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## Marion and Michael Albrecht -- Artists-in-Residence at Northwood

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MIDLAND, Mich. - Northwood University's Artists-in-Residence program brings world class talent to the classroom for students to learn from and enjoy. This spring's artists from Germany, Marion and Michael Albrecht, will arrive March 21 for an eight-day series of events planned for students and also for the Midland community. Marion's oil paintings will be on display at the Griswold Gallery on campus through March 26.

Eight classroom visits are planned that will engage students in "painting the code of ethics," "marketing art," and "contemporary art," and will take place during the day March 22nd through the 29th. Under the direction of the Albrechts, students from Cindy Keefe's "Beginning Drawing" class and others from the community will paint several large panels on Tuesday, March 27 from noon to 4 pm in the NADA. The panels will be exhibited on campus.



Other events that will allow people to interact with the artists include a tea and discussion by Preston Jones on his photography at the Creative Spirit Center on March 22 at 7:30 pm and the opening reception for Larry Butcher's exhibition on March 23 from 6 to 8 pm at the Northwood Gallery located at 102 E. Main Street in Midland (the Albrechts will attend and several of Marion's pieces will be on display at the Northwood Gallery). On Sunday, March 25, the couple will view James Hopfensperger's stained glass windows after Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church and visit with local residents. The couple will also give a presentation at a luncheon in their honor on March 29 from noon to 1:30 pm in the Midland Center for the Arts' Garden Room. An RSVP to 837-4480 is necessary. All events are open to the public.

The Albrechts attended the University of Bamberg in Germany and have been involved in displaying Marion's artwork publicly for several years including an exhibition in Peru. They reside with their three children in Erlangen, Germany. Marion's master's thesis from Bamberg was on "Creativity to Master Life" and Michael wrote on "Religion in Rock Music." Both have worked with youth leadership development and religious activities within their area parishes. Marion has worked as a therapist for children with dyslexia and dyscalculia problems at the ALF Institute Erlangen.

Explaining their presentation philosophy, Michael Albrecht said, "Our specialty is not only to show impressive paintings but to present them combined with introducing words, background music or even thematically involved music. This ensemble creates an atmosphere of open-mindedness and understanding.

"The comments do not take longer than five minutes?but in fact people stay there, they dwell on the paintings, strangers talk to each other taking their time to look three and four times to this or another detail of a painting. We cannot explain exactly how this spell works but it does. Maybe it's the effect of Marion's studies in Pedagogy and Theology or mine in Theology and my working in this area that destines us to point out conviction and values, giving people the opportunity to talk and think about the more important matters of life."

The artists, exhibition, and student classroom visits will continue on Northwood's West Palm Beach campus on April 3. The exhibition will be in the Jeanette Hare Art Gallery on campus. The exhibition was already on Northwood's Cedar Hill, TX campus and the artists will visit Texas prior to coming to Michigan.

The Artists-in-Residence program is sponsored by the Cultural Arts initiative, a unique program that impacts Northwood students through the arts. Funded by the Northwood University Arts Endowment, initially set up by the late Dr. Arthur E. Turner (co-founder of the university), the Artists-in-Residence program brings world class talent directly to Northwood students. Through a variety of classroom lectures, community outreach opportunities, and on-campus performances and presentation, the students get a first-hand look at performers who have made art their business. Cheryl A. Smith, campus arts director, is coordinator of the program.

*(Photo Caption--Marion Albrecht, "Lullabye" Oil on Canvas, 2003, 80x100 cm)*

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