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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Meet “Picard’s Posse” in *Visage Hoboken: Portraits by Jean-Paul Picard*

*Free opening reception for “Visage Hoboken,” Sunday, Nov. 8, from 2 – 5 p.m.
Artist’s talk on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. Exhibit on view through Dec. 23.*

Hoboken, N.J. – Nov. 5, 2009 – Inspired by the work of classic European photographers, including Gaspard-Félix Tournachon Nadar and August Sander, Jean-Paul Picard rented a studio space in 2006 in the Neumann Leathers complex that offered the perfect setting and lighting for a portrait series. Though he considers himself primarily a street photographer, who has documented Hoboken’s changing physical landscape over the 25 years he’s lived here, Picard wanted to tackle the challenge of combining traditional portrait techniques with the latest digital photography tools. He rounded up friends and acquaintances he calls “Picard’s Posse,” many of whom are well-known members of Hoboken’s creative community, and experimented with traditional portrait styles using natural light and modern technology.

He selected 20 distinctive portraits for an exhibit titled *Visage Hoboken: Portraits by Jean-Paul Picard*, which will be on display in the Upper Gallery of the Hoboken Historical Museum starting **November 8, with a free reception from 2 – 5 p.m.** The portraits are as varied as the subjects themselves: some formal and serious, some playful and joyous, but all expressive of a group of people united by the shared experience of living in Hoboken. Many others are on view on his own website, www.jean-paulpicard.com. Picard returns to the Museum for an artist’s talk on **Sunday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m.**, and the exhibit will be on view through Wednesday, December 23.

Born and raised in Morristown, N.J., Picard earned his Bachelors in Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design, where he studied graphic design and photography, among other subjects. He’s spent most of his professional career as a freelance graphic

design and production director, for local and national businesses and for advertising and packaging studios, often using his photography skills in the process. Along the way, he earned a certificate in web design and now designs and manages websites such as the Museum’s. He has also taught photography and darkroom techniques in the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program, as well as classes in photography and web design at the Hoboken Board of Education’s Adult Evening Program and at the Museum.

When he moved to Hoboken in 1981, he participated in the “Celebration ’82” arts event organized by the Hoboken Cultural Council at venues around the city. His photos of the March against Arson were included in the group show, “50 Artists on the Waterfront,” and a series, “Mom and Pop Stores,” was reviewed in the *New York Times*. Since then, his work has been exhibited many times in solo and juried shows, including the annual Hoboken Artists Studio Tour, and group shows such as “Life of the City,” at New York’s Museum of Modern Art, and “Here is New York: Remembering 9/11,” at the New York Historical Society.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum’s mission is to educate the public about Hoboken’s history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 7 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: Photos are available; please call 201-683-6935.