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**Black Jack To Host Intimate Meet & Greet With Art-O-Mat Creator
Clark Whittington On Saturday, November 19th**

WHAT: Jeff and Barbara Black, Chef/Owners of Black Restaurant Group and the newly opened Pearl Dive Oyster Palace and Black Jack restaurants, are pleased to announce a complimentary meet and greet with Art-O-Mat Creator Clark Whittington, which is open to the public. On Saturday, November 19th from 3 PM to 5 PM, Whittington will be at Black Jack to discuss his innovative concept and answer questions about his organization, Artists in Cellophane. His Washington, DC visit is part of a nation-wide initiative to find local artists to contribute their work to Art-O-Mats across the country. Black Jack is home to one of only two Art-O-Mats in Washington, DC. There are 90 Art-O-Mats in the United States, which sell 25,000 original works of art each year for \$5 a piece.

Creator Clark Whittington has always been focused on supporting local artists in the Washington area including Georgina Goodlander; Jodi Hoover; Alyssa Salomon; Sarah Aitken; Catherine Bohrman and Julie Ann Pelletier.

WHEN: Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 3 PM until 5 PM.

WHERE: Black Jack is located at 1612 14th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009. It is three blocks from the U Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo and is Metro accessible on the Yellow and Green Lines. For additional information about Black Jack please call (202) 986-5225 or visit www.BlackJackDC.com.

WHY: Clark Whittington manufactured the Art-O-Mat in 1997 when he witnessed a friend have a "Pavlovian" reaction to hearing someone open a cellophane packaged snack and then having an uncontrollable urge to also buy one. He then transformed an abandoned cigarette machine into an art-vending device called the Art-O-Mat. Highlighting local artists is a key and each Art-O-Mat is designed to be a resource for local artists so the company is always seeking new artists to showcase long term. Guidelines can be found at <http://www.artomat.org/guidelines.html>.

Artists in Cellophane (A.I.C.), the sponsoring organization of Art-O-Mat, is based on the concept of taking art and "repackaging" it to make it part

of our daily lives. The mission of A.I.C. is to encourage art consumption by combining the worlds of art and commerce in an innovative form. A.I.C believes that art should be progressive, yet personal and approachable. For more information please visit <http://www.artomat.org/home.html>.

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