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### **International Brush Painting Exhibit Includes Work by Danielle Wilson of Iron Mountain**

HANCOCK – Finlandia University art and design junior Danielle “D.C.” Wilson (Iron Mountain) is one of 15 artists featured in the 2008 International Sumi-E Brush Painting Contest and Exhibition organized by the Federation of American Asian Culture and Art.

Her painting, “Woman and Fish” won honorable mention. The painting was sold during its premiere exhibit in Osaka, Japan. The sumi-e exhibition will also appear in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan.

“When I was accepted into the show, I was very excited,” said Wilson. “It was a surprise because I had never painted with sumi-e on such a large scale; the piece was my first legitimate attempt. It’s the first major painting I’ve ever sold.”

The painting is of a nude woman wading in water with koi and lily pads around her, Wilson says. One fish is leaping up to her down-turned hand, and a tattoo on her hip mirrors the jumping fish. The colors of the fish and the water are complimentary and bright, and the woman’s figure is warm and soft.

“I drew the figure from a live model and wanted to do something traditional for my first large-scale ink painting,” Wilson adds. “I was inspired by Japanese brushworks I had seen in the past; most sumi-e paintings are full of symbolism and harmony. I wanted to paint something peaceful and fluid.”

Wilson’s piece is somewhat unique among sumi-e brushwork paintings as the subject is a nude. “I reviewed a few former entries to this particular show and I noticed that there were never nude females,” Wilson says. “There were landscapes, animals, and figures, but never full body studies. I just painted what I wanted to paint and hoped that it was enjoyable. Because the work is being exhibited in Asia, I haven’t had contact with many viewers, but because it was purchased I can assume that they liked it!”

Wilson is an illustration major at Finlandia, but she says she has a great love of traditional painting. She expects to complete her bachelor of fine arts in 2010. At Finlandia she is involved in the BAC

(Bohemian Artist Coalition) and a new tolerance club being organized by Finlandia students. She also teaches informal French lessons for Finlandia's International Club.

Wilson is currently completing a children's book that will be on display at the Jutila Center Campus Reflection Gallery in the coming weeks. Like the sumi-e painting, Wilson says the children's book is in ink and watercolor.

Wilson graduated from Kingsford High School. Her parents are John and Lynne Wilson of Iron Mountain, Mich.

The purpose of the International Sumi-E Brush Painting Contest and Exhibition is to promote art education, and to foster the sense of beauty by encouraging submission of ink brush paintings, says the Federation of Asian Culture and Art website ([www.ifacasumi-e.org](http://www.ifacasumi-e.org)). The mission of the annual contest and exhibition is to advance international cultural exchange to help to build a better and more harmonious global community.

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*Photo cutline: Danielle Wilson*