



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Cooper: Photographer Cat Captures Images with Collar Camera
Photo Exhibition at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Begins September 26***

CHICAGO (September 14, 2009) – Ever wonder what your pet does when you're not around? Curious cat owners Michael and Deirdre Cross did. Once a week, the Seattle couple began attaching a light-weight digital camera to the collar of their cat, Cooper, who captured rare cat's-eye images of the world. The surprising compositions of Cooper's daily adventures will be on display at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum September 26, 2009 through April 11, 2010.

"We wanted to see what our cat was up to while we were gone during the day, and had no idea he'd come back with such interesting photos," said Michael Cross.

They soon realized that his perspective on the world at six inches high, displaying light, color and movement, classify Cooper as a talented albeit accidental artist.

"He takes beautiful nature and wildlife scenes and amazing abstracts," said Deirdre Cross.

Thousands of images later, a unique body of work has emerged. The photographs in *Cooper: Photographer Cat* range from amusing, stunningly beautiful and even strangely haunting. The images and the unusual artist have attracted attention from across the globe as people learn Cooper's story and fall in love with his perspective on the world.

Cooper: Photographer Cat, which includes 18 framed images, will be on display at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum September 26, 2009 through April 11, 2010. Admission to the Museum, including special exhibitions, is \$9/adult, \$6/child 3-12, \$7/seniors and students. Thursdays are suggested donation days. Located at 2430 North Cannon Drive in Chicago's Lincoln Park, the Museum is open weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.naturemuseum.org or call 773-755-5100.

Photos available upon request:

1. *Risqué*
2. *Neighborhood Watch*

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About the Artist

Cooper was adopted as a stray in 2005 by Michael and Deirdre Cross. Cooper's photographs were seen by over 4,000 art lovers at Urban Light Studios in Seattle in February, 2009 and by thousands through his website, www.PhotographerCat.com. Cooper has been seen in People magazine and on Good Morning America, and is now the official photographer at Michael and Deirdre's company, Cross Films. A portion of Cooper's photo sales will be donated to PAWS Chicago. View and purchase prints at www.PhotographerCat.com.

Michael and Deirdre Cross will attend the opening weekend of the Cooper: Photographer Cat exhibit. They will be available for interviews on Friday, September 25th through Sunday, September 27th at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. They are also available for interviews prior to the exhibit by phone: 206-297-3456.

About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum inspire people to learn about and care for nature and the environment. The Academy, founded in 1857, improves the quality of life in Chicago and the region by delivering superior environmental and science education programs to students and teachers, by offering Museum exhibitions and conducting public programs that foster green living, and by restoring local ecosystems and advancing scientific knowledge through its collections and research.

During the past 10 years, the Chicago Academy of Sciences has welcomed nearly 2 million visitors to its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The Museum provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,700 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools each year. The Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. It is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.

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