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CONTACT: Allison Weiss, Program Director

JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA THROUGH THE LENS OF JOAN MYERS

PHILADELPHIA— “I’ve experienced a part of the world that few have seen. I’ve had the opportunity to photograph and walk a continent that humans thus far have been unable to tame or exploit.” In one of her last journal entries as she leaves the continent on an icebreaker, Joan Myers sums up four months of photographing scientific study and daily life on Antarctica. In the second of this season’s Connoisseur Programs, the Geographical Society of Philadelphia will host Ms. Myers as she gives a multimedia presentation at the American Philosophical Society, Franklin Hall, 431 Chestnut Street on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 6:30 pm. A complimentary wine reception begins at 5:45 pm. Reservations are requested. Call the Geographical Society at (610) 649-5220 or visit www.geographicalsociety.org Admission is \$15 for Geographical Society members and \$20 for non-members.



Award-winning photographer Joan Myers, recipient of an Antarctic Artists and Writers Program grant from the National Science Foundation’s Office of Polar Programs, spent October 2002 through January 2003 photographing scientific study and the daily life at McMurdo Station. She also explored the interior of the continent by plane, ship, helicopter and snowmobile. While away from McMurdo, she spent some time photographing on a Coast Guard icebreaker, at the South Pole, at field stations in the Dry Valleys and from the top of Mt. Erebus, an active volcano, to name a few.

Throughout her journey, she photographed in below freezing temperatures with wind chills as low as -84 degrees Fahrenheit. Her photographs, which she will share at this presentation, have been compiled in ***Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey***

(Smithsonian Books, May 2006) and are in a traveling Smithsonian exhibit of the same name. In captivating color and black-and-white photographs, Myers' large panoramas of Antarctica's austere beauty and inhuman scale are juxtaposed with wildlife, people, and the abandoned huts of early explorers Scott and Shackleton.

Myers will also read from her journal, which provides a warm introduction to the people and places of this harsh yet surprisingly fragile environment. She will also describe the physical challenges of taking photographs in a place where a tripod freezes solid in five minutes and delve into the research, rhythms and rituals of life "on the ice." Also included will be historical, scientific and political background and a description of life at the station.

Joan Myers has been taking photographs for more than 30 years, exploring the relationships between people and the land. Her highly acclaimed work has been the focus of five books, including "Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California" and "Pie Town Woman," three Smithsonian exhibitions, and numerous solo and group shows. Myers maintains her studio and residence near Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information visit www.joanmyers.com

Since 1891 the Geographical Society of Philadelphia has been exploring the world and bringing it to the public with a focus on history, exploration and travel. For more information about the society and its programs, call (610) 649-5220 or email geosocphil@aol.com.

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