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**STUDIO MONTCLAIR, INC. OPENS:
“SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ARTISTIC VISION”
IN MONTCLAIR’S NEWEST GREEN BUILDING**

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January 21, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montclair, NJ, January, 2011

Studio Montclair Inc. (SMI) is pleased to announce “Sustainability and the Artistic Vision,” a green exhibit that connects current artists to contemporary environmental activism.

According to curator Mona Brody, the show’s six artists demonstrate “how theoretical insights, concrete practices in art, and the use of sustainable materials coincide with hard realities and materiality for political action, artistic theory and practice, and sustainable living the in the 21st century.”

The featured artists are Marion Held, Peter Jacobs, Keely McCool, Donna Moran, Paul Sionas and Donna Usher. The exhibit runs from January 21 - April 29, 2011, in the **SMI Gallery @ Academy Square** on the first floor of the new Academy Square office building. The artists reception is on Friday, January 21 from 6-9pm.

Each artist employs materials from pre-existing sources or uses media that create the least impact on the environment. Marion Held’s work titled “From an Ancient Well” shows well-water bags, made from rubber tire inner tubes. Each day since March 31, 2005, Peter Jacobs has created a 9-by-12-inch collage using that day’s local newspaper. Keel McCool uses twigs and mud in a conscious effort to use resources from nature. Donna Moran has worked for at least 15 years in water-based materials and often recycles editions of prints into new work. Paul Sionas is the architect of the Academy Square building, whose sustainable renovations helped the building receive its LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification through the U.S. Building Council. Donna Usher looks “for sustainable inspiration from indigenous art, such as Aboriginal dot paintings and primal forms in nature such as microscopic cells, egg sacs, black holes and galaxies found in deep space.”

The gallery is open to the public from 9am-5pm Monday through Friday or by appointment.

Studio Montclair Inc. is an association of professional visual artists and supporters of the visual arts dedicated to establishing Montclair (NJ) as a center for the arts. It is a nonprofit corporation supported by its membership. The purpose of Studio Montclair Inc. is to promote culture and education in the visual arts through exhibitions, lectures, art demonstrations, scholarships, and other educational programs; and to encourage new emerging artists through all appropriate means. Membership consists of professional visual artists and individuals interested in the visual arts.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

Listing Information About the Opening Exhibit:

THE SMI GALLERY @ ACADEMY SQUARE - Ground floor of the building.

“Sustainability and the Artistic Vision”

Featuring the work of Marion Held, Peter Jacobs, Keely McCool, Donna Moran, Paul Sionas, and Donna Usher

Exhibition Dates: January 21 – April 29, 2011

Artist Reception: Friday, January 21, 2011 from 6 – 9pm

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or by appointment

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SMI's business office: 108 Orange Road, Montclair

Gallery Director: Rachel Leibman

Assistant Gallery Director: Pam Cooper