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January 25, 2010 (Ridgefield): A record number of visitors were welcomed to The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in 2009.

More than 33,000 people enjoyed the exhibitions, participated in education programs, and attended special events—a 25% increase over 2008.

The Museum attributes the success to the high-quality art exhibitions and education programs, as well as new and expanded initiatives such as *Bike Fest* and *Draw On!*

Director Harry Philbrick commented, "We are very happy that more people are discovering The Aldrich and all it has to offer. As people choose to spend their leisure time closer to home, our diverse programming, stellar exhibiting artists, and dedicated staff members have all contributed to this great achievement, which we hope to sustain and build upon."

The Museum: The Aldrich is one of the few independent, non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, and the only museum devoted to contemporary art in Connecticut. The Museum was opened to the public and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1964 by founder Larry Aldrich, who displayed the new work in a landmark 1783 house on Ridgefield's historic Main Street, used today for administrative offices. Since 2004 the galleries have been located in a new 25,000 square-foot facility which received a design award from the American Institute of Architects. Entering a new decade, the Museum is focusing on solo exhibitions by emerging and mid-career artists. The acclaimed education programs will continue to be based in the galleries, using the work on view to help adults, families, and over 7,000 students annually to connect to our world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.