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**Clyde Butcher: Big Cypress Swamp and the Western Everglades Opens March 20, 2010 at the Orlando Museum of Art**

**ORLANDO, FL** — The Orlando Museum of Art (OMA) will present *Clyde Butcher: Big Cypress Swamp and the Western Everglades*, an exhibition of 40 stunning large-format black and white photographs and a video documentary by cinematographer Elam Stoltzfus depicting the beauty and fragility of the Western Everglades, from March 20 through July 25, 2010. In the tradition of Ansel Adams' iconic large-format photographs of Yellowstone and Yosemite, Butcher composes his works at pristine locations across the Big Cypress Swamp creating arresting compositions that distinctly mark him as the foremost landscape photographer in America today. This is the third exhibition in the Changing Landscapes, Changing Vision series focusing on the American landscape at the OMA.

The natural world of Big Cypress Swamp is a richly diverse wilderness of subtropical flora and fauna found nowhere else in our country. It is this exceptional beauty that Clyde Butcher's black and white photographs and Elam Stoltzfus's film captures. Big Cypress Swamp consists of more than 720,000 acres of land. The area is covered with cypress trees, some more than 600 years old. Sixty inches of rain fall in an average year creating a lush wilderness of subtropical flora and fauna.

Butcher's photographs explore his personal relationship with the environment. The exquisite beauty and depth of his work draw the viewer into a relationship with nature. For more than forty years, he has been preserving on film the untouched areas of the landscape. His images are captured with an 8"x 10", 11"x 14", and 12"x 20" view camera. The large format camera allows him to express the elaborate detail and textures that distinguish the intricacy of the landscape. The photographs range in sizes from 8"x 10" inches to 5'x 8' feet. The size of his compositions allows the viewer to experience the beauty of the site from an almost first-hand perspective. Their large dimensions, combined with their strong sense of fluidity and movement, allow his work to transcend the static nature of the photographic medium.

Butcher comments, "For my part, I am reaching out with my exhibit; *Big Cypress Swamp: Western Everglades*, to begin a new era based on an understanding of humanity's profound connection with nature. My images will be presented to the viewers with the goal of helping them see the beauty and sublime order of the natural world, throughout the Big Cypress Swamp. My hope is to educate and inspire, to let people know our land is a special place, and the way we take care of it determines the future quality of life for our society."

Butcher has been honored by many awards including the Artist Hall of Fame Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Nature Photography Association and the Humanitarian of the Year for 2005 from International University. He has also received the Heartland Community Service Award from the state of Florida for educating the people of Florida about the beauty of their state. The Sierra Club has given him the Ansel Adams Conservation Award, which is given to a photographer who shows excellence in photography and has contributed to the public awareness of the environment.

A video documentary by Elam Stoltzfus compliments the exhibition at the OMA. Elam Stoltzfus is a nationally acclaimed award winning master cinematographer. The film, *Big Cypress Swamp - The Western Everglades*, also airing on Public Television, explores the mysterious and secretive environment of the Big Cypress Swamp. Viewers are treated to the rare and primeval sights and sounds of swamp expeditions by foot, airboat, swamp buggy and helicopter through the richly diverse wilderness of subtropical flora and fauna found in the Big Cypress Swamp. The film also tells the stories of the tireless efforts to preserve and manage the Big Cypress region.

**Orlando Museum of Art**  
2416 N Mills Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32803  
www.omart.org



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

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Orlando Museum of Art is supported by earned income, the Council of 101, donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, and sponsored in part by United Arts of Central Florida with funds from the United Arts campaign, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For two years Stoltzfus and his crew lugged the heavy equipment required to make the film through the swamps, cypress strands and sawgrass prairies of the Big Cypress Swamp. "My journey through Big Cypress always seemed like a gift to me," Stoltzfus commented. "Every day nature provides its gifts in sunrises, animal behaviors, changing weather patterns, landscapes and sunsets. This is our gift back. We hope that viewers will experience and enjoy a small taste of the beauty and fragility of the deep swamps of south Florida as they view *Big Cypress Swamp - The Western Everglades*."

Sunday, April 25, at 1:30pm, in the OMA SunTrust Auditorium, Clyde Butcher and filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus will discuss several topics including their working relationship, the evolution of their work, techniques of photography and filmmaking, as well as environmental issues and conservation awareness. A short 25 minute video will be shown after their presentation followed by a question and answer session. Butcher will be available to sign books at 1pm and again at 2:30pm. The presentation is free. Please call 407 896 4231 for more information.

The OMA is located in Orlando Loch Haven Park at 2416 North Mills Ave., Orlando, FL. 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).

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