and illustrator for over thirty years, creating whimsical drawings and paintings without apology. Weber's paintings are found in private and corporate collections throughout the United States and Europe and his illustrations have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Highlights for Children*, *American Eagle* and the *International Herald Tribune*. Weber has illustrated children's books such as, "The Pirate Princess", "Paul Bunyan", "Little Toot & the Lighthouse", and "Roaring, Boring Alice" as well as over 75 young reader books for Townsend Press. Mark Weber is an Erie native who currently resides in Wilmington, North Carolina.

### **About the Erie Art Museum**

The Erie Art Museum anchors downtown Erie's cultural and economic revitalization, occupying a group of restored mid-19th century commercial buildings and a modern, 'Green,' 10,500 square foot expansion. The newly expanded Museum marks the first LEED-certified building in the region, soon to be complete with a planted rooftop.

The Museum maintains an ambitious program of changing exhibitions annually, embracing a wide range of subjects, both historical and contemporary and including folk art, contemporary craft, multi-disciplinary installations, community-based work, as well as traditional media.

The Erie Art Museum also holds a collection of over 8,000 objects, which includes significant works in American ceramics, Tibetan painting, Indian bronzes, contemporary baskets, and a variety of other categories.

The Museum offers several education programs and artists' services including interdisciplinary and interactive school tours and a variety of classes for the community. Performing arts are showcased in the 25-year-old Contemporary Music Series, which represents national and international performers of serious music with an emphasis on composer/performers.

The Erie Art Museum and gift shop is open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Winter hours for the

Museum's Wave Café are 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For additional visitor information, visit online at [www.erieartmuseum.org](http://www.erieartmuseum.org) or call 814-459-5477.

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