

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAUBMAN MUSEUM OF ART'S 2009 SIDEWALK ART SHOW OFFERS OUTSTANDING SELECTION OF FINE ART BY REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ARTISTS

ROANOKE, Va., May 19, 2009 – In two weeks, the Taubman Museum of Art will present the 2009 Sidewalk Art Show. In its 51st year, the show will take place on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, transforming downtown Roanoke into a paradise for thousands of art lovers who will enjoy the impressive display of artworks by regional and national artists while enjoying the charm of the Historic Market Square area. The Sidewalk Art Show will be open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. **Admission is FREE.**

The 2009 Sidewalk Art Show is presented by Bank of America. Kraft Foods and WDBJ7 are the show's Major Sponsors, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated, Inc. and Thomas Rutherford Inc./Hartford Insurance Company are the show's Sponsors.

One of western Virginia's most anticipated summer traditions, the Sidewalk Art Show infuses downtown Roanoke with creativity and creates a premier destination for fine art shopping. This year, in its third year as a juried fine arts show, the 2009 Sidewalk Art Show continues to raise the bar and offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy the highest quality fine art while meeting and talking with the exhibiting artists. All of the works exhibited are for sale, including original paintings, prints, watercolors, etchings, mixed-media, fine art photographs, and sculpture.

Over 160 outstanding artists, many well-known and others recently discovered, will show and sell the highest quality of fine art. The 2009 Sidewalk Art Show features artists from across the United States, with a strong representation of artists from across Virginia. Awards will be presented in the categories of painting, watercolor, mixed media, photography, sculpture, drawing, and original printmaking, as well as best in show, second prize, third prize, and several memorial awards.

Leah Stoddard will serve as the judge for the 2009 Sidewalk Art Show. Stoddard is an independent curator and artist consultant based in Charlottesville, VA. During Stoddard's 20-year career, she has curated over 100 exhibitions. Previously, she served as director of the Second Street Gallery in Charlottesville, Virginia and associate curator and registrar at the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Stoddard has taught contemporary art seminars for Second Street Gallery, the University of Virginia, and the Art Academy of Cincinnati, and she has written essays for Second Street publications as well as exhibition reviews for *New Art Examiner* and *Arts Indiana*. Stoddard received a M.A. in art history and criticism from SUNY-Stony Brook in Stony Brook, New York.

The Sidewalk Art Show's Art Zone encourages children to explore their own creativity and artistic talents through hands-on activities. This year, children of all ages can create their own watercolors.

As a community service, Bank of America will fingerprint children of any age and offer parents a Child Identification Kit for free. Parents can take advantage of this free service during the Sidewalk Art Show to obtain a record of their children's fingerprints on an identification card that also includes information about the child and parents. Bank of America will be fingerprinting both Saturday and Sunday near the children's Art Zone on Short Market Street between Salem Avenue and Norfolk Avenue.

The Sidewalk Art Show is a special project of the museum's Volunteer Guild. Comprised of over 120 volunteers, the Volunteer Guild provides tour guides for exhibitions and the permanent collection, assists the museum with installations of exhibitions, and coordinates and participates in special events hosted by the museum. All proceeds from the Sidewalk Art Show benefit the museum's education and outreach programs.

About the Taubman Museum of Art

The Taubman Museum of Art showcases American art, modern and contemporary art, design and decorative arts, folk and visionary art, and works on paper, and features a changing array of both national and international exhibitions. Tours, gallery talks, musical performances, films, family days, classes, camps, and special events are part of the museum's diverse offerings.

Designed by architect Randall Stout, the Taubman Museum of Art is a dramatic composition of flowing, layered forms in steel, patinated zinc and high-performance glass paying sculptural tribute to the famous Blue Ridge Mountains that provide Roanoke's backdrop and shape the region's spirit. The 81,000 square foot structure houses two special exhibition and eight permanent collection galleries, a dramatic atrium, education spaces including a studio classroom and a library, an interactive gallery and art center for children and families, a flexible theatre/programming space, and a multi-purpose auditorium. Norah's offers simply yet upscale dining in a sleekly contemporary café setting. The Museum Store showcases an exciting assortment of museum and exhibition-related merchandise, regional fine crafts, and unique and imaginative gifts from around the world.

The Taubman Museum of Art is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the galleries and Art Venture is \$10.50 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8.50 for students, \$5.50 for children ages 4-12, and free for children 3 and under.

For more information, visit www.taubmanmuseum.org or call 540.342.5760.

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