



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

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Media Contact: Jana Brady
jbrady@msmuseumart.org
601.960.1515

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES NEW WELTY EXHIBITION

Recently Discovered Mural Unveiled as Welty Centennial Celebration Continues

(Jackson, Miss.) . . . As time nears for the Mississippi State Fair's gates to open, the Mississippi Museum of Art premieres an exhibition of photographs that harkens back to the fairs of yesteryear. *Merriment on the Midway: Eudora Welty's State Fair Mural and Photographs* opens to the public Saturday, September 26, 2009 and runs through January 3, 2010.

Merriment on the Midway is made possible by the Eudora Welty Foundation, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the law firm of Adams and Reese LLP.

A resident of Jackson her entire life, with the exception of her college years, Mississippi writer Eudora Welty enjoyed outings with her friends to the annual state fair where they experienced the carousel, spinning rides, carnival animals, and sideshow acts, all of which Welty captured with her camera. Her fascination with the fair and all the excitement one can experience on the midway come through in the fifteen photographs included in this exhibition.

According to Mary Alice White, director of the Eudora Welty House, which is collaborating with the Museum on the exhibition as part of Miss Welty's centennial celebration, "The Eudora Welty House and Eudora Welty Foundation are thrilled that the Mississippi Museum of Art is displaying these very timely images. We would encourage fairgoers to visit this exhibition to get a feel for the fair of the 1930s."

A colorfully-painted mural depicting Mississippi State Fair festivities is the centerpiece of this installation. Rendered by Welty on two wood panels, the painting was discovered in 2004 in the basement of Welty's house during renovations to the Pinehurst Street property by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Welty's style and humor are evident in the figures and forms that fill the composition which includes images of livestock, a ticket taker, a fortune teller, beauty queens, burgers and drinks, sugar cane, exhibitors with preserves, pies, flowers, and a quilt, and much more.

"This is a splendid opportunity for the public to view these rarely seen images. It is possible that some of these photographs have never been published or exhibited before and certainly never at this scale or in association with Welty's mural," stated H. T. Holmes, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The Jackson office of Adams and Reese is part of a regional network of offices strategically located throughout the South Central United States and Washington, DC.

Holmes S. Adams, a partner with Adams and Reese states, "Our success is directly related to the success of the communities where we work and live. For over a decade, we have been a proud member of the Jackson community and we are particularly pleased to partner with the Mississippi Museum of Art in exhibiting Miss Welty's work for everyone to enjoy."

Merriment on the Midway: Eudora Welty's State Fair Mural and Photographs is free to the public, and is on view in the Mississippi Museum of Art's Public Corridor.

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. – 5 p. m., Sunday noon to 5 p.m., closed Monday. 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 www.msmuseumart.org.



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