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Mississippi Museum of Art
is pleased to announce the exhibition

Between God and Man: Angels in Italian Art

International exhibition to open Museum's new facility in June 2007

Jackson, Miss., -- The Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) in Jackson, Mississippi, is pleased to announce the ninth exhibition in The Annie Laurie Swaim Hearin Memorial Exhibition Series. *Between God and Man: Angels in Italian Art*, will open the Museum's newly renovated facility in June of 2007, and will be on view through December 2007.

According to Mississippi Museum of Art Director Betsy Bradley, *Angels* is a groundbreaking exhibition that is of a caliber worthy of the new Museum's opening celebration. "We expect to host the largest number of visitors the Museum has had in its history during this exhibition's eight-month run," stated Bradley. The Museum is working with the National Exhibits Association in Lubbock, Texas, and Crisalide in Rome, Italy, to secure works from some of the most prestigious collections in Italy, including Palazzo Pitti and Galleria degli Uffizi in Florence, Italy, and Museo Nazionale di Palazzo Venezia and Galleria Borghese in Rome. The exhibition will include works from prominent Italian Renaissance artists such as Titian, among many others.

The Director General of the Vatican Museums, Dr. Francesco Buranelli, is curating the exhibition for its exclusive presentation at the Mississippi Museum of Art. Comprised of 150 works, *Angels* will introduce visitors to the complex and glorious world of Angels, explaining their hierarchy, their attributes and various actions, while at the same time creating an evocative journey through the Golden Age of Italian Art. The exhibition features works in various mediums, although focusing on paintings, and from various time periods, ranging from ancient to modern. The exhibition marks the first time many of these works have traveled to the United States, and they will return to Italy at the show's conclusion.

“Visitors will have the opportunity to view works of extraordinary importance, true highlights of Italian art history,” said exhibition curator Dr. Francesco Buranelli. “Through these artists’ eyes (the visitor) will gain greater insight into the nature of angels, discovering when it was that angels sprouted wings...”

The Museum’s new 54,000 square foot facility will have adequate gallery space to not only display the *Angels* exhibition but also an exhibition entitled *The Mississippi Story*. Largely comprised of works from the Museum’s permanent collection, *The Mississippi Story* will portray the history and culture of Mississippi through art, reflecting the national and international context of that story as well. The exhibition is being curated by Patti Carr Black, author of *Art in Mississippi*, and will mark the first time that the Mississippi Museum of Art has had sufficient gallery space at any one time to display large parts of its permanent collection, which is comprised of more than 4,000 works of art.

The Mississippi Museum of Art has been a community-supported institution for more than 100 years, and has been at its present location since the late 1970s. The Museum’s twenty-four affiliate museums across the state will continue to benefit from the lending of artwork and traveling exhibitions, ensuring that Mississippians who cannot make the trip to Jackson can enjoy the state’s rich cultural history. MMA will use its new and larger home to expand its programs and community outreach that are already in place.

Although the move from the Museum’s current location to the Arts Pavilion is small geographically, amounting to no more than a city block, it is a huge step in terms of facility capabilities, technology, and the overall philosophy of what an art museum means to the community. The facility’s brilliant architectural makeover will reflect the Museum’s mission to become a symbolic “museum without walls”—an inviting public space that will offer relevant and meaningful cultural experiences to both the Jackson community and the state of Mississippi.

For more information about *Between God and Man: Angels in Italian Art* or the Museum’s new facility, please call Maggie Lacey at 601.960.1515 or email mlacey@msmuseumart.org.

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