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For Immediate Release from the New Bedford Art Museum....

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**NEW BEDFORD ART MUSEUM TO HOST RETROSPECTIVE OF
ACCLAIMED LOCAL ARTIST - WILLOUGHBY ELLIOTT**

**Light, Space and Atmosphere: A Spiritual Journey
Willoughby Elliott Retrospective**
Severin Haines, Curator

September 28 - January 21, 2011

Opening Reception: Friday, September 30th 6-8pm

(New Bedford, MA) – The New Bedford Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of our fall exhibit, **Light, Space and Atmosphere: A Spiritual Journey – Willoughby Elliott Retrospective**. This magnificent exhibit will bring the viewer through 40 years of transformation of Mr. Elliott as an artist, teacher and man. His evolution of work started with a decade spent as a non-objective painter, to the medium of screen-printing and once again to painting. This evolutionary shift brought about a return to recognizable shapes and forms. His current work explores the idiom of landscape viewed through the lens of an abstract artist with a bent toward the expressive and the spiritual. Willoughby Elliott, "This exhibition does not reflect all the facets that are me, but it does reflect many of my interests and passions at various stages of my artistic development."

The artist goes on to say, "My interest in landscape and its potential for expression, color and atmosphere is a compelling area I continue to explore. As a resident of the South Coast, I find a personal resonance between my spirit and this region of the country where the primary elements of water, earth and air create an endless display of beauty and sometimes danger. The forms in my work are built with layers of quick, abstract brush marks. You need to step away from the work to appreciate their full impact."

This exhibit, curated by fellow artist, friend and colleague, Severin Haines, highlights this body of work. It's journey captured through over 40 paintings, where the use of color and light are able to create a space for the viewer to step into and experience first hand. Mr. Haines talks about working on this show, "In the process of assembling the paintings for this exhibition "Bill" and I have had some very exciting conversations about them. We discussed the approach to nature and painting the landscape, the use of color as a principle means of building to an aesthetic moment, and the particular character of a day as interpreted through color used in combination."

The New Bedford Art Museum is pleased to bring this large body of work together under one roof. "This is a great opportunity for the viewer to experience the progression of an artist's career in a visual context. I think Bill's work will engage the viewer both through his technique, but also through the recognizable subject matter of the South Coast's landscape." said Kate Ross, Executive Director of the New Bedford Art Museum. "I find his work to be transformative and inspirational. I'm drawn to them because of that and their visually appealing nature. His paintings bring you someplace, and I am excited for the museum to be able to share this artistic encounter with the viewing public."

Willoughby Elliott received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. He is a retired Professor from the Fine Arts Department in the College of Visual and Performing Arts where he taught Printmaking at UMass Dartmouth.

Mr. Elliott's works have been exhibited around the country and have been accepted to such prestigious shows as the Boston Printmakers, Dakota 100 International Works on Paper, and the Parkside National Exhibition in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He has had numerous one-person shows and has participated in group exhibits and invitationals regionally and nationally and is the recipient of several awards.

Willoughby Elliott is scheduled to give a lecture on his work at the next AHA! Night, Thursday October 13th at 7pm at the New Bedford Art Museum.

The New Bedford Art Museum will have this exhibit on view until January 21, 2012. Hours of operation are Wednesday – Sunday, noon to 5pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students & seniors and children 12 and under are free.

The opening reception is Friday, September 30th 6-8pm and is free to the public.

For artist images, please visit the following website where you can download them by clicking on the picture. http://www.kateross.com/W_Elliott_Paintings/Elliott_Photos.html