OWENSBORO MUSEUM OF FINE ART
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NEWS RELEASE

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49TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOREST FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Owensboro Museum of Fine Art will present the 49th ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOREST GALA scheduled for Saturday, November 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

One of Owensboro's oldest holiday traditions, the HOLIDAY FOREST FESTIVAL OF TREES, now in its 49th year, is sponsored continuously by The Glenmore Distillery and will interpret the exhibition STRING THEORY: INNOVATORS IN MODERN PUPPETRY. Guest Curator Michael Chann will give a gallery talk about the art of puppetry at the OMFA on Sunday, November 8, starting at 2:00 p.m.

The festival features two exhibitions, including THE FOREST OF TREES, twenty-one monumental Christmas trees that interpret the exhibition. Tree contributors include the Daughters of the American Revolution, Owensboro Herb Society, Woven Together in Western Kentucky Basket Guild, Owensboro Art Guild, Owensboro High School, East View Elementary School, Senior Community Center of Owensboro-Daviess County, and St. Stephen Cathedral. A special feature of THE FOREST OF TREES is a showcase of designs by Gary Tunget, who created decorations for the galleries of the Medley Decorative Arts

Wing. His exhibits include trees complementing the era of the historic structure, one of Owensboro's finest examples of Greek Revival architecture, built in 1859.

STRING THEORY: INNOVATORS IN MODERN PUPPETRY is a unique exhibition conceived by the OMFA curatorial staff with the assistance of Owensboro puppeteer Michael Chann that showcases some of the most important puppets and puppeteers in the history of the art form. William "Bil" Baird (August 15, 1904 – March 18, 1987) was a celebrated American master puppeteer, author, and designer who led a 20th-century revival of marionette theater in the United States. Phil Huber, who, along with David Alexander, created Huber Marionettes, has an extensive international resume of movie, television, and theater, including performances in "Oz, The Great and Powerful", "Being John Malcovich, and "The Legend of Tillamook's Gold". Tony Urbano is an American puppeteer, best known for his work on the Men in Black franchise. He was trained by legendary puppet masters Ralph Chessé and Bil and Cora Baird.

Also included in STRING THEORY are puppets by Sue Hastings (1884-1977), an American puppeteer known for popularizing the art of puppetry in the 1930s and 1940s; The Rufus Rose Marionettes were created in 1931 by Rufus and Margo Rose, who were role models for the improvement of the art of puppetry in the United States; Penny Benson of Seneca, SC has been a performer for over 25 years and provides professional puppetry design, fabrication and performance services for stage, screen, and events; Jim Napolitano, a.k.a. "Uncle Nappy," is one of America's most-loved shadow puppeteers. For over 20 years, "Nappy's Puppets" has toured nationally to theatres, festivals, libraries, and museums, delighting audiences of all ages with quality shadow theatre productions. Sarah Frechette is the Artistic Director of PuppetKabob and hosts Creemee Dreemee Puppet Slam in Vermont, and TOYBOXTHEATRE, founded by Keith Shubert, is a multiple award-winning clown, puppeteer, toy maker, and event producer.

The gala will feature holiday cuisine and Holiday KARAOKE. Admission is $50 per person, discounted to $40 for subscribers to the OMFA Friends of the Foundation. Reservations may be made by contacting the museum at 270-685-3181 or info@omfa.us, and visiting its website at omfa.us.

The HOLIDAY FOREST FESTIVAL OF TREES will remain on view through December 31, and beginning Sunday, November 8, admission is FREE, voluntary donations of $3.00 for adults and $2.00 for children are appreciated.

A special activity for children during the six-week holiday exhibition will be free art instruction in the museum's interactive art studio, ARTLAND, where they will create holiday take-home decorations. ARTLAND, sponsored by the Michael E. Horn Family Foundation, is presented free to the public during regular museum hours.

The Owensboro Museum of Fine Art is located at 9th and Frederica streets and is open Tuesday through Friday, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 270-685-3l8l or visit the museum's website at omfa.us or follow us on Facebook.

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