



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART  
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**Mississippi Museum of Art Announces Artists for  
2011 *Mississippi Invitational* Exhibition  
October 8, 2011 - February 5, 2012**

**(Jackson, Miss.)** ... The Mississippi Museum of Art (the Museum) is pleased to announce the thirteen artists selected for inclusion in the 2011 *Mississippi Invitational* biennial exhibition. The artists, all residents of Mississippi, are Suzi Altman, Brandon; Duncan Baird, Cleveland; Critz Campbell, West Point; Causey Cato, Yazoo City and Starkville; Marcus C. Frazier, Natchez; Tammy McGrew, Port Gibson; Rod Moorhead, Oxford; Susa Nawrocki, Columbus; H. C. Porter and Gretchen Haien, Vicksburg/Jackson; David Jason Pressgrove, Jackson; Steve Shepard, Gautier; and Evert Witte, Bay St. Louis.

Robin Dietrick, Curator of Exhibitions at the Museum, said, "This survey exhibition of artists who live and work in our state is always one of the most anticipated and most exciting exhibitions we present at the Mississippi Museum of Art. The caliber of artwork included in our invitational exhibitions speaks to the artistic talent found throughout Mississippi."

Initiated in 1997, the *Mississippi Invitational* surveys recent developments by contemporary visual artists living and working across the state, and includes

work in diverse mediums. The 2011 exhibition marks the eighth iteration, and is on view from October 8, 2011 through February 5, 2012.

This year's process began with a call to artists from the Museum for sample images of artwork. One hundred sixty-one submissions were considered by acclaimed curator Franklin Sirmans, the Terri and Michael Smooke Department Head and Curator of Contemporary Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Sirmans identified eighteen applicants for in-person studio visits and, after four days of statewide travel, narrowed that number to the final thirteen.

"When I reviewed the call to select this year's participants in the *Mississippi Invitational*, I knew the process would be full of surprises," said Guest Curator Franklin Sirmans. "And, they were all pleasant! The range of subjects and media is a testament to the work being done in Mississippi. The studio visits were immersions into some brilliant minds."

"We continue to be amazed by the number of gifted artists for whom Mississippi is home. The thirteen included in this year's *Invitational* are but a sampling of the talented individuals living and working across our state," said Betsy Bradley, Director of the Mississippi Museum of Art.

In addition to exhibiting in the *Mississippi Invitational* exhibition, all thirteen artists are eligible to apply for The Jane Crater Hiatt Artist Fellowship. The fellowship was created in 2005 by Jane Crater Hiatt and her late husband Wood (1930 - 2010) in response to the need to nurture and invigorate the arts in the state. A grant of up to \$15,000 is awarded to one artist who may use it for study

with an individual artist or in a studio, workshop, or residency setting; to pursue projects which further artistic development and support the realization of specific creative ideas; to purchase supplies and equipment; to conduct research; and to travel. The artist is then required to donate one original work of art to the Museum from at least five works created during the two-year grant period. This year's fellowship recipient will be announced at a private reception for the exhibiting artists on Friday evening, October 7.

According to Jane Hiatt, "The idea for this fellowship grew from my years of listening to artists and learning what a difference mid-career travel and study can make in an artist's vision, skill, and scope. Wood and I wanted to foster that. And we wanted to enhance the Mississippi Museum of Art's relationship with artists living in the state."

Hiatt also sponsors the exhibition and accompanying catalogue through the Hiatt-Ingram Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson/Jane Hiatt.

An opening reception for Museum members is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Museum. HORNE LLP is sponsoring the event.

Robert Alexander, HORNE LLP Partner, said, "Our Mississippi heritage is important to who we are as a firm, and we're honored to be a part of showcasing our state's talented artists."

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, noon to 5 PM. The Museum is closed Monday. Admission to the 2011 *Mississippi Invitational* is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students;

includes admission to *Skating: An Artist's Book by Jane Kent and Richard Ford* and *Rembrandt: Beyond the Brush*. Admission is free for Museum members.

For more information about the Mississippi Museum of Art's exhibitions, programs, and special events, please call 601-960-1515 or 1-866-VIEW ART (843-9278), or visit [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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