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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Mixed-Media Artist Matthew Lew Donates Painting For Poe Center Charity Auction

RALEIGH, N.C. (October 16, 2012) - World-renowned artist, Matthew Lew, will attend the Poe Health Young Professionals Fundraiser for the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education on Saturday, February 23, 2013, to raise awareness of health education and disease prevention in North Carolina. Lew has donated a painting from his fine art collection for the event's silent auction, to help raise money for Poe's statewide programs.

It is easy to fall fast for Matthew Lew. Even with an impressive worldwide client roster that includes President Barack Obama (Obama gifted a Matthew Lew painting to South Korean President Lee Myung-bak), Lew remains a down-to-earth artist and philanthropist whose reach extends far beyond his Chicago gallery.

Last year, Lew made his way out to Baltimore to donate his time and talent to an episode of ABC's *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* where he created a mural to help girls shine, create, serve and lead to benefit the Girl's Hope organization. Why stop there?

Lew has donated over \$100,000 in original artwork and has painted live at LGBT events to support the Positive Aware Network, the Telluride AIDS Benefit, GLAAD and the Human Rights Campaign in Chicago, NYC, Boston and Denver.

When asked to participate in the Poe Health Young Professionals Fundraiser for the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education, Lew replied, "Done. When do you need the artwork?"

A giving heart coupled with an enormous amount of talent make Lew an ideal partner for the Poe Center. Statewide health education programs will be delivered to over one million children this upcoming year.

"It's important to educate and help individuals and communities improve their health, by increasing their knowledge or influencing their attitudes toward living a healthy and vibrant life," Lew noted.

According to Ashley Orlovich, Poe's Director of Development, "Having Matthew Lew, an artist and dear friend, contribute to the Poe Center is nothing short of a win for our organization. While Matthew Lew is only one human being, he has a global influence – artistically, personally and professionally. He is a breath of fresh air, and we look forward to celebrating our millionth program participant with him this upcoming February."

To meet Matthew Lew and support the delivery of health education and disease prevention programs throughout North Carolina, purchase tickets for the Poe Health Young Professionals Fundraiser at: <http://PoeCenter.ettend.com> OR <http://poehealth.eventbrite.com>.

To learn more about Matthew Lew, his philanthropy and his mixed media artwork, visit: www.matthewlew.com.

About the Poe Center

Incorporated in 1985, the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that delivers health education programs to children, youth and adults across the State of North Carolina. Since opening a flagship teaching facility in 1991, the Poe Center has served approximately one million North Carolinians. For additional information on the Poe Center, please visit www.poehealth.org.

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