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The Booth Western Art Museum Presents *By Native Hands: Native American Baskets From the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art*

CARTERSVILLE, GA – Visit the Booth Western Art Museum December 2, 2006 through February 11, 2007 to see *By Native Hands, Native American Baskets, from the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art* in the Special Exhibition Gallery. This exhibition features 64 baskets from the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art's internationally known collection of approximately 500 Native American baskets. The baskets were collected at the turn of the century by Laurel, Mississippi resident Catherine Marshall Gardiner, and were produced between 1850 and 1910. The collection represents more than 40 North American tribes from across the continent.

Described by Ann Drumheller of the National Museum of the American Indian, as "...an astounding collection of Native American basketry," this collection features baskets of all types: from the small burden baskets of the Klikitat in the Pacific Northwest to the ornate feathered basketry of the Pomo in the Southwest, large hand-painted splint storage baskets from the Northeast, and the richly dyed, elaborate double-weave of Choctaw in the Southeast.

Humans have been making baskets for thousands of years; it is a craft common to nearly all cultures. Though Native basketry traditions suffered in the dislocations and epidemics of the 18th and 19th centuries, many tribes are reviving the old techniques and encouraging the development of weaving skills in the community. There are Choctaw weavers in Mississippi, the home of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, who are fifth-generation basket weavers, learning the traditions passed down from mother to daughter over the decades. However, even the tribal styles and techniques, though grounded in tradition, are open to interpretation by individual weavers.

Though basketry originated as a utilitarian craft, from the beginning weavers have produced baskets expressive of both tribal and personal aesthetics. Baskets may be simple, unadorned utilitarian objects, or objects of great complexity, made to be beautiful but not used. Most basketry traditions are closely tied to the land using locally available fibers and dyeing them with local plants.

Seth Hopkins, Executive Director of the Booth Western Art Museum said, "We are thrilled to be hosting this exhibition which showcases the talent and tradition of the Native American basket weavers. Many people may not view basket weaving as an art form, but I believe once people see the intricate detail on many of these baskets, that

notion will change. The elaborate double-weaves, beading and carefully placed feathers make these textiles a remarkable art form.”

About the Booth Western Art Museum:

The Booth Western Museum is an 80,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia, where guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also features a Presidential Gallery, a Civil War art gallery, and Sagebrush Ranch – a children’s interactive gallery - featuring hands-on art activities and areas for role-playing, storytelling and reading, all presented with a Western flair. Visitors to Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques, and nationally featured restaurants, all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. For more information about the Booth Western Art Museum call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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