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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2009

**Fabulous Fashionable Fiber Exhibition next at
Monroe Bank Art Gallery on Kirkwood**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Monroe Bank is proud to present “Fabulous Fashionable Fiber” as their next art exhibition and cordially invite members of the public to an opening reception on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Monroe Bank Art Gallery at 210 East Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington to meet the artists who include Amanda Buck, Martina Celerin, Donna Jo Copeland, Robin Edmundson, Patti Hodge, Pam Kinnaman, Sheryl Meacham, Lynne Oakes, Nan Talley and Diana Young. Fibers used in the artworks include wool, mohair, angora and alpaca. The process of turning raw fiber into yarn will also be demonstrated at the opening reception. Anyone wishing to attend the catered reception should RSVP by calling (812) 335-5983 or email artreception@monroebank.com by Friday, February 19. The exhibition itself will run from Monday, February 22 through Saturday, May 29, 2010. Members of the public are invited to self tour the exhibit at the Monroe Bank Art Gallery on Kirkwood during normal business hours: Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 am–4:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:00–11:00 am. All the artworks are for sale and can be purchased at the reception or at any time during the exhibition timeframe by contacting Pam Kinnaman by phone at 812-322-4771 or by email at weesheep354@yahoo.com.

Artist Biographies:

Amanda Buck and her husband wanted to raise their four children on a farm in the country and purchased five acres on the eastern plains of Colorado in the fall of 2007. Not knowing exactly what they wanted to do, they purchased some chickens and goats. (“You can't beat farm fresh eggs!” says Amanda.) Eventually they learned about the wonderful world of alpacas and were hooked! They rapidly outgrew their small five acre plot and longed for greener pastures, fresh water and more room to run. In the fall of 2008, they discovered a beautiful 100-acre farm in Bloomfield, Indiana and began to dream of the possibilities. They sold their home in Colorado and headed east with 11 alpacas in tow, leaving six to be picked up on another trip. After quite an adventure, they happily settled into their new home, “Abounding Acres” in the fall of 2009.

Martina Celerin, a Bloomington, Indiana, resident has a long and unusual path to her current art career. Born in Prague, Czech Republic, she immigrated to Canada as a young

girl. After earning a doctoral degree in plant sciences from the University of Western Ontario, she accepted a postdoctoral position in the Biology Department at Indiana University. During that time, she met and married her husband, and together they have two delightful boys. In 2002, Martina decided to transition from science back to her roots as an artist. In the past, she had focused on oil pastels and acrylic painting. Work with oil pastels forced her to focus on visual mixing of colors, and their interactions when they were applied proximally compared to when they were physically distant. Acrylic painting allowed for quick mixing of colors both before and after applying it to the canvas, but, as with oil pastels, she became dissatisfied with the flatness of the art. She began gluing found objects onto the canvas and then painting over them. Eventually, she realized that she needed to create her canvas. Weaving allowed her to incorporate objects, textures and shapes, as well as colors and coarsenesses, into the canvas. Her art studio is filled with a plethora of odds and ends, new and old. She has yarns of all weights, colors and descriptions, jars of crinoid fossils, shells, weathered rocks and driftwood from Lake Monroe. These sit beside dozens of containers of beads and discarded jewelry, strips of leather, hemp baskets undone, wires disentangled, and yards of lace—bits and pieces of everyday life, waiting to create a specific effect in a weaving. Her inspiration is drawn from both nature and her imagination: some pieces are scenes taken from family walks or borrowed photographs. Others are much more abstract, capturing an idea, a personality or simply reflect the feelings evoked by an event or geographical area. All of the pieces, though, are true weavings, integrating the materials, landscapes or emotions she has drawn from her travels and experiences.

Donna Jo Copeland has many talents to her credit: farmer, author, public speaker, judge, appraiser – and fiber artist. Donna Jo has raised English Angora rabbits since she was a child. She uses and sells fiber, roving, hand-spun yarns, and hand-woven textiles from her rabbits, sheep and Angora goats.

Robin Edmundson is an award winning fiber artist specializing in color. She has extensive experience teaching and lecturing on spinning, weaving, dyeing, color theory and creativity. She was a recipient of an Indiana Artist Grant by the Indiana Arts Commission and her work has been shown in many fiber arts exhibitions and fine art and craft shows.

Patti Hodge and Nan Talley of Fiber Antics, USA, joined forces about seven years ago when they met at a local Llama and Alpaca show. Patti and her husband, Joe, have been raising Alpacas and Llamas for 12 years and have 17 Alpacas and eight Llamas on a small farm in Whiteland, Indiana. Nan and her husband, John, raise quality show Llamas and one Suri Alpaca (Nan just "had to have" some Suri fiber in her work!) on their farm near Greenwood, Indiana, about fifteen minutes from the Hodge's farm. Patti and Nan have been privileged to study under nationally and internationally known wet felting instructors. Both love the creative aspect of wet felting, and have felted objects from kitchen and dining chairs to china.

Pam Kinnaman and her husband moved to rural Greene County, Indiana, from Florida ten years ago to fulfill Pam's dream of living on a farm, raising Shetland Sheep and learning to spin and weave her own wool. Although new to fiber arts, Pam's developing skills include spinning, weaving, knitting, and crocheting. But, her past professional experience in creating programs led her to bring Indiana fiber producers and artists together to form the Indiana Fiber Producers Association (IFPA). In November of 2008,

IFPA opened a shop called *It's About Fiber* on the Kinnaman's farm selling member's products and offering fiber arts classes conducted by members.

Sheryl Meacham's Gwenyth Glynn Wensleydales farm exists as a result of her Irish and Scottish heritage and a love for fiber. The farm is located in the "knobs" - small hills - of Southern Indiana overlooking the mighty Ohio River and the horse racing capital, Louisville, Kentucky. Sheryl maintains a flock of over forty Wensleydales. Their goal is to produce the very best fleeces, therefore they are not necessarily breeding just to produce a higher percentage of lambs but rather lambs of quality. They have an attractive color range in their sheep - black, gray, heather, and white – and their goal is to maintain 50% of the flock in color. They have benefited from a brisk demand for their colored fleeces and strive to meet this growing market.

Lynne Oakes has more than 30 years of exemplary experience as a teacher and tapestry weaver. She has a Masters degree in Art education with a concentration in textiles. Lynne's high level of enthusiasm and warm manner have made her a very popular instructor. Students leave motivated and excited about exploring tapestry weaving.

As a child, **Diana Young** always wanted to learn how to spin and in 1977, finally took spinning lessons. To her, there is nothing so rewarding as making something from yarn that you have spun yourself. She and her husband raise English and Giant Angora rabbits and offer living history demonstrations. When the Kromski brand of spinning wheels were imported to the United States, Diana pursued and obtained the dealership because of their "Old World" look. Teaching spinning classes is one way she feels that she can actively pass on the spinning tradition.

About the Indiana Fiber Producers Association: The Indiana Fiber Producers Association is a membership organization for producers of and those who create fiber arts with all kinds of animal and plant fibers from Indiana. The purpose of the association is to educate the public on the different kinds of fiber, strengthen the value of fiber, promote fiber arts, and to make available various means for members to market their products. More information can be found on their website at infiber.wordpress.com.

About Monroe Bank's Art Outreach:

Since the year 2000, Monroe Bank has used its Kirkwood Banking Center lobby in Bloomington as gallery space for dozens of local artists, including painters, photographers and fiber artists. In 2008, the Bank expanded its art gallery reach in Bloomington to include a gallery annex in the Bank's Wealth Management offices which are located in the Monroe Bank's Mall Road Banking Center.

For each exhibition, which typically runs three to four months, Monroe Bank hosts an opening reception for the artists exhibiting in its galleries. While Monroe Bank customers and employees enjoy the artworks on a daily basis, members of the public are invited to stop by the art galleries from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays to view the artworks. Artworks are displayed in the banking center lobby, in offices and behind the teller line. Unless specified, all artworks can also be purchased.

Monroe Bancorp, headquartered in Bloomington, Indiana, is an Indiana bank holding company with Monroe Bank as its wholly owned subsidiary. Monroe Bank was established in Bloomington in 1892 and offers a full range of financial, trust

and investment services through its 17 offices in Central and South Central Indiana. The Company's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global® Stock Market under the symbol MROE.