



MEDIA RELEASE

For Release: Immediate (15 Sep 2005)

Contact: 270-685-3181

Four commissions totaling \$325,000 have been announced for a public art project sponsored by the Owensboro Public Art Commission, Owensboro, KY. Selection of three additional commissions totaling approximately \$100,000 is pending final discussions with artists. Artists receiving commissions were Denny Haskew, Loveland, CO, Peter Reginato, New York, NY, Ernest Trova, St. Louis, MO, and Isaac Witkin, Pemberton, NJ.

The commissions were selected by sponsoring businesses and organizations from the RIVERBEND SCULPTURE BIENNIAL a national competition and from MASTERS OF PUBLIC ART, an invitational exhibition presented concurrently with the biennial, both at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art through November 6.

The biennial competition was juried from 1008 proposals to 69 by Bernice Steinbaum, of the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, FL. The invitational was designed to present an insight into contemporary public art through the work of 12 acclaimed 20th century sculptors.

Sponsors of the public art project spent several days with exhibition consultant, Martin H. Bush, New York, NY, a nationally prominent authority on public art, reviewing the exhibitions and choosing the sculptures which they will own and maintain on their properties. Bush was retained by the Owensboro Public Art Commission to act as consultant to the sponsors, advising on aspects of owning a public art collection including maintenance, lighting, security, weather related issues and proper installation.

Bush spoke at the opening of the exhibitions Sunday, September 11, after the winners of the commissions were announced. Announcements of three additional commissions are expected within the next two weeks.

The exhibitions will remain on display at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art through November 6 and may be viewed Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Access facilities for persons with disabilities are provided by the museum through the 9th Street entrance. Voluntary donations of \$2.00 per adult and \$1 .00 for children younger than 13 years are accepted. FREE guided school tours of the exhibitions are being offered by the Owensboro Public Art Commission through November 6. The art museum is located at 9th and Frederica Streets, Owensboro, Kentucky.

- end -