



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART  
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Jackson, Mississippi 39201

**For Immediate Release**  
Date: July 1, 2010

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**Mississippi Museum of Art Exhibits Temporary Installation during Federal Building's Renovation**  
*Southern Wall* by William Christenberry now on view

(Jackson, Miss.)...The Mississippi Museum of Art has temporarily installed *Southern Wall*, a sculpture by Alabama artist William Christenberry, while the McCoy Federal Building is under renovation.

*Southern Wall* (1979) incorporates remnants of rural landscapes and buildings into a sculptural tableau. The seven unit, 32-foot wall sculpture includes corrugated tin, and weathered siding from a 100-year-old barn accented with tobacco, soft drink, and commercial rural signs. The piece includes a window revealing photographs of Mississippi landscapes.

Christenberry's *Southern Wall* was installed in the open-air entrance foyer of the McCoy Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1979.

"William Christenberry is one of America's most distinguished contemporary artists, and his work has always referenced his Southern roots," states Museum Deputy Director of Programs Dan Piersol. "The Museum is honored to display his *Southern Wall*, a monumental signature work constructed of discarded building materials, worn advertising sign and old photographs,

which, together, evoke a powerful, enduring sense of time and place. The Mississippi Museum of Art is grateful to the Fine Arts Program, U.S. General Services Administration for making possible this important loan that will allow us to present the artist's work to our visitors."

William Christenberry was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and received degrees from the University of Alabama. Nationally recognized as an artist, photographer, teacher, and arts advocate, Christenberry's work has always referenced the vernacular culture of the rural South. His works are in such prestigious museums as the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D. C.

*Southern Wall* is part of GSA's Art in Architecture Program where the country's best artists display some of their best work in our country's federal buildings. Shyam Reddy, GSA's Regional Administrator, stated 'we are proud to have this beautiful mixed media work of art as a permanent fixture in the first federal building to be named in honor of an African American – Dr. A.H. McCoy. We are equally proud to share it with the Mississippi Museum of Art and the citizens of Jackson; it is a powerful example of creativity and innovation in art and serves as an inspiration to all of us."

*Southern Wall* is on display at the Mississippi Museum of Art in the Public Corridor. Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., closed Monday. Admission is FREE for *Southern Wall*. Hours and admission may vary during major exhibitions. For more information about

this and other exhibitions, contact the Mississippi Museum of Art at 601-960-1515, or visit the web at [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org).

*The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are sponsored in part by the city of Jackson and the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau. Support is also provided in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

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