

## **\*\*Media Advisory\*\***

*\*Note: This advisory is for advance notice and not for publication.*

### **Auburn University Invites Media to Preview Campus Art Museum's New Exhibit**

Media are invited to preview Auburn University's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art's new exhibit, "Art Interrupted: Advancing American Art and the Politics of Cultural Diplomacy," on Thursday, Sept. 1 before it opens to the public on Sept. 3. An elaborate collection of 107 oil paintings, each one successfully captivates the eyes.

Not only are the paintings beautiful, they also have an intriguing history. Assembled during the Cold War by the U.S. State Department in 1946, this collection of modernist American art was intended to show the world America's creative talents through its intended travels to Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. However, as controversy surrounding the paintings rippled across the American public, Congress abolished funding for the collection's world tour in 1947.

Auburn University, determined to acquire the paintings, purchased a third of the exquisite collection while the University of Georgia, the University of Oklahoma and several other museums obtained the rest. After a three-year effort on behalf of the three university's art museums and the painting's other owners, the masterpieces have been reunited.

The Mayor of Auburn, Ron Anders, will be speaking at 12 p.m. about the cultural significance of the exhibit and to thank the people who worked tirelessly to put it together.

Additionally, the museum curator, Michael Brown, will be giving tours of the exhibit every 30 minutes to those interested. A modernism expert and art historian, he will also be available to answer questions about the paintings and the meaning of each one.

Media will be able to preview the exhibit, take photographs of the paintings, capture b-roll footage and interview attendees. Snacks and beverages will also be provided.

**What:** "Art Interrupted: Advancing American Art and the Politics of Cultural Diplomacy" Exhibit Preview

**Where:** Auburn University's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art  
901 S College Street  
Auburn, AL 36849

**When:** Thursday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. CT

**Who:** Interviewees could include  
Michael Brown, museum curator  
Auburn University President, Christopher Roberts

Mayor of Auburn, Ron Anders  
Auburn University students  
Auburn University art history professors

**Media contact:** Ella Painter, manager of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, (334) 569-9117 ([enp012@auburn.edu](mailto:enp012@auburn.edu))

**\*\*Media planning on attending the ceremony, please RSVP to John Doe at [jde9789@auburn.edu](mailto:jde9789@auburn.edu) by Monday, Aug. 30.\*\***

###