

For Immediate Release

Contact: Alex Fink, Nines Gallery  
269.857.3936  
Michael Pflöghaar, artist  
616.307.5377

**The Nines Gallery presents**  
**“Modernscapes—Near the Edge”**  
**Opening Gallery Show for the 11th Season of Fine Art in Holland.**

On Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, The Nines Gallery will host an art opening to celebrate the new works of Grand Rapids’ artist Michael Pflöghaar. In addition to Pflöghaar’s prolific paintings of bold interior scenes and still life, this exhibit will also present a new collection of work showcasing modern architecture and landscapes. Inspired by the Pflöghaar’s love of modern design and visits to Palm Springs, California, this series depicts a painterly approach to the relationship of architecture and land. This will be Michael Pflöghaar’s only solo show in West Michigan this year. The exhibit, “Modernscapes-Near the Edge,” will be the first time his modern architectural landscapes have been shown outside of California.

Architectural masterpiece homes by Richard Neutra, Craig Ellwood, Philip Johnson, Pierre Koenig, E Stewart Williams, and Albert Frey are some of the inspirations for the paintings in this exhibition. Over the past few years Pflöghaar has visited many of these iconic homes to sketch on paper and document in photographs. The result of these research trips has been yearly exhibitions of these completed art works with his Palm Springs gallery that has represented the artist for over five years.

Over the past two years these modern architectural paintings have been popular and in short supply as collectors in the Palm Springs greedily acquired these iconic gems in oil. In February 2009 Michael’s work will be prominently exhibited in conjunction with the International Modernism Week in Palm Springs. “I am excited to be finally exhibiting these paintings in West Michigan the cradle of good design,” Pflöghaar continues, “I think the design elements of these homes are directly attributed to the power of West Michigan’s impact on mid-century modern furniture and the international reach within the design community.”

Pflöghaar has also spent years painting the Northern Michigan landscape while traveling throughout Michigan. These Michigan inspired landscapes and interiors celebrate the vibrant colors, unique buildings, and man-made paths we make through nature. “I like to leave bits of modern life in my landscapes,” adds Pflöghaar, “This way I am able to create a distinct viewpoint and steer away from painting picturesque scenes.”

These Michigan landscapes also feature the artist's unique compositional tool of creating important elements "near the edge" of the picture plane. Most of this landscape work may be new to many in Pflughaar's audience although he has consistently painted this type of work over the years. "I would be remiss not to mention that a big part of my love of the land was imparted by a mentor of mine in the early 1990's," Pflughaar earnestly continues, "The credit for this inspiration is owed to another favorite West Michigan painter - abstract and landscape painter, Stephen Duren."

During September Pflughaar will be teaching a weekend plein air landscape painting and drawing class at Ox-Bow, in Saugatuck, September 20 and 21.

Pflughaar also works in terra cotta clay. Last year one of his creations was awarded Best in Show for the statewide Fire and Mud Clay Competition and his work was recently featured in the national American Craft Magazine. Currently, Michael Pflughaar's ceramics are part of a group show at Pacific University (Portland, Oregon.) A small collection of his colorful, inspired, and animated ceramic vases, potted plants, and teapots will also be part of the exhibition. While Pflughaar received his BFA in Painting from Grand Valley State University in 1988 and exhibits in galleries throughout the United States, he continues his education through extensive travel which has increased his visual vocabulary and growing body of work.

The Artist's Reception will be held **Friday, September 26** from 5:00 to 8:00 PM and is open to art collectors and the public. Admission is free of charge. "Modernscapes—Near the Edge" will be showing through October 2008. The Nines Gallery and Framing Studio is located at 17 West 10th Street in Downtown Holland. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday: 10 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM, or by appointment. Please call 616.392.3239 with questions or to receive directions; and please remember to visit [www.theninesgallery.com](http://www.theninesgallery.com) for a special art collectors preview of the show starting on September 22nd. It will be the best way to ensure that one of a kind artwork does not slip away.

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