

July 14, 2008

Mary Bryan Hood  
Director, Owensboro Museum of Fine Art  
Chair, Owensboro Public Art Commission  
270-685-3181

## **PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION**

The sixth monumental outdoor sculpture purchased from the Owensboro Public Art Commission's 2005 Riverbend Sculpture Biennial will be installed in the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art's Contemporary Art Park at 9<sup>th</sup> and Frederica Streets Wednesday, July 16.

*LITTLE MO*, the painted steel construction by major American sculptor Peter Reginato, New York City, was purchased for the art museum through a gift of the Alton and Margaret Puckett Private Foundation and will be permanently displayed in the park in memory of the late City Commissioner who served municipal government from 1969 – 1977.

Reginato will be in Owensboro to supervise the installation. Immediately following, the sculpture will be tarped and remain covered until the public unveiling at the art museum's Summer Gala, July 26 at 6:30 p.m. Additionally, the gala will also feature the official unveiling of INTO THE WIND, the first buffalo sculpture in the Owensboro Public Art Commission's *Bronze Buffalo Trace* project.

Reginato's signature polychromed metal assemblages are featured in numerous sculpture gardens across the nation and in public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Texas; Mint

Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina; Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida; Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and Corcoran Gallery of Art, both Washington, D. C.; Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island; Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Massachusetts; and Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Reginato grew up in Oakland, California. He studied at San Francisco Art Institute, California, 1963-1966, and later taught sculpture at Hunter College, New York, 1971-1973. The artist has an extensive exhibition record in group and on-person exhibitions in major museums and galleries nationwide.

Reginato's sculptures from the mid-1960s were painted wood or fiberglass structures. After learning welding skills on his own in 1970, the artist began working with welded steel as an artistic medium. Painted, geometric and organic shapes, along with fluid lines of steel, combine in Reginato's balanced, yet animated, compositions.

The Public Art Commission was established in 2004 by former Mayor Waymond O. Morris and has as its mission, the enhancement of the community through placement of outdoor works of art for the enjoyment and enrichment of the region's quality of life. More than \$500,000 in private funding has been raised by the commission since that time for the acquisition of public art.

Other installations in the Public Art Commission's initiative include a stainless steel figurative sculpture by Ernest Trova, in the courtyard at Texas Gas Transmission, LLC; a stainless steel fountain by Housi Knecht at The Springs Medical Center; a bronze by Isaac Wiitin at the Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center; a limestone and bronze monument commissioned by Wax Works on east 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and

a painted steel construction by David Hayes at the law office of Moore, Malone and Safreed.

The museum is located at 9<sup>th</sup> and Frederica Streets. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10: a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The galleries are closed on Mondays and national holidays. Access facilities for persons with disabilities are provided by the museum through the 9<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Admission is FREE. Voluntary donations of \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 for children 12 years and younger are accepted.

- end -