



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART
380 South Lamar Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

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Media Contact: Julian Rankin
jrankin@msmuseumart.org
601-960-1515

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBIT

Cabbagetown: Photographs by Oraien Catledge **September 25, 2010 – January 16, 2011**

(Jackson, Miss) ... The Mississippi Museum of Art is delighted to announce a new exhibition to be displayed in The Donna and Jim Barksdale Galleries for Changing Exhibitions. *Cabbagetown: Photographs by Oraien Catledge*, documents the residents of Atlanta's Cabbagetown, a traditionally poor and downtrodden segment of the city. The people of the hard-working borough opened up to Catledge, whom they called "the picture man," resulting in an impressive collection of photographs of everyday life, hardships, and the inherent intimacy of the human condition. The exhibit will be on display from September 25, 2010 through January 16, 2011.

Visitors to the Museum will experience Cabbagetown, a neighborhood established in 1881 to house Appalachian workers who labored in Jacob Elsas' Fulton Bag and Cotton Mills. After the firm's closing in 1977, the residents remained, many without consistent work or means of support. Cabbagetown during this period was a space in time rich with personality and character but devoid of honest documentation – a frontier of experience. In 1980 Catledge,

who had moved to Atlanta in the years previous, saw a television news feature about Cabbagetown, and began making weekly trips to the neighborhood to take photographs. For more than 20 years, he captured in his black and white photographs the people of the neglected industrial community. Reminiscent of Dorothea Lange's Dust Bowl photography and Walker Evans' Great Depression era work, Oraien Catledge's efforts gave life within the frame to persons who were largely unnoticed or on the periphery of wider society's consciousness.

The exhibit features 85 photographs chosen for their saliency and representational value, 61 of which are part of the Museum's permanent collection. Those not part of the Museum's archives were supplemented by the artist himself.

Cabbagetown was aptly named for the rumored stench of cabbage that roamed the city during dinner hours. The characteristics of the place that drove some away attracted Oraien Catledge; namely, the steadfast, family oriented existence and resiliency. Catledge lacked formal training with a camera, and was doubly hindered by a congenital visual impairment, but his "face-to-face" approach earned the trust of his subjects and produced stark, intimate images.

A hard-bound book featuring Catledge's photographs, entitled *Oraien Catledge: Photographs of Cabbagetown*, has been published by the University Press of Mississippi and edited by Richard Ford and Constance Lewis. It is available for purchase in The Museum Store.

The Oraien Catledge exhibit is open to the public beginning September 25, 2010, at a cost of \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students.

Admission includes access to the Museum's concurrent exhibition entitled *River and Reverie: Paintings of the Mississippi by Rolland Golden*. Museum hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday, 12 PM to 5 PM.

For more information about this exhibition and other programs offered by the Mississippi Museum of Art, visit the web at www.msmuseumart.org or call 601-960-1515 or toll free 1-866-VIEW-ART.

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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