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Mort Künstler's Civil War Art: For Us the Living
Booth Museum exhibition to coincide with 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War

CARTERSVILLE, GA – In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, the Booth Western Art Museum will present *Mort Künstler's Civil War Art: For Us the Living*. The exhibition will feature 50 major paintings portraying the sights, sounds and drama of the Civil War and will be on view from March 29 through September 4, 2011. Visitors to the exhibition will also gain an inside look into the artist's creative process through a display of his sketches, drawings, preliminary studies, photographs and props.

"We are thrilled to showcase this exhibition and highlight the great Civil War artwork Mort Künstler has completed throughout his career," said Booth Museum Executive Director Seth Hopkins. "It is an honor for us to be presenting the work of this distinguished historical artist and to have this exhibition coincide with the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War."

Mort Künstler is regarded by many as the leading living painter of American History and Civil War scenes. His work is esteemed for its dramatic intensity and for an extraordinary level of authenticity that results from intensive research. Dr. James I. Robertson Jr., the noted Civil War historian and author of the biography, *Stonewall Jackson*, says, "Mort Künstler is the foremost Civil War artist of our time – if not of all time." Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson agrees, "Of all the artists working in the Civil War field, none captures the human element, the aura of leadership, the sense of being there and sharing in the drama quite like Mort Künstler."

The Booth Museum owns four of Künstler's Civil War paintings, one of which is the signature piece in the Museum's Civil War gallery, and shares its name, *War is Hell*. This five by eight foot painting depicts Gen. William T. Sherman and his Union soldiers passing through Atlanta while the town is burning on November 15, 1864. Through this and other highly detailed paintings, visitors will be able to trace the history of the war from start to finish.

Within days of the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter, beginning the Civil War, the Booth Museum will host a members-only reception for *Mort Künstler's Civil War Art: For Us the Living*. This exclusive event will be held on Saturday, April 9, beginning at 5:00 pm. At 7:00 pm, Mort Künstler will present a lecture on the historical research he does and his process for creating major paintings. Memberships will be available at the door.

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The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated book of the same title issued by Sterling Publishing. The book will be available in the Booth Museum Store for \$35. For more information about *Mort Künstler's Civil War Art: For Us the Living* or related programming, visit the Museum website at www.boothmuseum.org or call 770-387-1300.

About Mort Künstler

A resident of Oyster Bay, NY, Künstler studied art at Brooklyn College, UCLA and Pratt Institute. He became a highly successful illustrator, working on assignments for *Newsweek*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Mad Magazine* and *Boy's Life*. Accuracy became an important factor in Künstler's art beginning with assignments on historical topics from *National Geographic*. These assignments also taught him the value of working with noted historians. A commission from CBS Television to do the paintings for the mini-series, *The Blue and The Gray*, was the beginning of the artist's close association with the Civil War. To learn more about the artist, visit www.mortkuestler.com.

About the Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia. Guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, more than 200 Native American artifacts, and Sagebrush Ranch children's gallery. 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 second largest art museum in the state of Georgia, and houses the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the country. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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