

For Immediate Release

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Stark Museum of Art To Display Special Thirtieth Anniversary Exhibition

ORANGE, Texas, July 25, 2008 – In celebration of its upcoming thirtieth anniversary, the Stark Museum of Art will display a special exhibition, *Thirtieth Anniversary Treasures*, Tuesday, August 19 – Wednesday, October 29. The exhibition will offer a new look at the breadth and depth of the museum's collections and will feature works of art never before displayed to the public.

The exhibition will include more than 80 works of art. Highlights will include a glowing depiction of Venice by Thomas Moran. Also, the exhibition will debut two new acquisitions by Grafton Tyler Brown, the first African-American artist represented in the collection.

Organized in five sections, the exhibition will begin with the section, *The Necessity of Europe: Albert Bierstadt*. It will feature rare sketches by Bierstadt from his European trips as well as his trips to the American West.

Beyond the American West: Thomas Moran is the second section and will feature works of art by Moran. While he earned success with his Western paintings – several of which are on view in the museum's permanent collection – he faced new artistic challenges in his depictions of other regions. Two of these works are *Venice* – a romantic depiction of the Italian city – and *A Norther in the Gulf of Mexico*, a new acquisition for the Stark Museum of Art. Both works will be on view in the *Thirtieth Anniversary Treasures* exhibition.

The third section is titled *The American Context: East and West* and will feature a range of American artists, some who worked in the East and others in the West. This section includes two paintings by renowned American folk artist Grandma (Anna Robertson) Moses. Also on view is George Catlin's *La Salle and Party, in Eight Bark Canoes, Entering the Mississippi*, a new acquisition from the series on the explorer La Salle. The two new acquisitions by Grafton Tyler Brown – *Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone National Park* and *Castle Geyser, Yellowstone National Park* – are also included in this section.

Enlarging the Story: Artists of Texas is the fourth section and will feature landscape artists of Texas including Julian Onderdonk, who will be the focus of a Stark Museum of Art exhibition in early 2009.

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The final section, titled *The Natural World: John Gould*, will include Gould's published illustrations in Charles Darwin's official report of his expedition on the Beagle and a first edition of Darwin's *Origin of the Species*.

To help children engage in the exhibition, the museum will have a children's activity area. A coloring exercise, a magnet board game, and a mix-match flip book will relate to the works of art on view in the exhibition.

"As the Stark Museum of Art celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, we can both reflect on the past and look forward to the future," said Sarah E. Boehme, Director of the Stark Museum of Art, which opened to the public on November 29, 1978. "This exhibition gave the Museum an opportunity to explore the collection. It gives us some new directions for the future as we expand the number and types of exhibitions that we present, as well as expand our programming to bring new audiences to see the exhibitions."

Located at 712 Green Avenue in Orange, Texas, the Stark Museum of Art is open to the public at no charge Tuesday through Saturday. Hours are from 10 AM – 5 PM. Group tours are available by appointment. For more information call 409.886.ARTS (2787) or visit www.starkmuseum.org.

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Thomas Moran (1837-1926)
Venice, 1913
Oil on wood
10 3/4 x 16 3/4 inches
Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas
31.18.4



Grafton Tyler Brown (1841-1918)
Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone National Park, 1887
Oil on canvas
22 x 30 inches
Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas
2007.2.1

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About the Stark Museum of Art

The Stark Museum of Art focuses on the stunning land, the dramatic people and the diverse wildlife of the American West. Paintings, sculpture and prints interpret the West from nineteenth century frontier artists to the twentieth century artistic colonies in New Mexico. Artists include John James Audubon, Frederic Remington, and Charles Marion Russell.

The Museum also features a significant collection of American Indian objects, including baskets, pottery, clothing and weavings. Other permanent collections in the Museum include the complete porcelain American Bird Series by Dorothy Doughty and the only complete series of The United States in Crystal, a collection of crystal urns produced by Steuben Glass to depict the 50 states and the Union.

Located at 712 Green Avenue in Orange, Texas, the Stark Museum of Art is a program of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation, a non-profit organization. Group tours are available by appointment. Admission is free. For more information call 409.886.ARTS (2787) or visit www.starkmuseum.org.

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