



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART
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MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION

***American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast:
George Ohr, Dusti Bongé, Walter Anderson, Richmond Barthé***

Exhibition opens to public April 11, 2009

(Jackson, Miss.) . . . The Mississippi Museum of Art proudly presents “American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast,” a traveling exhibition organized by the Mississippi Arts Commission, featuring works by Mississippi Gulf Coast natives George Ohr, Dusti Bongé, Walter Anderson, and Richmond Barthé. The exhibition opens to the public April 11 and is on view through July 12, 2009.

The exhibition is underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and is the second in a series highlighting the cultural contributions of historic Mississippi personas in art, literature, theatre, and dance. William P. Andrews, gallery director with Mississippi State University’s Department of Art, serves as the project coordinator for the exhibition, which will have visited nine venues across Mississippi between August 2008 and January 2010.

Locally, “American Masters of the Gulf Coast” is sponsored by the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. William S. Painter, managing shareholder of the Firm's Jackson office, states, “Our Firm is grateful for the opportunity to support this unique presentation. The work by these renowned Mississippi artists is a vivid reminder to us of the Gulf Coast’s natural beauty, humanity, and spirit.”

The Mississippi Museum of Art’s deputy director for programs, Dan Piersol, explains, “This exhibition reveals to the viewer that these remarkable

Gulf Coast artists were marching to the drumbeat of modernism, but that each was following his or her individual path. Their individual aesthetic philosophies and concepts are certainly avant-garde and progressive and, more important, their creative visions and means to achieve them are so diverse and absolutely singular.”

Additionally, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Starkville Area Arts Council, and MSU Department of Art are publishing a 104 page, full-color, hardback catalogue on the lives of the artists and artworks included in the exhibition. Noted Mississippi historian Patti Carr Black is lending her expertise to the project by serving as exhibition curator and editor of the accompanying catalogue, which will be available for purchase in The Museum Store, among other venues. The catalogue was designed by MSU Department of Art Graphic Design Professor Rebecca Davis-Kelly.

“It is a privilege for the Mississippi Arts Commission to partner in this rare and remarkable project that honors and recognizes these gifted Mississippians through the American Masterpieces Initiative,” said Malcolm White, MAC executive director. “Through this exhibition and publication, we hope to offer a thoughtful and respectful view of these legendary visual artists who drew life and inspiration from our beloved Mississippi Gulf Coast.”

Future exhibition dates are July 25 – August 29 2009 | University of Mississippi Museum, Oxford; September 10 - October 15, 2009 | USM Museum of Art, Hattiesburg; November 6, 2009 - January 10, 2010 | Walter Anderson Museum of Art, Ocean Springs.

The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency, funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Wallace Foundation, The Phil Hardin Foundation, Donna and Jim Barksdale, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, and other private sources. The Mississippi Arts Commission is the official grants-making and service agency for the arts in Mississippi. The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education. For more information contact the Mississippi Arts Commission at 601-359-6030.

The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are supported 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.

Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., closed Monday. Admission is FREE for “American Masters of the Gulf Coast.” 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.