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## **PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> SHOW AT GEARY GALLERY: "THE ART OF DECOY CARVING WITH KEVIN KERRIGAN"**

**September 19, 2012, Darien, CT...** The Geary Gallery of Darien ([www.gearygallery.com](http://www.gearygallery.com)) is proud to present *"The Art of Decoy Carving with Kevin Kerrigan."* This enlivening exhibit runs through October, with a delightful "Meet the Artist" event at the gallery on Saturday, September 29 from 5pm-8pm. Kerrigan will be showcasing many new pieces including "Flag Duck," (first picture) in addition to "Ward Brothers Golden-Eye," "Miniature—Shorebirds," "Ward Brothers Mallard" and "Great Blue Heron" also pictured.



#### **Featured Artist, October: Kevin Kerrigan**

Kevin Kerrigan is a nationally renowned decoy carver. For the past 36 years, he has worked in the art of hand-carving and painting reproductions of antique waterfowl decoys. He specializes in precise replicas of the much-sought-after works of the last generation of master carvers, such as Elmer Cromwell, Shang Wheeler, Lem Dudley, Ward Brothers and Joe Lincoln. His work focuses on a wide variety of shore and water birds.



A self-taught artist, Kerrigan came under the tutelage of the late Ralph Morrell, distinguished Zoologist Emeritus at the Peabody Museum in new Haven, CT. Morrell, a long-time friend of master decoy carver Shang Wheeler, inspired Kerrigan's interest in decoy carving and helped develop his unfaltering sense of accuracy and aestheticism. Kerrigan and Morrell subsequently collaborated on many projects that included detail paintings for the Peabody Museum, The Museum of Natural History in New York City, and The Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

An avid sportsman and naturalist, Kerrigan is often invited to speak at wildlife conservation forums throughout New England. His most recent lecture, "Will All the Shorebirds Left in the World Be Made of Wood," was presented to the Ornithology Department of Yale. He has served as director of the Connecticut Wildlife Federation, and was a recipient of the Ducks Unlimited Distinguished Service Award. Kerrigan was Orvis Sport and Field Day's Antique Decoy Artist of the Year in 2000 and 2001. His carvings have





graced the covers of Orvis catalogs with a preening pintail in Fall 2004, and his Canada Goose in 2005. Kerrigan's decoys were on display at the Ferguson Museum, Fishers Island, New York in the 2007 exhibit, "The History of Shorebird Hunting at the Turn of the Century."

Currently, Kerrigan has been commissioned by Orvis—the nation's oldest mail order company—to create limited edition decoys for the 2009 to 2012 Fall and Holiday catalogs. He has been under exclusive assignment with Orvis since Fall 2000 to create period antique duck decoy replicas representing the works of artists from the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition to his collaboration with Orvis, Kerrigan's decoys are sold across the country to select collectors and shops. His works have been featured in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, House and Garden and Country Living.



The Kevin Kerrigan decoy exhibit runs through the month of October. The Geary Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays–Saturdays, 9:30am–5:00pm and is located at 576 Boston Post Road in Darien, CT, 06820. Admission to the artist's reception and exhibit is free. Artwork is available for acquisition. For more information, contact (203) 655-6633 or visit [www.gearygallery.com](http://www.gearygallery.com).

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### **About Geary Gallery**

*Founded in 1984, Geary Gallery is one of Fairfield County's preeminent art galleries, featuring an extensive collection of original artwork. Offering four elaborate display rooms, Geary Gallery maintains an ambitious exhibition schedule to showcase both Connecticut-based artists with national reputations as well as well-known artists from along the Eastern seaboard. The public can enjoy a new show virtually every five weeks. The Gallery also offers a Custom Original Portrait Service, which matches their favorite artists with customers wishing to commission an original portrait of their family, an individual, pet or home. With an extensive inventory of over 2,000 corner frames, Accent Picture Framing and Restoration is a service that is highly regarded for its master framing techniques as well as precision art restoration services for leading museums, auction houses, and historical societies. For more information about Geary Gallery, call (203) 655-6633 or visit <http://www.gearygallery.com>.*