

Owensboro Museum of Fine Art

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RIVERCOUNTRY 2011 – NEW AWARD

\$100,000 has been added to the awards purse for the national juried art exhibition, **RIVERCOUNTRY 2011**, being organized by the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, bringing the total to \$148,000.

The additional \$100,000 award has been designated for a monumental outdoor sculpture to be placed at the entrance to the new Owensboro Medical Health System facility scheduled to open in 2013.

The sculpture will complement the growing collection of public art which was initiated by the Owensboro Public Art Commission in 2005 with the purchase of six monumental works which were placed throughout the city. In 2010, the Commission enhanced that program with the installation of six sculptural bike racks created by regional artists, erected on the properties of local arts organizations.

RIVERCOUNTRY 2011, which will open at the museum in December, will purchase four paintings and three sculptural works for permanent installation in the new hospital. The works will begin a collection of two and three dimensional art planned to depict the people, history and places of the hospital's eleven county service area of Daviess, Breckinridge, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio and Webster in Kentucky and Spencer and Perry counties in Indiana.

In addition to the \$100,000 purchase award for sculpture, there will be a \$10,000 Best in Show and 2nd and 3rd place winners at \$5,000 each for paintings. A \$20,000 purchase award is planned for a sculpture or bas relief and a \$3,000 award will be awarded for a Garden Seat.

More than 1,000 entries for **RIVERCOUNTRY 2011** are expected which will be juried to an exhibition of approximately 100 works to be shown at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art December 3 to December 31. Purchase award donors, assisted by a nationally prominent fine arts consultant, will select the winning works of art which will be permanently installed in the public areas of the new hospital.

Entries are limited to 10 per artist and must be submitted electronically to the museum by October 15. Notification of acceptance to the exhibition will be made on October 15 and accepted entries must arrive at the museum by November 21. Entry forms are available on the museum's website at www.omfa.us or artists may receive a copy by phoning (270) 685-3181.

The theme of the exhibition complements the design and architectural plans for the new hospital which are based upon the natural elements of the Ohio River landscape. The works of art chosen for awards will reflect this design concept and contribute to the idea that art can be a calming and positive force and an important complement in the healing environment.

The museum is open during the hours of Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Admission to the museum is FREE although voluntary donations of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children are requested. Access accommodations are provided through the 9th Street entrance for physically challenged individuals. More information on the exhibition may be seen on the museum's website, www.omfa.us, or followed on Facebook and Twitter.

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