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Libbie Masterson to Open *Sky* - An Exhibit of New Photographs at Wade Wilson Art

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(dateline – Houston, March 2010; source: Juice Consulting LLC) - Wade Wilson Art is pleased to announce a special exhibit of new works by Houston-based photographer Libbie Masterson. The exhibit, titled ***Sky*** and in conjunction with the 2010 FotoFest exhibitions, will feature a collection of images of the sky, shot throughout America in both the daytime and evening. The exhibit opens with a **reception for the artist** from **6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 1** and will remain on view through **April 27, 2010**.

Previously, Masterson has based her massive photographic exhibits on luminescent, icy scenes. In her recent exhibit at the Houston Art Alliance, she strays from this realm to explore what could be considered the most extreme opposite - yet possesses beauty equally as majestic – the rugged landscapes of the state’s western regions. The effect of the dimming light as it situates into the night sky emanates nostalgia and timeless preservation, and with this exhibition, Masterson succeeds in emulating the serenity of nightfall across the land she describes as “so foreign and yet right in our home.”

In *Sky*, Masterson brings together images she has collected over the past 5 years, all having to do with images of the sky. She has collected images from Alaska, California, Texas, in clear and stormy weather, exploring the dramatic variety of America’s horizons.

Masterson comes from a family of many artists. This background provided direction to follow a path experimenting with such varying visual art mediums as painting, glass blowing, print making, stone-carving among others. Although painting has historically been her preferred artistic outlet, a timely “accident” let her to

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explore the world of photography in depth. Taking shots of Iceland's frozen brilliance to document areas she intended to paint, she decided the images were breathtaking as photographs by themselves. As a result of a collaboration with a light designer, Masterson began lighting the photographs with light panels. Driven by her desire to psychologically transport those who view her work to the elusive landscape pictured as the subject, she began constructing illuminated exhibits where the images glow from the photographic panels. She has now been photographing for five years installing massive, panoramic exhibitions, which bring these intangible places within feet of city dwellers.

She began her extensive education of the Fine Arts at a young age by taking classes at the Glassell School of Art junior school. Much later down the road, she earned a BFA at the California College of Art (formerly the California College of Arts and Crafts). She supplemented her studies with classes at the Pilchuck Glass School in Washington and Parsons School of Design in Paris.

The Houston native has been represented locally by the Meredith Long Gallery where her paintings were shown for a decade, the Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and she is proud to be a part of the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Her talents have recently spilled over onto the stage upon being commissioned by the Dominic Walsh Dance Theatre to create a stage design for the production, "Amadeus." It has been performed in Houston, Sarasota Florida, and New York City and was then developed into a full-length ballet titled "Mozart" with the Sarasota Ballet Company for the 2008-09 season. Her work will also lend its ambiance to the Tokyo Ballet in May 2010.

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