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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: MARCH 27, 2019

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SUBJECT: WENDI SMITH & AL GORMAN AT THE KREMPP GALLERY

EXHIBIT DATES: APRIL 3rd – 29th, 2019

RECEPTION: APRIL 4th, 2019 – 5-7 PM

The Krempp Gallery at the Jasper Arts Center is pleased to present the artwork of found object artists, Wendi Smith of Corydon, IN and Al Gorman of Louisville, KY.

There are two main themes that recur in any work Wendi Smith does.

First is ritual and ritual objects, both fascinating visual subjects for the artist. "I find that universal work has a basis in ritual, either in execution or interpretation," stated Smith.

"The second idea is that Nature, and the natural world are the subjects that matter most, partially because they provide so much of the beauty and wonder of our existence, and partially because we abuse or ignore them at our peril," said Smith.

Smith's work often deals with the adaption of ritual forms to natural content.

The presented work is inspired by fetish objects, created from found natural elements and simple beads and thread, and reliquary boxes, a nod to the tradition of keeping the bones and other relics of holy persons for the veneration of pilgrims.

The concern for the deteriorating state of our finite natural world compelled artist, Al Gorman to make a change in the way he makes art. "Based upon what I've found discarded into the Ohio River, I became convinced that we are trading our innate creativity as a species to become consumers," said Gorman.

"I sought a way to reprioritize the fact that we and the life we share this world with need a healthy planet," said Gorman. "As an artist, what I know how to do is make art. How do you make art that is in the service of life at large?" asks Gorman.

Since 2003, Al Gorman has been working exclusively at the Falls of the Ohio across the river from his Louisville home. He uses the flotsam and jetsam he finds to create sculptures, images, and stories. "Over time, I have evolved a vocabulary of forms and materials that include river-shaped: styrofoam, plastic, coal, glass, driftwood and more," Gorman said.

"I like my pieces to be combinations of manmade and natural materials that represent who and where we are in our own point of development as a species. Although I work in a

relatively small space, I publish what I do on my 'Artist at Exit 0 Riverblog' (<https://artistatexit0.wordpress.com/>) which is on Wordpress. My blog allows me to work locally, but have a global presence," says Gorman.

Wendi Smith holds a Master of Science in Painting from Illinois State University. Al Gorman holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Cincinnati, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Murray State University.

Join both artists at the Jasper Arts Center for an opening reception at the Krempp Gallery on Thursday, April 4th, 2019 from 5 to 7 pm. Each artist will give a brief gallery talk about themselves and their artwork. Enjoy an evening of art, food, cash bar, music and fun!

The Krempp Gallery, located in the Jasper Arts Center adjacent to the VUJ campus, is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm, until 7 pm on Thursdays, and Sunday from noon to 3 pm. School groups, clubs and students are welcome. Admission is free.

For more information, please call the Arts Center at 812-482-3070. The Jasper Arts Center is managed by Jasper Community Arts, a department of the City of Jasper. JCA is supported by the Friends of the Arts, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission through its regional partner the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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