For IMMEDIATE Release

State Art Collection at Museum of Agriculture Beginning September 13

TIFTON — A full slate of exciting events on Sept. 13 will herald the opening of the Georgia State Art Collection, “Inspired Georgia”, at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Polly Huff, assistant director and curator at the Museum, said the Museum Gallery will be the home for the prestigious exhibit through Oct. 25. The Museum is one of only nine Georgia organizations granted a stop on the statewide tour and the only stop in the Southwest part of the state.
“The last time the collection toured the state was over 30 years ago, so the GMA is planning to celebrate the opening of this rare exhibit with several community events on September 13,” Huff said. “The exhibit includes 28 pieces of vibrant work created by Georgia artists from the 1970s to the 1990s, combined with various visual aids.”

Huff said the Georgia Council for the Arts in partnership with the Georgia Tourism Division and the Georgia Humanities Council announced in 2013 that a curated exhibit of selected pieces from Georgia’s State Art Collection would be made available to selected Georgia communities. A competitive application process ensued, and the chosen communities were announced at the Governor’s Tourism Conference a year ago. Huff and Museum Facilities Coordinator Elaine Auger wrote the grant and traveled to Stone Mountain to accept the honor of hosting the exhibit from Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and his wife, Sandra.

“The exhibit highlights the styles, media, and techniques in the overall Collection, as well as work from some of Georgia’s iconic artists,” Huff said.

The Gallery exhibit coincides with GMA Founders Day from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and the Museum’s Community Appreciation Day. Sponsored by the GMA, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and the Wiregrass Farmers Market, activities will include a Printmaking and Ink Painting workshop featuring Athens artist Jackie Slayton Methe from 1-3 p.m.

Geared to families with children 6-14 years of age, this workshop is free of charge but registration is required. Spots in the children’s workshop can be reserved via e-mail at phuff@abac.edu. This workshop is presented by the Georgia Museum of Art and the Turner Family Foundation.
Dr. William Eiland, Director of the Georgia Museum of Art and folk art expert, will give a presentation to open the exhibit at 5 p.m. on Sept. 13. His gallery chat, a local foods reception hosted by the Wiregrass Farmers Market, a performance by a local musician, and Gallery tours will be available at no charge to the community.

Admission to the “Inspired Georgia” exhibit following opening night will be included in the general admission of the GMA and free with a GMA season pass. Local clubs and art classes are welcome to schedule a tour and an interactive activity while the exhibit is on display. The Museum’s operating hours are 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information on the Georgia State Art Collection exhibit, interested persons can contact Huff at phuff@abac.edu or Auger at eauger@abac.edu.

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