

**KU Memorial Unions
Media Release**

J.R. Hamil Exhibit at Kansas Union Gallery Opens October 1

September 24, 2007 (LAWRENCE, KS) – J.R. Hamil, renown regional artist, will have both new and classic artwork displayed in the Kansas Union Gallery, 1301 Jayhawk Blvd., from October 1 through October 19th. A reception and book signing are scheduled at the gallery and Oread Books, level two of the Kansas Union, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on October 1. The public is invited.

Mr. Hamil has been painting full-time since 1973. In addition to painting Mr. Hamil conducts workshops, demonstrations and work for a variety of publications. His prints, books and calendars are available throughout the Midwest.

Among the books and articles published are *Farmland, USA* (over 15,000 sold), *Return to Kansas* (over 17,000 sold) and *Bringing Life to Your Skies* artist's Magazine. His illustrations have appeared in many other publications including *Colorado without Mountains, Nebraska, There's No Place Like It*; numerous magazines, in annual reports for the Omaha National Bank (which won the Gold Award) and Charter Banks (a history of Missouri which won the Omni Award), and many others. In 2003 he received the Pinnacle Award for Excellence in the Arts, was named Best Local Artist by the readers of the Kansas City Magazine and was featured in the Best Times, a newspaper which is sent to all citizens of Johnson County over the age of 60.

Jim has published over fifty limited edition prints; many of them illustrating the beauty of Kansas, Missouri, Colorado and the Caribbean. In 1990, Kansas Governor Hayden named Jim "Governor's Artist" and presented a print of the Flint Hills to all members of the Kansas legislature. Jim's prints have been used by numerous organizations in fund raising efforts.

Mr. Hamil has also had shows and exhibits throughout the Midwest and has received numerous awards in national and regional shows. He was included in the book *Kansas Arts and Crafts* and one of his paintings traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of the *Kansas Landscape* exhibit. His works are also represented in the corporate and personal collections of the Eisenhower family, Senators Dole, Pearson and Langworthy, among others.

Oread Books is a full-service, independent bookseller located on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence on the second floor of the Kansas Union. As a non-profit organization in the division of Student Success, all proceeds are given back to KU through student programs and activities.

The selection and events at Oread Books are reflective of the campus community, always current and representing diverse points of view.