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EDGEWATER RESIDENTIAL

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Art Partnership to Honor Women Artists

By Lynne Grasz Hall

In a new partnership between the Edgewater Arts Council and Ambience, a women's specialty boutique in City Place, female artists will be honored with featured artwork exhibitions in the store with a special kick-off reception to be held Friday, May 13, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 PM.

The first artist honored by this partnership is Jane Sklar, award-winning artist/photographer who was the "Best of Show" \$1000 winner in the 2015 Edgewater Arts & Music Festival. The judges were impressed with Jane's unique style of transforming her original photographs into dazzling digital creations. Together with her teacher/mentor Max Cartagena, they create art utilizing a handful of older photo editing and graphics programs without the use of Photoshop®.

Ambience focused on women's art with previous exhibitions and the partnership with the Edgewater Arts Council will expand the sense of community creating a wonderful opportunity of incredibly talented women artists to be showcased in the boutique throughout the year. All artwork exhibited in Ambience is for sale.

The exhibition, featuring many of their best and award-winning art pieces, will run through August. Jane and Max have agreed to donate a portion of their art sales to buy needed art supplies to benefit the students at Edgewater's George Washington and Eleanor Van Gelder schools. The presentation of these supplies will be made in September at the beginning of the fall school year.

"We believe in giving back to the community, and we're happy to donate a percentage from our art sales to benefit and encourage young artists," said Ms. Sklar.

Kerry Postma, Superintendent of Edgewater schools said "This is a wonderful donation which will benefit our art students and teachers next fall. We look forward to having Jane and Max visit our schools to personally mentor young people and encourage their artistic growth."

Grace Guido, co-owner of Ambience, said "We are excited about the partnership. Fashion is a form of art and Jane and Max's art work will complement the selection of clothing and accessories. People will be inspired by all the beauty that surrounds them."

"Our annual juried art competition in September draws artists from around the country and is Bergen County's largest and most prestigious juried art competition," said Lynne Grasz Hall, President, Edgewater Arts Council. "Jane Sklar was judged to be the Best in 2015, and we're honored to kick-off our Ambience partnership with the work of both Jane and Max."

Ms. Sklar is a Cornell University graduate and award-winning artist/photographer. Jane was born and raised in New York City.

Born and raised in Manhattan's Lower East Side, Max Cartagena has written and recorded music, worked in Hollywood independent films both in front of and behind the camera, modeled, and designed websites, which evolved into his unique brand of digitally-generated artwork. Their art studio is in Fort Lee, NJ.

The Edgewater Arts Council will celebrate its 25th annual Arts & Music Festival on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016. For more information, visit www.edgewaterartsnj.org.