FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 22, 2014 Contact:

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40 North | 88 West Announces 2014 Boneyard Signature Image and Boneyard Connect Events for the 12th Annual Boneyard Arts Festival

- "Reticulation" (felt, thread, nylon string, light) by artist Laura Wennstrom announced as signature image for 2014 Boneyard Arts Festival
- Boneyard Connect Events artist/ venue socials set to take place on 2/4, 2/11, and 2/13
- Boneyard Blog helps artists and venues collaborate on Boneyard events and exhibits

Champaign County – 40 North | 88 West – Champaign County Arts Council – is pleased to announce the Signature Image for the 2014 Boneyard Arts Festival taking place **April 10-13.** After evaluating over 95 outstanding submissions, a panel of local arts professionals selected Laura Wennstrom's "*Reticulation*" (felt, thread, nylon string, light) to be the signature image of the 2014 Boneyard Arts Festival!

Laura Wennstrom is an MFA candidate in New Media at the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign. She received her undergraduate degree in Studio Art from North Park University in Chicago in 2009. Laura has worked with children in underserved neighborhoods across the Midwest and in rural Ecuador teaching art, reading, and special education. She has developed and implemented art curriculum for after school programs for students in pre-kindergarten through high school seniors. In addition, Laura has created several public murals in collaboration with children and adults from local communities.

The judging panel for the Boneyard signature image consisted of **Jason Patterson**, local artist; **Rehema Barber**, Visiting Coordinator at Figure One; **Leif Olson** local artist and 2013 Signature Artist; **Ralph Roether**, graphic designer at Horizon Hobby and local artist; **Gail Rost**, General Manager of I.D.E.A. Store.

Boneyard Connect Events to take place in February

Boneyard Connect events are socials provided to help artists and venues connect with each other for the Boneyard Arts Festival. A limited number of tables will be available for artists to showcase their work. To sign up for a table, please contact Amanda at abaker@40north.org or 217.363.3795. All events are free and open to public to everyone interested in participating in or learning more about the Boneyard Arts Festival.

Urbana – presented by Urbana Business Association February 4th, 5:30-7:30pm Buvons Wine bar, Urbana Complimentary refreshments provided

Champaign – presented by Champaign Center Partnership Tuesday, February 11th, 5:30-7:30pm Big Grove Tavern in Champaign Complimentary refreshments provided

Campus – presented by Champaign Center Partnership Tuesday, February 13^{th,} 5:30-7:30pm Legends on Campus Complimentary refreshments provided

The Boneyard Blog

The Boneyard Blog (boneyardartsfestival.wordpress.com) is an interactive online tool to help artists and venues connect with one another and make plans for the Boneyard Arts Festival. The blog features complete information on how to participate, space for artists and venues to list info and find others to work with, frequently asked questions, registration materials, news updates and more.

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40 North | 88 West – Champaign County Arts Council - is committed to cultivating creativity in Champaign County. Through advocacy, information and collaboration, 40 North supports and promotes the important role that arts, culture and education hold in making the community a great place to live, work, learn and play. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. For more, visit www.40north.org.

To Contact 40 North

For additional information on the Boneyard Arts Festival, or to arrange interviews, contact Kelly White, 40 North Executive Director, at kwhite@40north.org or 217-351-9841, Amanda Baker, 40 North Programs and Events Coordinator, at abaker@40north.org or 217-363-3795, or Cynthia Johnson, Boneyard Arts Festival Chair, at ed@urbanabusiness.com.