

## **For Immediate Release:**

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## **J Crist Gallery Announces New Plans**

**Boise, Idaho – March 27, 2009** – Charley and Jacqueline Crist announce a new direction for J Crist Gallery. Effective March 27, 2009 the gallery will feature only the work of Idaho artist James Castle and will organize a new non-profit center, the James Castle Study Center. The Center will hold a study collection of original Castle artwork, archives and artist ephemera and will be open to national and international scholars, educators, writers and curators.

The Crists will continue to promote the work of James Castle through J Crist Gallery and to maintain longstanding relationships and representation of the James Castle work with Knoedler & Company, New York; Fleisher Ollman Gallery, Philadelphia; Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco; Karen Lennox Gallery, Chicago; and Lawrence Markey Gallery, San Antonio. The Philadelphia Museum of Art is currently touring their exhibition *James Castle: A Retrospective* across the United States. The exhibition will open in the fall at the Art Institute of Chicago and in February of 2010 at the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Knoedler & Company recently opened their one-person exhibition *James Castle Drawings: Vision and Touch* in New York. J Crist Gallery will feature Castle's work at Art Basel in Switzerland this summer and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland is planning a one-person Castle exhibition in 2010. The documentary film, *James Castle: Portrait of an Artist*, produced by the Foundation for Self-Taught American Artists, is currently being screened across the United States.

James Castle's niece, Gail Johnson, has said that, "The family could not be more enthusiastic for the Crist's decision to focus entirely on our uncle's work. Since J Crist Gallery has represented the James Castle Collection we have seen our uncle's work enter many public and private collections." In addition to inclusion in private collections across the U.S. and Europe, Castle work is included in major museum collections such as the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Philadelphia Museum of Art; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Art Institute of Chicago; and UC Berkeley Art Museum.

Established in August, 1995 J Crist Gallery has had the honor of both featuring and representing the work of many wonderful artists throughout the years. Jacqueline Crist has stated, "This new chapter is bittersweet; our introduction of the James Castle Study Center is an exciting new development. But it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our

gallery relationship with our many artists, collectors and visitors who have trusted the gallery to bring many diverse and beautiful works of art to the community. We find comfort in the relationships we have developed since we opened. We will continue to support the arts and business community with the same consistency and commitment we always have.”

Charley Crist said, “It has been a pleasure to support the work of Idaho artists and to experience the many friendships created over the years. Moving on is often difficult but change is necessary and I wish the best for the artists and the community we have served.”

Although J Crist Gallery will go forward with representation of one artist, Jacqueline will continue in her position as art consultant to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise with whom she worked for the last five years to assist in building their art collection. Art is considered an integral component of the healing process at SARMC and it is in this position that Crist believes she plays an important part in her commitment to both the arts community and the community at large. Crist will also continue to work as an art consultant on select projects.

The award winning gallery building, designed by Dwaine Carver of Trout Architects, will be sold and a new facility established to include exhibition space designed specifically for the *James Castle Collection and Study Center*, in addition to living quarters for the visitors to the *James Castle Study Center*.

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