

Chicago's Own FACE OFF Champion J. Anthony Kosar Once Again Curates Chicagoland's LARGEST Annual Halloween Themed Art Exhibit

Halloween continues on November 19th with Award-Winning and World-Renowned Artists, a Raffle for Charity, and Nightmarish Art that Await the Public.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCT 24, 2016—WESTMONT, IL— After 5 years hosting Chicagoland's greatest exhibition of nightmarish art, Kosart Effects Studios & Gallery in Westmont is excited to continue Chicago's newest Halloween tradition with the **Sixth Annual MALEFICIUM Dark Art Exhibition**, the Halloween-themed art show open to the public and free to attend. *The exhibition opening and artist reception will be held on Saturday, November 19th from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and featuring over 65 award-winning and renown artists of all media from around the world.*

MALEFICIUM is a Latin term for "mischief" and "dark art," and if Halloween and Horror is your thing, than this is the MUST SEE show to extend the 2016 Halloween season. Chicago-based award-winning artist, make-up artist, and Syfy's *FACE OFF* Season 4 Champion J. Anthony Kosar, lead instructor and founder of Special FX classes and workshops at his Kosart Atelier: School for Entertainment Art, created MALEFICIUM in 2011.

"My inspiration for putting MALEFICIUM together 6 years ago was to combine all the things I loved into one killer event. I am passionate about art and Halloween, and MALEFICIUM is the show that perfectly brings both of these together. Plus, I get to share some amazing artwork from some of my friends and favorite artists that I look up to and admire. Though there has been other Halloween-themed dark art shows in the past here in the Midwest, none are like MALEFICIUM because we bring to Chicago art forms and artists that Chicago has never seen before, as we include not just dark artists, but also fantasy illustrators, fine artists, comic book illustrators, sculptors, concept artists, make-up and effects artists, photographers, and now even film directors and producers, all of whom are giants in their creative industries. We started with only 28 artists, mostly local, and now we have over 65 award winning artists from all over the world! It has become Chicagoland's LARGEST and most anticipated Halloween-themed art show with some of the best dark-art to ever be exhibited in our city. We had to expand our visiting hours on the opening day to accommodate the flow of people to see the work, as it has become a favorite Chicagoland Halloween-time tradition." ~ **J. Anthony Kosar, (MALEFICIUM Curator, Founder of Kosart Gallery, Face Off Season 4 Champion, and Award-Winning Artist.)**

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FEATURING THE ART OF GREG HILDEBRANDT!

Kosart Gallery is honored to once again have the work of one of our art heroes, the legendary fine artist and illustrator **Greg Hildebrandt** included in the Sixth Annual MALEFICIUM Dark Art Exhibition! Greg is known for his *Lord of the Rings* artwork, **Marvel** and **DC** art, artwork for **Trans-Siberian Orchestra**, and most notably for painting the first *Star Wars* movie poster in 1977 for *Star Wars : A New Hope* with his brother Tim Hildebrandt!

PLUS THE ART OF CLIVE BARKER!

Kosart Gallery is honored to once again have the work of one of our heroes, the legendary horror writer, filmmaker, and fine artist **Clive Barker** included in the Sixth Annual MALEFICIUM Dark Art Exhibition! Clive is known for the *Hellraiser* franchise, *Books of Blood*, and *Night Breed*, and other books and movies.

2016 MALEFICIUM IMAGE BY FOREST ROGERS!

The Image used for the Sixth Annual MALEFICIUM Dark Art Exhibition is *MORRIGAN : Badb Catha* by award-winning sculptor **Forest Rogers**. “Badb Catha” is Old Irish for “Battle Crow.” The sculpture is a 31" tall one-of-a-kind mixed media sculpture, and will be on display for the duration of the 2016 MALEFICIUM Show. Photo of the sculpture, taken by photographer Bear McGivney.

PLUS THE ART OF FACE OFF CHAMPIONS, FINALISTS, & CONTESTANTS!

Kosart Gallery is excited to include the art from several artists from *Face Off*, the *Critics Choice Award* Winning reality make-up competition on **Syfy** in the Sixth Annual MALEFICIUM Dark Art Exhibition. The show is curated by Season 4 Champion and Season 8 Coach, Judge Match Winner, Award-Winning Artist **J. Anthony Kosar** who will have some of his personal art on display, along with a few pieces from his Kosart Studios. This year's Maleficium will also include the art from Kosart Atelier Alumni and Instructor and Season 10 Contestant **Anna Cali**, Season 4 Finalist and Judge Match Contestant **Wayne Anderson**, Season 1 & 5 Finalist **Tate Steinsiek**.

PLUS A SHORT FILM!

Kosart Gallery is thrilled to include an original short film *ROT* created using stop-motion animation by brothers **Dino and Mark Crisanti**. This short film will premiere during MALEFICIUM 2016!

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OTHER NOTABLE ARTISTS!

Over 65 award-winning artists will be featured along with **Greg Hildebrandt**, **Clive Barker**, **Forest Rogers**, and the **Face Off Artists**, will include award-winning master painter **Donato Giancola** (*United Nations, LucasFilm, National Geographic, DC Comics, Tor Books, Milton-Bradley, and Hasbro*), renowned sculptor and FX artist **Erick Rodriguez** (*Guardian of the Galaxy 2, Star Trek Beyond, Spiderman, Sleepy Hollow, Grimm*), award-winning illustrator **Bill Carman** (*Random House Inc, LucasArts Entertainment*), award-winning master sculptor **Thomas Kuebler** (*Spectrum and Rue Morgue*), renowned illustrator **Rick Dienzo Blanco** (Creative Director at *Cartoon Network*), award-winning master sculptor **Virginie Ropars** (*Spectrum and Chesley Awards*), award-winning master illustrator **Travis Louie** (*Spectrum, Juxtapoz, Rue Morgue, Hi Fructose*), renowned horror photographer **Joshua Hoffine** (*Fangoria, Rue Morgue, Famous Monsters of Filmland*), award-winning illustrator **David Palumbo** (*Blizzard, Dark Horse, Heavy Metal, LucasFilm, Marvel*), make-up fx artist and fine artist **Akihito Ikeda** (*The Hulk, Alien vs Predator 1 & 2, The Island, Chronicles of Narnia, Transformers, Terminator Salvation*), award-winning illustrator **Jason Seiler** (*Rolling Stone, Time Magazine, Tim Burton's Alice In Wonderland*), world renowned illustrator **Menton Matthews III** aka **menton3** (*The Memory Collectors, The X-Files, Transfusion, Monocyte*), award-winning master sculptors **The Shiflett Brothers** (*Sideshow Collectibles, Bowen Designs*), Italian based renowned illustrator **Daniele Serra** (*DC comics, Image Comics*), and many more.

COMPLETE 2016 MALEFICIUM ARTIST LIST:

Wayne Anderson - Clive Barker - Thomas Baxa - Rick DIENZO Blanco - Lydia Burris - Brian Busch - Anna Cali - Bill Carman - Dan Chudzinski - Iris Compier - Jeffrey Cox - The Crisanti Brothers - Melita "MissMonster" Curphy - Dave Dorman - Lucas Durham - Grigor Eftimov - Aron Gagliardo - Donato Giancola - E.M. Gist - Josh Hardie - Tom Herzberg - Greg Hildebrandt - Joshua Hoffine - Akihito Ikeda - Lee Joyner - Douglas Klauba - Rich Klink - Jamie Koala - J. Anthony Kosar - Kosart Studios - Richard Kryczka - Thomas Kuebler - Travis Lewis - Travis Louie - Darick Maasen - Menton Matthews III - Matthew McCarty - Barrett "Bear" McGivney - Aaron Miller - Vince Natale - Mark A. Nelson - Winona Nelson - Blake Packard - Dave Palumbo - Jim Pavelec - Alan Pollack - Mark Poole - Robert M. Proce - Vincent Proce - Sophia Rapata - Bill Reinhold - Nicholas Rinehard - David Richardson - Forest Rogers - Erick Rodriguez - Virginie Ropars - Chad Savage - Chris Seaman - Jason Seiler - Daniele Serra - The Shiflett Brothers - Dug Stanat - Tate Steinsiek - David Thiérrée - Vincent Villafranca - Jeremy Wilson - Terry Wolfinger- All artist bios on the website, KosartGallery.com

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RAFFLE FOR CHARITY:

At the Exhibition Opening and Artist Reception on November 19th, there will be a Raffle for Charity to benefit **Little Friends Inc**, a private, non-profit organization serving children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. All proceeds from the raffle will go to Little Friends and will feature prizes ranging from signed prints, books, comics, masks, figurines, and other great prizes donated by the artists. At last year's Maleficium, Kosart Gallery raised \$2,200 for Little Friends, more than what was raised the previous year. Drawing will be at 10pm on Nov 19th. Winner need not be present to win.

EXHIBITION INFO:

The show is free to attend and will run through December 16th, with viewings after November 20th by appointment only. There will be a closing reception on December 16th from 7pm to 10pm. Art and theater teachers are invited to bring their students in for private tours. Artwork will be available for sale (unless marked NFS). All major credit cards will be accepted. Kosart Effects Studios and Gallery is located at 760 Burr Oak Drive, Westmont, IL 60559.

ABOUT CURATOR & FOUNDER J. ANTHONY KOSAR:

J. Anthony Kosar is an award-winning artist who specializes in Fine Art, Illustration, Sculpture, Creature Design, Make-up FX, and Product Design through his company Kosart Studios, LLC. Becoming a member of the I.A.T.S.E. Local 476 Studio Mechanics Chicago in 2016, he and his studio is doing SPFX Make-Up and sculpting props for **CHICAGO P.D.** Season 4, **EMPIRE** Season 3, and **Chicago Justice** Season 1. Kosar has also worked on make-up FX for **CHICAGO FIRE** and making FX props for **CHICAGO MED**, along with being the SPFX Make-Up Designer for the FOX pilot **ZOOBIQUITY**. Recently, Kosar and his studio were brought on to help turn actor John Malkovich into 7 characters from David Lynch movies by designing, sculpting, and applying prosthetics to Malkovich for **Playing Lynch : Psychogenic Fugue** by Sandro Films with Squarespace and the David Lynch Foundation, including John Merrick from **The Elephant Man**, Henry Spencer and Lady in the Radiator from **Eraserhead**, Special Agent Dale Cooper and the Log Lady from **Twin Peaks**, Frank Booth from **Blue Velvet**, and the Mystery Man from **Lost Highway**. In 2007, he interned at legendary Stan Winston Studio creating effects for **INDIANA JONES 4** and James Cameron's **AVATAR**. Kosar designs and sculpts Halloween masks for Zagone Studios, one of the leading mask manufacturers in the world. He creates special effects for theater, film, commercials, and print. Kosar teaches the art of FX through his **Kosart Atelier: School for Entertainment Arts** in Westmont, IL. In 2013 Kosar became the **FACE OFF** Season 4 Champion. **FACE OFF**, a reality-based competition on the Syfy Channel is the biggest competition for Make-Up FX, and Kosar won 6 of the 11 Spotlight Challenges, plus 1 of 4 Foundation Challenges, setting the record of most consecutive wins in a row and most wins by a single contestant on a single season. Kosar also appeared on **FACE OFF: Judge Match** during Season 7 where he was one of six chosen from all seasons to help the judges compete, and he was selected to be on judge Neville Page's team with Miranda Jory, and their team won. Kosar has since had several of his students from Kosart Atelier compete and even also win on **FACE OFF**. Besides

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FX, Kosar is an internationally awarded fine artist, illustrator, and sculptor, having been awarded by the **Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, American Watercolor Society, Illinois Watercolor Society**, and several others. In 2009, he was named "One to Watch" by *Watercolor Artist Magazine*. His work has been selected to appear in *SPLASH 13: Best of Watercolor*, in volumes 19, 20, 22, & 23 of *SPECTRUM: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*, and volume 4 of *Infected by Art*. He was honored by being selected as one of the judges for **SPECTRUM 21**. His work has also been featured in the pages of *Fangoria, Variety, Rue Morgue, Entertainment Weekly, Portes Magazine*, and *Sci Fi*, among others. He has also been juried into the Main Show for **IlluXCon 6, & 8**. He designs and sculpts prototypes for toys, collectibles and medical anatomical models, illustrates for novels and comic books, curates art gallery exhibitions at his Kosart Gallery including the highly anticipated **Annual MALEFICIUM Dark Art Exhibitions**, and creates fine art paintings and sculptures. Kosar was Valedictorian of the class of 2008 at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, IL earning his BFA in Illustration, while taking what he learned from 2-dimensional visual storytelling, and applying those principals to teach himself the art of sculpture, make-up, and special effects.

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CONTACT:

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