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**1/ST RACING AND MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB ANNOUNCE 3RD ANNUAL
ART OF RACING**

*CALL FOR ENTRIES INVITES ARTISTS TO SUBMIT THEIR ORIGINAL
ARTWORK IN ANTICIPATION OF PREAKNESS 149*

BALTIMORE – *The Art of Racing*, an annual partnership between 1/ST, the Maryland Jockey Club, and the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), today launched its 2024 program.

As a nationwide call for entries of original, two-dimensional visual art celebrating the Preakness Stakes and Thoroughbred horse racing, the unique competition commemorates the second jewel of the Triple Crown Series. Beginning today, artists can submit their entries to www.preakness.com/the-art-of-racing. Submissions will be accepted through March 11th.

In the past two years, the program has drawn more than 300 entries from artists across 19 states, each depicting different elements of Thoroughbred horse racing as reflected in the Preakness Stakes. The competition included an open voting phase, during which the public was invited to visit www.preakness.com/the-art-of-racing to cast their vote for their favorite work of art.

From March 12th through March 26th visitors to *The Art of Racing* website can cast their votes for this year's entries. The top 10 vote-getters will then be entered into the finalist category, with the winning piece selected by an esteemed panel of judges from the artistic, business, philanthropic and political communities that provide support to Park Heights as the home of Preakness 149.

The winning artist of the third-annual competition will be awarded a \$4,000 prize and two tickets to Preakness 149 on Saturday, May 18th, 2024. In addition, their work will be reproduced on a curated collection of Preakness 149 merchandise that will be available for purchase online and onsite during Preakness weekend. Proceeds from merchandise sales will be directed – for the third consecutive year – to the Park Heights Renaissance, a non-profit organization pursuing employment opportunities and affordable housing for Park Heights residents.

1/ST and the Park Heights Renaissance have an ongoing partnership to raise awareness of Park Heights' storied culture. *The Art of Racing* is among a series of initiatives between 1/ST and the Park Heights Renaissance that includes the George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan Stakes and the George E. Mitchell Park Heights Community Fellowship Grant. As an extension of the late community advocate George E. Mitchell's legacy, *The Art of Racing* recognizes and honors individuals who demonstrate a similarly commendable commitment to the Park Heights community.

“As we kick off the third-annual *Art of Racing* competition, we’re thrilled to invite artists nationwide to capture the Preakness Stakes through their unique perspectives,” said Audra Madison, Director of Marketing, Maryland Jockey Club. “Once again, we look forward to blending artistic achievement with the vibrant world of Thoroughbred horse racing.”

The winner of last year’s competition was Justin Johnson, a Baltimore-based artist, whose original illustration titled “The Face of Victory” was selected from among the 207 total submissions.

Beginning in the 1970s, the relationship between MICA and the Preakness Stakes was revitalized by *The Art of Racing*. A tribute to the seven murals created by then-MICA professor Raoul Middleman and his students that live in perpetuity in Pimlico Race Course’s grandstand, the competition honors a tradition forged by both Maryland-based institutions defined by history, scholarship, and character.

“*The Art of Racing* is a testament to the connection between the arts and Thoroughbred horse racing, two realms that have shaped Maryland’s cultural landscape,” said Dr. Mina Cheon, MICA’s Dean of Undergraduate Studies. “I take great pleasure in encouraging participation from MICA’s talented students, dedicated faculty, proud alumni, and our vibrant community, as we contribute to the artistic legacy of this cherished tradition.”

For more information on *The Art of Racing*, please visit www.preakness.com/the-art-of-racing or follow @PreaknessStakes and #Preakness on social media.

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About The Stronach Group and 1/ST

The Stronach Group is a world-class technology, entertainment and real estate development company with Thoroughbred horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering at the core. The company’s consumer facing brand **1/ST** (pronounced "First") powers The Stronach Group’s forward-thinking **1/ST RACING**, **1/ST CONTENT**, **1/ST TECHNOLOGY**, **1/ST EXPERIENCE**, and **1/ST PROPERTIES** businesses, while advocating for and driving the **1/ST HORSE CARE** mission. **1/ST** represents The Stronach Group’s continued movement toward redefining Thoroughbred horse racing and the ecosystem that drives it. **1/ST RACING** drives the best-in-class horse racing operations at the company’s premier racetracks and training centers including: Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields and San Luis Rey Downs (California); Gulfstream Park – home of the Pegasus World Cup Championship Invitational Series and Palm Meadows Thoroughbred Training Center (Florida); the Maryland Jockey Club at Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course – home of the legendary Preakness Stakes, Rosecroft Raceway and Bowie Training Center (Maryland). **1/ST CONTENT** is the newly formed operating group for **1/ST’s** media and content companies including: Monarch Content Management, Elite, GWS and XBTv. **1/ST TECHNOLOGY** is horse racing’s largest racing and gaming technology company offering world-class products via its AmTote, Xpressbet, **1/ST BET**, XB SELECT, XB NET, PariMAX and Betmix brands. **1/ST EXPERIENCE** blends the worlds of sports, entertainment, and hospitality through innovative content development, elevated national and local venue management and hospitality, strategic partnerships, sponsorships, and procurement development. **1/ST PROPERTIES** is responsible for the development of the company’s live, work and play communities surrounding its racing venues including: The Village at Gulfstream Park (Florida) and Paddock Pointe (Maryland). As the advocate for critical industry reforms and by making meaningful investments into aftercare programs for retired horses and jockeys, **1/ST HORSE CARE** represents The Stronach Group’s commitment to achieving the highest level of

horse and rider care and safety standards in Thoroughbred horse racing on and off the track. For more information, please visit www.1st.com.

About the Maryland Jockey Club

Established in 1743, the Maryland Jockey Club was founded over 30 years before the start of the Revolutionary War and is chartered as the oldest sporting organization in North America. Maryland's "gem," the Maryland Jockey Club is the premier sports and entertainment destination for world-class Thoroughbred horse racing between Baltimore, MD, and Washington, D.C. Maryland Jockey Club operates Pimlico Race Course – home of the world-famous Preakness Stakes – and Laurel Park Race Course. For more information, please visit www.marylandjockeyclub.com.

About MICA

Acknowledged nationally as a premier leader in art and design education, MICA is deliberately cultivating a new generation of artist – one that is capable of seamlessly integrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and creative citizenship with contemporary approaches to art, design, and media. MICA is redefining the role of the artists and designers as creative, solutions-oriented makers and thinkers who will drive social, cultural, and economic advancement for our future. As the oldest continuously degree-granting college of art and design in the nation, MICA is located in Baltimore, deeply connected to the community. It is a leading contributor to the creative economy regionally and a top producer of nationally and internationally recognized professional artists and designers. For more information, please visit www.MICA.edu.