

[Written by Jenny Higgons]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**JANUARY ART SHOW EXPLORES AMERICA'S OBSESSION WITH
PHYSICAL PERFECTION**

**Renowned artists Michael St. Amand and Michael Tricca use photos to display
America's perception of beauty and never-ending quest to retain youth.**

(FORT MYERS, FL) November 20, 2009 — Why does a 23-year-old woman who wears a Size 6 agonize because she not a Size 2, Meanwhile, her mother is planning to undergo liposuction treatments? Why are Americans so preoccupied with beauty and the means and methods to achieve it? Michael St. Amand and Michelle Tricca offer their stirring and evocative photographic takes on our yearning for a flawless appearance with SLAVE TO VANITY, which opens December 31, 2009, at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers, Fla., and runs through January 14, 2010.

“Both women *and* men fall into this ubiquitous—and sometimes precarious—trap,” St. Amand points out. “Our society now seems to be all about Botox, plastic surgery, diets, makeup, hairstyles and trendy clothes. What happened to ‘regular’ folks? Does life in this country belong to the thin and beautiful?”

The mass media are the main instigators of this skewed attitude, St. Amand adds, with the public constantly being bombarded with images of pop-culture figures—singers, actors, athletes and other kinds of celebrities—being made-up and air-brushed to the nth degree, lest there be a hint of imperfection.

But here's the true irony: Despite its fixation with physical perfection, the United States is well-known for having the most obese residents in the world.

An artist for over 30 years, Michael St. Amand works in mixed-media paintings, fine art, digital art, multimedia art, painting, printmaking, computer graphics, sculpture, photography, stoneware, set design and Web design. His creations have earned numerous awards, and he has exhibited his pieces nationally and internationally. St. Amand has also been listed in *Art In America* magazine's Who's Who In American Art. His work and biography can be seen at michaelstamand.com.

Based in Naples, Fla., Michelle Tricca is an expert in portrait, editorial and commercial photographs. She travels wherever her work takes her—from East Africa to Maine to Vietnam—and produces images that are awe-inspiring, evocative and most definitely “outside the box.” She is inspired by energy, action, emotion, the ocean, adventure and her intense love of the craft, which she considers her lifestyle.

Tricca says of herself, “As a photographer, I am not much of a talker, sometimes a director, always an observer. Whether creating images for commissioned jobs or personal work, photography is my way of life.” Her work and biography can be seen at michelletricca.com.

SLAVE TO VANITY opens December 31, 2009, at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (2301 1st St., Fort Myers, FL 239-333-1933, sbdavisartcenter.com; fl-arts.org) and runs through January 14, 2010.

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For more information about SLAVE TO VANITY or to schedule an interview with the photographers, contact St. Amand (239-331-4823, michael@imagun.com) or Tricca (619-414-2347, mt@michelletricca.com).