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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **RENOWNED CAPE COD PAINTER CARL RICHARDS RETURNS TO CHILDHOOD HOME—NOW THE RIVERDALE ART CENTER—FOR FIRST ART EXHIBITION IN NEW JERSEY**

**RIVERDALE, NJ, January 12, 2010** – The Riverdale Art Center (The RAC) today announced that renowned Cape Cod painter Carl Richards will return to his childhood home, now The RAC, for a retrospective art exhibition of his collective works from February 4 through March 28, 2010.

A natural-born artist since the age of four, Carl ran the Richards Funeral Home next door to The RAC with his brother Lee until he suffered a near-fatal stroke ten years ago. That near-death experience was transformative: at first, he was unable to see colors. Richards left the funeral business to live in Cape Cod and pursue his passion for art with a profound reverence for the natural world. Richards specializes in abstract, vibrant paintings using acrylic and oils. His paintings are filled with color that has been dripped, poured, brushed, and drawn. "Looking at his artwork," one reviewer says, is "like stepping outside on a sunny day after weeks spent in the darkness."

Now fully recovered and a very successful painter, Carl saw a newspaper article about The RAC opening and offered to hold his first show in New Jersey right there—in his ancestral home. It will indeed be a homecoming for Carl and a dream come true for him to fill The RAC with his paintings.

The Carl Richards retrospective art exhibition, *More than Meaning*, will run from February 4 through March 28, 2010 at The Riverdale Art Center. There will also be an artist's reception held on Saturday, February 6, from 4 to 7 P.M. The RAC is located at 2 Newark-Pompton Turnpike in Riverdale New Jersey. [www.riverdaleartcenter.org](http://www.riverdaleartcenter.org)

Carl Richards is currently a member of the Cape Cod Art Association, and is associated with Barnstable, Creative Arts Center, Cape Museum of Fine Art, Star Gallery, and the Harvest Gallery. Richards' many honors include first prize for *Les Fleurs Jolie* from the Cape Cod Art Association in 2004, Best Non-Representational, *Stand of Trees in Winter*, Falmouth Artists' Guild in 2003, and Juror's Choice Awards from the Falmouth Artists' Guild in 2004 and 2005.

#### **About The Riverdale Art Center**

The Riverdale Art Center (The RAC) is a new, nonprofit, educational outreach organization dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals, families and communities through art. The RAC's mission is to cultivate a supportive environment for art to flourish by encouraging the human spirit to soar through self-expression. The RAC's four-part model includes: gallery space for local artists, educational art classes and seminars, therapeutic art outreach programs for those with special needs and studio space for artists.

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