

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **FLORIDA ARTISTS FEATURED IN ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART'S MADE IN FLORIDA SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS OPENING JANUARY 2012**

**Orlando, Fla.** - The Orlando Museum of Art (OMA) will present *Made in Florida* January 7, 2012 through October 28, 2012. This homegrown project will feature extraordinary artists throughout 2012 including renowned Florida sculptor Barbara Sorensen and nationally recognized photographer Jimm Roberts.

With *Made in Florida*, the OMA is showcasing the exemplary work of Florida-based or inspired artists through three exhibitions and a gallery display offering visitors a perspective on how Florida's unique environment and culture have helped to shape the work of many artists around the world.

This 10-month-long series of exhibitions will begin with fascinating sculptures from Winter Park-based artist Barbara Sorensen, followed by the largest known private collection of Florida art from Cici and Hyatt Brown. As a contrast to the paintings reflecting the state over 100 years presented in the Brown's collection, the museum will engage all photographers with an opportunity to participate in a public photography gallery - *Picturing My Florida* - to share their personal views of Florida today. This photography will be posted on the OMA Facebook page, where the images will compete for the most "Likes" culminating in a gallery display at the OMA. Masterful photographer Jimm Roberts will conclude the series with his unique portraits of famous artists and writers who resided in Florida.

*Made in Florida* will also feature masterworks from the Orlando Museum of Art's permanent collections to highlight the works of critically acclaimed artists such as John Singer Sargent, Cecilia Beaux, Clyde Butcher, John Chamberlain, Robert Rauschenberg, among others inspired by Florida.

The OMA has collected hundreds of works by Florida artists since its founding by a group of Florida artists in 1924. *Made in Florida* will continue to share these works during its three exhibitions and gallery display, as well as the museum's monthly juried 1st Thursdays exhibitions and in its *New Work: A Series of Bimonthly Exhibitions of Contemporary Art*.

*Barbara Sorensen: Topographies*  
January 7 - April 1, 2012

*Topographies* is the largest retrospective ever of work by nationally recognized artist Barbara Sorensen. Sorensen is known for her large-scale sculptural installations, which serve as references to geological forms and the conceptual notion of the vessel. With studios in Snowmass Village, Colorado and Winter Park, Florida, Sorensen's work displays studies of vastly different environments, explored further through extensive travel to some of the world's most dynamic landscapes. Inspired by these rugged and remote settings, Sorensen's monumental forms take the viewer on a topographical expedition.

*Reflections: Paintings from Florida 1865 -1965 from the Collection of Cici and Hyatt Brown*  
April 21 - July 15, 2012

Drawn from the largest known private collection of Florida-based art in existence today, the collection of Cici and Hyatt Brown, *Reflections: Paintings from Florida 1865-1965*, features examples of most of the prominent artists who worked in the state for a period of 100 years. From idyllic beach scenes to lush green jungles, this exhibition presents over 70 paintings depicting the natural beauty of the state before the great population boom in the 1960s. These artists played a key role in establishing Florida's image nationwide as an enchanting destination for tourists and winter residents. Masterworks by well-known American artists, including Thomas Hart Benton, George Inness, Martin Johnson Heade, Frederic Remington, Herman Herzog, Frederick Carl Frieseke, Walt Kuhn, and N.C. Wyeth are on display.

*Picturing My Florida: Photographs of the State Today*  
April 21 - July 15, 2012

*Picturing My Florida* will explore the transformed visual environment of Florida today. The program will begin as an online exhibition of photographs open to public participation. The theme of the exhibition is a grassroots look at Florida as people see it in their day-to-day lives. Over the course of the online exhibition viewers will be able to use Facebook's "Like" button to vote for favorite photos. The virtual exhibition will conclude with a gallery display at the OMA of photographs that include both most popular selections as determined by the community and curator's choice.

*Jimm Roberts: Southernmost Art and Literary Portraits*  
August 4 - October 28, 2012

Nationally recognized Orlando photographer Jimm Roberts traveled throughout Florida in the 1980s and 1990s to photograph and interview prominent artists and writers living in the state. His sensitive, engaging photographs of these exceptional individuals reveal telling qualities of their personalities. With the rich tones of traditional black and white photography, Roberts captured his subjects in a variety of poses from formal to casual in their Florida homes and studios. Roberts' work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Vogue* and *Rolling Stone*. The exhibition will feature 80 photographs of such artistic and literary luminaries as John Chamberlain, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg, Annie Dillard, Alison Lurie and John D. MacDonald among others.

**OMA General Admission**

\$8 for adults

\$7 for seniors and students

\$5 for children ages 4-17

Free for museum members, active duty military, and children ages 3 and under

The OMA is located in Orlando Loch Haven Park at 2416 North Mills Ave., Orlando, Fla. From I-4 take the Princeton Street exit 85. Drive east on Princeton Street, and at the corner of Princeton and Mills (US Highway 17 / 92), turn left. Go one block to east Rollins Street and turn left. The entrance is the first driveway on the left. Parking is free. For further information, call 407 896 4231 or visit [www.omart.org](http://www.omart.org).

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday - Sunday noon - 4 pm, closed major holidays.

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