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### Artist Kate Kretz Achieves Worldwide Fame With Angelina Jolie Painting

Visionary painter Kate Kretz' huge, luminous oil painting depicting Angelina Jolie as a Madonna floating on clouds above the fluorescent-lit aisles of Wal-Mart became an overnight sensation when it was exhibited by Chelsea Galleria at the Art Miami art fair recently. First featured on NBC and CBS television at the opening of the fair, the image of Kretz' Neo-Renaissance masterpiece was picked up by Associated Press feeds and appeared in over one hundred and thirty newspapers worldwide, including the New York Times. After being featured on the home page of Yahoo, within hours the reverential depiction of one of the world's most beautiful and soulful women became the third most requested image.

Kretz comes to her international success after a substantial career as a highly respected Florida artist and educator. As a tenured Professor of painting at Florida International University for ten years, Kate was responsible for imparting her refined oil painting techniques to a generation of younger artists, and currently works full-time in her studio. She has been honored with a solo exhibition at Miami's Frost Art Museum, among other venues. Her work was described by Miami Herald art critic Elisa Turner as being "Lush, luminous...dreamy nighttime worlds alive with possibilities and portents" as well as "...painstakingly, immaculately crafted oil paintings". Further praise comes from Candice Russell writing in City Link who sums up the work as "Edgy, seductive work of...miraculous beauty"...that has "...the power to stop people in their tracks."

And indeed that is what happened at Chelsea Galleria's booth in the Miami Beach Convention Center during Art Miami. Over 25,000 people viewed the work over the course of the four days of the fair, many attending an art fair for the first time just to view the flowing beauty of Kretz' painting entitled "Blessed Art Thou". The work was priced by the gallery at \$50,000.

Kate Kretz is represented by Chelsea Galleria located in Miami's Wynwood art district, specializing in Contemporary Fine Art.