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CALVIN DEWITT TO SPEAK AT ARTS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

Environmental scientist, CreationCare.org founder on “cultural estuaries”

NEW YORK, NY (February 4, 2011) – What does an environmental scientist have to do with the arts? A lot, according to International Arts Movement (IAM), which has invited Dr. Calvin DeWitt, professor of environmental science at the University of Wisconsin and author of “Earth Wise: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues” to speak at IAM's annual conference in New York City. Dr. DeWitt will deliver a keynote speech to hundreds of artists and creative catalysts coming from all over the world to Encounter 11: Be Generative, taking place March 3-5 at Tribeca Performing Arts Center at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (TPAC).

Dr. DeWitt's areas of expertise include estuaries, wetlands, and land stewardship. In an interview on the IAM Conversations podcast, Dr. Dewitt explained that estuaries are “an interface between the sea and fresh water. They occur where fresh water joins sea water. One end is fresh, one end is salty, and in between there are all kinds of gradations between fresh and salty water.” In this “brackish” area, where fresh and salt water flow, “life absolutely flourishes.” In estuaries, fresh water species, salt water species, and organisms that flourish in brackish water thrive.

IAM Founder Makoto Fujimura sees estuaries as a perfect metaphor for culture. “Calvin DeWitt connects Creation Care with Culture Care (or can help us do this),” says Fujimura. “In order to move



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into Culture Care, we need to learn from Creation Care, what was done, and how we can learn from that. The fact that he is also an expert on estuary dynamics and the Hudson River painters really makes him ideal as well. We want to start to add another layer of conversation for the future of IAM - dialogue with creative catalysts/scientists!"

Dr. Dewitt will speak Friday, March 4, at 3:30 pm. He will be followed by author Jeffrey Overstreet ("The Auralia Thread" series) and journalist Roberta Ahmanson ("Blind Spot: When Journalists Don't Get Religion").

The conference will also feature former NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, author and speaker Erwin McManus, philosophers, filmmakers, authors, and a host of others addressing what it means to be "generative" as artists and creative catalysts. Performances by Kansas City-based modern dance company Störling Dance, rock ensemble River James, and poet Li-Young Lee will be given as well.

Single-day or full-conference registration is required. More information is available at www.iamencounter.com.

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